



Department of
**Environment &
Conservation**



Owens Corning - Springfield: Breaking Down Barriers, Sustainably

The Springfield, Tennessee Owens Corning facility makes die cut parts used as a temperature buffer in the appliance business. The facility also manufactures NASCAR SAFER Barriers and insulation for customers like The Home Depot and Lowe's.

The plant employs 36 full time employees. They run one shift Monday through Thursday. "It takes a large amount of energy to power up our machines," said Michelle Ammerman, Springfield's environmental health and safety leader. "Having a four-day work week with only one shift decreases the amount of times that we have to engage in that energy intensive task."

Commonly referred to as a "soft wall," the NASCAR SAFER Barrier absorbs kinetic energy when a race car contacts the wall, which helps prevent injury to the driver. A team of engineers helped conceptualize the project, which consists of sections of steel tubing backed by foam blocks that are installed 30 inches in front of race tracks' traditional cement walls. Every five years, the racetracks must replace each individual foam block to pass safety compliance. Trey Hite, Springfield's plant manager stated, "Owens Corning is the only supplier for the material to make the SAFER Barriers. Springfield is one of the only plants that cut it but there is one other company that buys the materials from us and then cuts the parts".

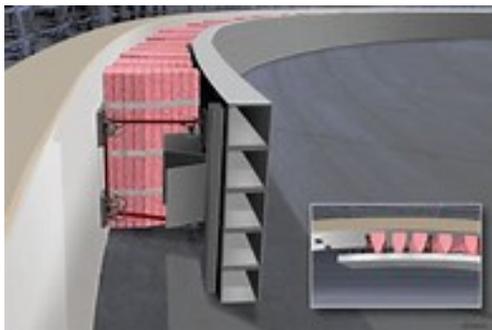
Springfield has been searching for ways to become a zero waste-to-landfill operation. They have spent a significant amount of time over the past year sourcing multiple recycling outlets for not only their fiberglass scrap, but for all other waste that they produce. They continue to work with different companies to improve their resource



- Established 1995
- Employs 36
- Member since 2017



streams and, as of the middle of last year, have added a new company to recycle all fiberglass waste. They are in the process of contracting with a new local company to recycle their Foamular® extruded polystyrene insulation sheet scrap, which has proven a recycling outlet difficult to source.



It has been important to Owens Corning to significantly reduce their footprint. This past year, the plant changed over to “green” cleaning supplies and added new recycling containers to break rooms so that the employees may actively participate in the environmental goals.

Another big project will be the installation of infrared and motion sensors that will replace the regular light switches throughout the facility. Led by facility’s maintenance team, the project is anticipated to deliver a two-year payback on their investment.

Full of eager volunteers, this facility is no stranger to community outreach. The employees are always ready to give back to the place they call home. During October of 2017, they hosted a lunch, complete with pink items for their employees, to talk about the importance of breast cancer awareness and getting regular screenings. They also held a lunch to raise funds for the relief efforts of last year’s hurricanes. The employees collected over \$300, which was matched by the Owens Corning Foundation.

Owens Corning Springfield is truly breaking down the barriers when it comes to making an environmental difference. They are an example to other facilities that no matter the size or number of employees, anyone can make changes to positively impact our environment.



The Tennessee Materials Marketplace is a collaboration between industries, facilitated by an interactive online materials exchange, to recycle, repurpose, and return material discards back to Tennessee’s economy. Owens Corning learned of the marketplace initiative through its membership in the Tennessee Green Star Partnership.

The [Tennessee Green Star Partnership](#) is a voluntary environmental leadership program designed to recognize industries in the state that are committed to sustainable practices. If you are interested in joining Owens Corning and other sustainable industries in Tennessee by becoming a member, please contact us.