



Department of
**Environment &
Conservation**



Firestone Industrial Products - Dyersburg, TN.

Firestone Industrial Products- Dyersburg, TN, is part of a world-wide company that specializes in air spring manufacturing and technology with a history of more than 80 years of research and development on technologically advanced air springs for the global marketplace.

The company's headquarters is located in Nashville, TN, with employees all over the world. Firestone has a European office and technical center in Arnhem, Netherlands; two North American plants; manufacturing facilities in Brazil, Poland and Costa Rica; and an assembly facility in China.

Firestone Industrial Products in Dyersburg is the sole manufacturer of transportation air springs and convoluted commercial and rail air springs in North America.

Firestone is known for its commitment to quality and sustainability throughout the world. The Dyersburg plant performs at least one major environmental project per year and always strives to engage the local community in these efforts.

In 2017, the major environmental project was to replace fluorescent light fixtures with all new LEDs. All of the 176 fluorescent fixtures that were replaced were offered to employees and the community in return for a donation to Relay for Life. They raised over \$800 for Dyer County Relay for Life. Each LED fixture has motion-sensing features for remote areas of the plant and also automatically adjusts the lighting output for each work station. The number of fixtures was reduced by 33% and the new fixtures are estimated to have an annual savings of \$65,000 from reduced energy usage.

Firestone

Firestone Industrial Products

- **Member 2018**
- **Recycles at 99.6%**
- **The Only Air Spring Manufacturer in North America**





Firestone Industrial Products is also committed to recycling and reuse. “We annually recycle an average of 99.6% of all the materials we use here,” said Tonya Wells, Environmental, Health, Safety and Security Manager for Firestone Industrial Products. Dyersburg is in a very rural area of West TN and it takes a significant commitment to recycle a wide range of materials. In a typical month, over 600,000 pounds of steel are generated by manufacturing processes and subsequently recycled. Absorbent materials, including mop heads and mats, are generated in quantities ranging between 400 and 600 pounds a month, and present a significant challenge for recycling and sustainable disposal.

“We were able to recycle a total of 8,400 pounds of the absorbent material this year,” Wells said. Other materials recycled include cardboard, aluminum, brazed bead plates, pallets, copper rings, aerosol cans, used oil, office paper, batteries, light bulbs, and even the condensate from portable air conditioners on the production lines.

“The facility is not climate controlled, so we have portable AC units at each work station,” Wells said. “They require the condensation reservoir to be emptied throughout the day. We use the water in mop buckets to clean the floors.”

In addition to Firestone Industrial Products’ environmental efforts, it also maintains a strong commitment to its



community. The company decided to contribute to the repopulation of local honey bees as well as further their commitment to Relay for Life. The Reelfoot Beekeepers Association has helped Firestone Industrial Products use additional acreage for up to four bee hives as well as planting clover for pollination. “A few of us are becoming trained beekeepers!” Wells said, with obvious enthusiasm. The honey produced by the hives will be sold and the money donated to Relay for Life.

Firestone Industrial Products is firmly invested in sustainability, the community, making a quality product and their employees. There is an annual Halloween costume day and Star Wars, Christmas Vacation and Addams Family are just a few of the themes. “We try to have fun when we can,” said Wells.

As the newest Tennessee Green Star Partner, Firestone Industrial Products has been invited to take advantage of the [Tennessee Materials Marketplace](#), an online platform allowing businesses and organizations to connect and find reuse and recycling solutions for waste and by-product materials. In doing so, Firestone can join over 25 other Tennessee Green Star Partner industries in promoting and participating in Tennessee's emerging circular economy.



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