



Department of  
**Environment &  
Conservation**



### La Z Boy: Comfortable with Sustainability

The La Z Boy manufacturing facility in Dayton, TN opened its doors in 1973. It currently occupies over one million square feet and is one of the highest paying employers in the area.

The company's 1,300 employees manufacture a full line of sofas, chairs, and other accessories. The renowned La Z Boy recliner is a staple of their product line.

The industry motto for their products is Live Life Comfortably. You can definitely relax in a La Z Boy chair, especially when you know it was manufactured in the most sustainable way possible.

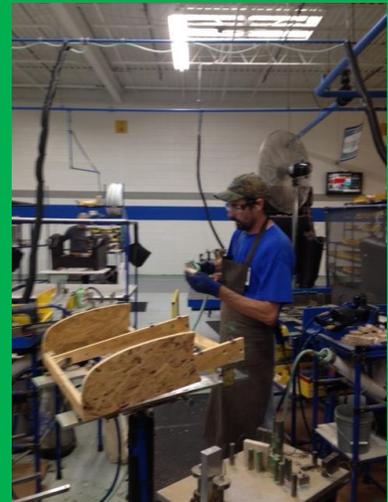
"Our facility doesn't send anything to the landfill," said Cody Buell, Environmental and Safety Manager for the company. Even the regular trash from the cafeteria and offices is put to a beneficial end-use. "We work with a Tennessee company called WastAway in McMinnville. They process our regular trash into a fluff that is sterilized and compacted into a pellet to be burned for fuel."

Last year, La Z Boy recycled not just the cafeteria and office waste, but also cardboard, plastic, foam, and wood waste. Wood waste, which is always an issue with wood derived furniture manufacturing, is processed into sawdust to be used in boilers to provide heat for kiln-drying lumber.

"We're one of the biggest users of soft maple in the world," Cody said. Cody is even careful to ensure the wood is supplied to the company in a sustainable way, by personally investigating how trees are harvested.



- Member since 2008
- Employs 1,300
- One of the most sustainable furniture companies in TN



Dunaway Timber Company, located in Fordsville, Kentucky, is one of La Z Boy's largest suppliers. Still actively logging within five miles of the original location, Dunaway Timber Company uses mules in certain locations. Such old-fashioned methods work best on steep, rocky slopes, where large equipment is not safe to operate.



La Z Boy's commitment to sustainability encompasses harvesting logs with mules as well as the most modern manufacturing methods.

Foam is purchased in large blocks and then cut and shaped by machines so precise that there is virtually no wasted foam. "What foam waste we have is recycled. It's used in the finished product packaging or sent to a company that makes carpet padding," said Cody.



Materials management and recycling aren't the

only sustainability issues for La Z Boy. Energy consumption can be over 30% of operation and production costs to most industries. La Z Boy is in the intermediate stages of a full lighting retrofit. La Z Boy, committed to using a local or Tennessee based company whenever possible, hired Sitara Electric of Knoxville to change out a section of the production floor from traditional T8 lamps which use 32 watts, to brighter LED fixtures that only use 18 watts.



"We've replaced around 2,400 lamps with LED," Cody said. "It's a 44 percent reduction in energy usage as far as the lighting goes."

La Z Boy Tennessee is as committed to sustainability as any industry in our state. In 2008, they made the commitment to join other corporate sustainability leaders in Tennessee by becoming a member of the [Tennessee Green Star Partnership](#).

The Tennessee Green Star Partnership is a voluntary environmental leadership program designed to recognize industries in the state which are committed to sustainable practices. If you are interested in joining La Z Boy and other sustainable industries in Tennessee by becoming a member, please contact us.