



American Short Line and  
Regional Railroad Association.

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## **ASLRRRA HONORS LAKE STATE RAILWAY COMPANY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

*ASLRRRA's Green Spark award will be presented at the 2026 Annual Conference*

**WASHINGTON – April 6, 2026** – ASLRRRA has selected Lake State Railway Company (LSRC) as the 2026 Green Spark Award recipient. The Green Spark Award is presented annually to an ASLRRRA member business that has integrated eco-friendly practices into their operations, products or services, proving that size is no barrier to impact. Award recipients serve as inspiring examples of how short line railroads can lead the way toward a greener future while maintaining profitability and growth.

LSRC has reduced the environmental impact of its operations by procuring four tier 4 locomotives, enabling the retirement of five locomotives that were each more than forty years old. These more efficient units will also reduce the number of locomotives needed on some of LSRC's longer haul routes. In addition to replacing locomotives, LSRC has invested in its fleet, adding idle-reduction technology, installing automatic engine shut down/start up systems (AESS), auxiliary power units (APUs) and plug-in technology. These systems work in different ways to reduce the amount of time the locomotive engine must be kept idling, which helps reduce fuel and engine maintenance costs, extend engine life and decrease harmful emissions.

Beyond locomotive engine upgrades, LSRC has taken a look at all areas of operations for opportunities. The railroad keeps its large locomotive facility warm during the winter by using a

heating system powered by the railroad's waste oil. LSRC has a proactive recycling program for all materials and disposes of used railroad ties at a cogeneration facility, also known as a combined heat and power plant, which converts biomass and other organic waste into energy. LSRC also uses best practices and proactively manages waste and pollution via third-party consultants and a full-time properties manager.

“Not all short lines can afford to replace locomotives, but LSRC demonstrates that there are many ways to do your part to improve on railroading's environmental record,” said Chuck Baker, President, ASLRRA. “LSRC's accomplishments, both big and small, demonstrate a commitment to reducing the environmental impact of its operations without compromising service and growth.”

In addition to implementing programs on its own railroads, the company participates in industry opportunities to develop best practices. Employees such as Chief Mechanical Officer Roger Fuehring have shared expertise with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and guided discussions of development of current and potential emissions regulations to ensure they are effective and realistic for short line railroads to implement.

To read more and view a video on LSRC's environmental initiatives, click [here](#). The award will be presented in the General Session on Monday April 13 at ASLRRA's 2026 Annual Conference & Exhibition in Minneapolis. Click [here](#) to register and attend.

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**About ASLRRA** - The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) is a non-profit trade association representing the interests of the nation's 603 short line and regional railroads (Class II and III railroads) and railroad supply company members in legislative and regulatory matters. Short lines operate 47,500 miles of track in 49 states, or approximately 29% of the national railroad network, touching in origination or termination one out of every five cars moving on the national railroad system, serving customers who otherwise would be cut off from the national railroad network, particularly in rural and small-town America. Categorized as small businesses, short lines transport all commodities, with the agriculture, energy and manufacturing sectors being particularly reliant on short line service. [www.aslrra.org](http://www.aslrra.org)