



## Barges Are Beautiful on Earth Day and Every Day A message from The American Waterways Operators




***Barges  
are  
Beautiful...***

**For the Environment.**

This towboat pushing a 24-barge tow moves the same amount of grain as 384 rail cars or 1,680 highway trucks, reducing pollution in our air and congestion on our roads. We get 576 miles to the gallon...while pushing a ton of freight.



  
**THE AMERICAN WATERWAYS OPERATORS**  
America's Tugboat, Towboat & Barge Industry

*"Our Compass Always Points to Safety"*  
[www.americanwaterways.com](http://www.americanwaterways.com)

America's Tugboat, Towboat and Barge Industry

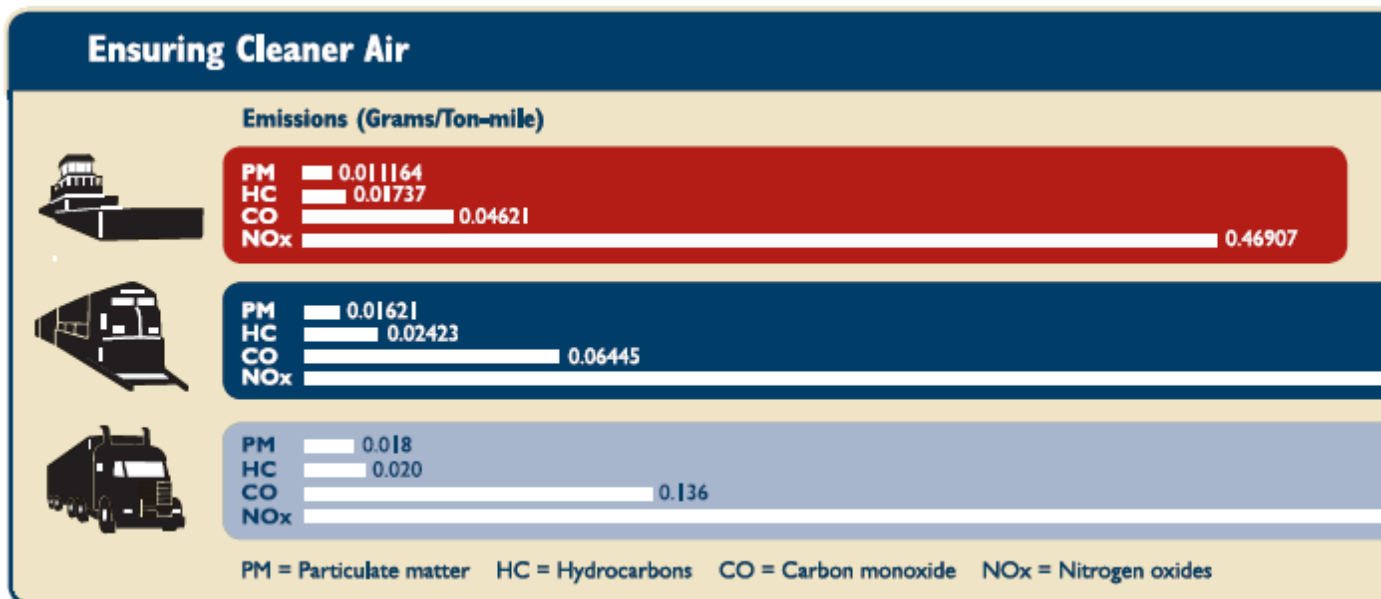
Dear Fellow Citizen,

The American Waterways Operators (AWO) is the trade association for the American tugboat, towboat and barge industry. The industry and its more than 30,000 vessel crewmembers are proud to join millions of others around the world in celebrating Earth Day. The towing industry takes seriously its responsibility to operate safely and protect the precious resources that are America's waterways. Waterways transportation is essential to America's economy, environment, and

quality of life. Without barges, freight traffic on the highways would increase by 1,160 trucks per day per lane on a typical interstate highway.

We who work on the waterways respect them as a shared resource for all purposes -- commerce, agriculture, recreation, utilities and habitat -- and are committed to doing our part to keep the waterways clean and vital for future generations. Already, 85 percent of our members' barges are double-hulled to protect the environment, well ahead of the federally mandated deadline of 2015. We are also taking steps to improve air quality and reduce our industry's carbon footprint, while efficiently delivering the commodities like grain, coal, sand, salt and petroleum on which our economy depends.

The towing industry has the fewest emissions of any commercial transportation mode (see chart below).\* Building on our commitment to environmental stewardship, we have partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop tough new standards for the next generation of towing vessel engines that are quieter, burn less fuel, and dramatically reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and particulate matter.



All AWO members have committed to operate according to the AWO Responsible Carrier Program (RCP), a safety and environmental

protection program. The RCP is a safety management system of best industry practices. Members must pass an independent audit every three years to ensure compliance with the RCP and retain membership in AWO. In addition, AWO has joined with the U.S. Coast Guard to develop a new towing vessel inspection program, a historic step for the industry that will ensure even safer operations and enhanced environmental stewardship.

Join with the American tugboat, towboat and barge industry on Earth Day in pledging your commitment to a cleaner environment and economically sound America. Thank you.

\* For more information, please see the Texas Transportation Institute's multi-modal study commissioned by the U.S. Maritime Administration and the National Waterways Foundation at <http://www.nationalwaterwaysfoundation.org/study/public%20study.pdf> or check out the AWO Web site at [www.americanwaterways.com](http://www.americanwaterways.com).

---

Anne Davis Burns  
Vice President - Public Affairs & Communication  
The American Waterways Operators   
801 North Quincy Street, Suite 200  
Arlington, VA 22203  
[www.americanwaterways.com](http://www.americanwaterways.com)  
(703) 841-9300, Extension 252