

Advantages of Inland Barge Transportation:

A Smaller Carbon Footprint

Inland barge transportation produces far fewer emissions of carbon dioxide for each ton of cargo moved compared to transport by truck or rail, according to a recent study conducted by the Texas Transportation Institute. Comparing transport emissions per ton-mile (emissions generated while shipping one ton of cargo one mile), researchers calculated that transport by rail emits 39% more CO₂, and transport by truck emits 371% more CO₂, than transport by inland barge.

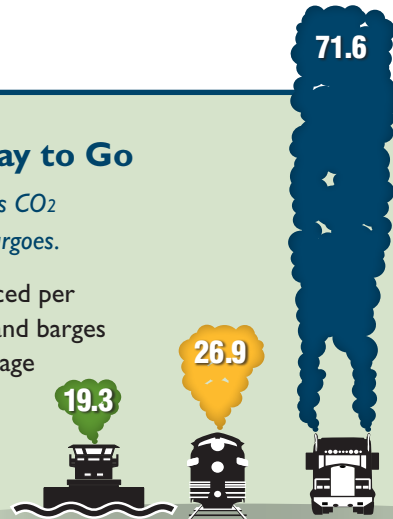
According to the study, if the 274.4 billion ton-miles of activity on America's inland waterways in 2005 were shifted to rail or truck, rail transport would have generated 2.1 million additional tons of CO₂ and truck transport would have generated 14.2 million additional tons of CO₂. This assumes these modes had the capacity to handle the additional cargo with no change in efficiency.



The Greener Way to Go

Inland barges produce less CO₂ while moving America's cargoes.

In terms of CO₂ produced per ton of cargo moved, inland barges have a significant advantage over trains and trucks.



Tons of CO₂ per Million Ton-miles

Transport on America's Waterways Means Fewer Emissions

Following a scientific review ordered by the U.S. Supreme Court, the EPA recently issued a proposed finding that "greenhouse gases contribute to air pollution that may endanger public health or welfare."^{*} The agency estimates that 33% of our nation's annual carbon dioxide emissions come from transport-related activity.^{**} Compared to rail or truck, inland barges offer America a more fuel efficient, safer and carbon friendly transportation alternative. Our inland waterways are a sound investment in America's future.



From a study titled "A Modal Comparison of Domestic Freight Transportation Effects on the General Public," November 2007, amended March 2009, by the Texas Transportation Institute, Center for Ports and Waterways. For the full report, visit our website: www.nationalwaterwaysfoundation.org. This study was a joint project of the National Waterways Foundation and the United States Maritime Administration.

^{*} Environmental Protection Agency - *Proposed Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases under the Clean Air Act* - <http://epa.gov/climatechange/endangerment.html> (24 April, 2009)

^{**} Environmental Protection Agency - *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2007* <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/usinventoryreport.html> (20 April, 2009)



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