

Railroads are the best way to move heavy freight: Railroads are more energy efficient and less polluting than trucks.

1. A diesel-electric locomotive can move one ton of freight an average of **379 miles (610 km) per gallon of diesel fuel**. This is 3 times the fuel efficiency of a truck. [**“A U.S. Maritime Administration study has shown that one gallon of fuel can move one ton of freight 59 miles by truck, 202 miles by rail, and 514 miles by barge” (Railway Age, p.6, April 2008).**]
2. Diesel-locomotives are **three times cleaner than trucks on the basis of air emissions per ton moved**.
3. High subsidies to rival transportation modes after 1920 prevented the railroads from innovating and they never regained the position they held in the economy at the turn of the 20th Century. For example:
 - a. **Railroads require about \$2.48 in assets to generate \$1 in revenue while the trucking industry requires only \$0.48 for \$1 in revenue. Reason -- they are subsidized by local, state, and federal governments. Government builds the infrastructure for trucks using, in part, tax revenue from the railroads.**
 - b. **A study conducted by the state of Washington of shortline railroads concluded that an active mile of shortline railroad can save from \$17,000 to \$63,000 in annual costs to either resurface or reconstruct non-interstate highways.**