Dear Ms. Cindy Ervin,

Hello! My name is Sinead Soltis and I am one of the sustainability interns at Facilities and Services (F&S) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). Morgan White, the Associate Director of F&S for Sustainability, and I are reaching out today to let you know about the UI System’s recent commitment to be a contributing member to the SmartWay Transportation Partnership, as an Affiliate.

In the process for getting UIUC signed up as a SmartWay Affiliate, we went through the Illinois contract system (iCS) to approve the agreement. This agreement was officially signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees, so lucky for you, in our own campus’s attempt to become an affiliate, we all became an affiliate! Congrats!

The SmartWay Transportation program is led by the US EPA, encouraging members at different levels to participate to the best of their ability in reducing emissions and promote more environmentally friendly shipping procedures. Different levels of participation allow a larger range of influences, such as becoming a partner, which would be an opportunity for any company or organization that ships or manages freight to track their emissions and find assistance to improve their own practices.

As an affiliate, we have agreed to educate those we work with, both internally and externally, about the importance of sustainable transportation and how sustainable practices can help reduce overall costs. Promoting sustainable freight efficiency can be done in numerous ways. We (UIUC) are currently reaching out to different departments on campus to include our SmartWay partnership in newsletters and in other places that our shippers frequent (receipts, websites, etc.). As of the end of July, we are now responsible as an affiliate to share this information with others.

I’ve added some more information as seen attached to this email, or you can also find more at <http://www.epa.gov/smartway>. I hope you are able to spread this awareness at UI Springfield, and I’m happy to answer any questions you may have. Feel free to reach out to me for more info, if desired.

Thank you so much!

Sinead Soltis