



Department of
**Environment &
Conservation**



Exedy America Corporation: Focusing on the Basics

Exedy America is a manufacturer of drivetrain components and related systems including torque converters and manual clutches for the automotive industry. Located in Mascot, Tennessee, Exedy America has been producing high quality torque converters and clutch systems since 1996. A focus on the basics is the philosophy that has maintained Exedy America's success.

"The basics of sustainability are, of course, to not create waste in the first place," said Ellen Jenny, the Assistant Manager for Environment, Health and Safety. "Minimize the waste you do generate, then reuse or recycle what's left."

Even though Exedy America recycles between 2 and 5 tons per month of staple recyclables such as cardboard, office paper, and metals from the production floor, Ellen felt they could do more. "We use a great deal of large and mid-sized totes and drums as well as a lot of wood pallets. It's difficult to repurpose those items but we look for the most beneficial outlets."

For manufacturers, the primary focus is always on producing a quality product, not on recycling or reusing discarded material. Companies need local partners to provide a market for material discards.



- Established 1996
- Employs 550
- Recently increased recycling by 100%
- Member since 2003





Those local partners for Exedy America have been Fort Loudon Waste and Recycling, and Enterprise Oil. “Providing us a route of repurposing and not just recycling was important to us,” said Jenny. Many used totes and drums are slightly damaged and can be refurbished and put back into use by Exedy America’s vendors or even within the plant.

Exedy America used nearly 30 totes in the first quarter of 2016 and most of them were able to be refurbished and reused. The totes weigh 150 pounds when they are completely empty, which is 4,500 pounds kept out of the landfill.

Exedy America makes every effort to find a beneficial use for all their waste. A lot of their materials have interesting uses, such as mixed plastic bottles being repulped for roofing material and stretch film used for composite lumber. Oils and oily debris from waste drums and totes, as well as other sources, are recovered by another local vendor, Enterprise Oil. Plastic drums, oily cardboard and other debris not fit for recycling is taken for waste to energy. In the first quarter of 2016, Exedy America provided nearly 15 tons of material for waste to energy that would have gone to the landfill in years past.

Exedy America has been a champion for sustainability in Tennessee. Their membership in the Tennessee Green Star Partnership has become an important part of their commitment. “We want to learn from other industries in the partnership and look forward to networking and sharing with them,” said Jenny.

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 Exedy America and other sustainable industries in Tennessee by becoming a member, please contact us.

