

# TENNESSEE GREEN STAR PARTNERSHIP MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



## General Motors – Spring Hill, TN



By: Caleb Powell

General Motors' (GM) largest North American facility is in Spring Hill, TN. The Spring Hill manufacturing facility produces vehicles for U.S. and global markets, engines from GM's lineup of popular selling trucks and SUVs, and parts for use at other GM facilities in North America. The facility is comprised of two production units; global propulsion systems and vehicle assembly. Currently the Cadillac XT5 and XT6, and GMC Acadia, are being produced by the vehicle assembly unit. The global propulsion systems unit oversees the production of the 6.2L V8 engine, the 5.3L V8 engine, the all-new 2.0L Turbo engine, and the all-new 2.7 T engine.

The Spring Hill facility started out producing Saturn vehicles and parts. The Saturn Corporation was formed as a subsidiary of General Motors at the start of 1985. Around that same time, the Tennessee Department of Transportation announced the plan to construct State Route 396, known as Saturn Parkway, that connected Interstate 65 to the plant site. All of these pieces fell perfectly together to bring the massive manufacturing facility to rural Spring Hill, TN. In 2004, the plant became part of General Motors, but Saturn-only manufacturing lines continued until early 2007. In the last ten years, GM has invested nearly \$2 billion into the Spring Hill complex, which is comprised of a 7.9 million square foot facility on over 2,000 acres.

The Spring Hill facility's original property included the Rippavilla Plantation located on the east side of Highway 31. The historic Rippavilla Plantation is now owned and managed by the City of Spring Hill and is open for visitors to enjoy guided tours and learn about Civil War and Tennessee history. GM has donated several tracts of land to the Spring Hill schools for athletic fields. There are 100 acres dedicated to a wildlife habitat and 700 acres dedicated to farming. For this reason, the facility received the 2018 Wildlife Habitat Council's Gold Conservation Certification. The Spring Hill plant was designed to maintain the rural and pastoral integrity of the community. This was done by intentionally positioning the facility on the property and using the rolling farmland to hide the facility from Highway 31 commuters.

### FEATURED THIS MONTH:

- Established in 1990
- Employs over 3,800
- Member since 2001

### INTERESTING FACTS

- Spring Hill Manufacturing is the largest GM facility in North America.
- Since 1996, Spring Hill has produced nearly 4.5 million vehicles.



Bird's-eye view of the Spring Hill  
 General Motors facility.

On top of making investments to the community, GM is committed to sustainability. The Spring Hill manufacturing facility has won the ENERGY STAR Challenge for Industry six times. This challenge is a global call-to-action for industrial sites to reduce their energy intensity by ten percent within five years. The facility incorporates a hydrogen powered lift truck fleet to achieve higher operational productivity, eliminate cumbersome battery charging infrastructure and deliver consistently high performance. Onsite 3D printing is used to problem solve maintenance issues and reduce expensive replacements. The body shop integrates full automation for the processes to attach closures, bodysides, and motor compartments. In the paint shop, all the paint is applied robotically with waterborne base coat. The automation in both shops help to reduce human error, injury, and waste while increasing efficiency. Retrofitting all lights to LEDs in a facility the size of GM's takes significant time so as maintenance personnel become available, they tackle as many lighting upgrades as they can before being called back to more pressing matters. The facility completed a groundwater recapture project and the installation of variable frequency drives for air handling units, both of which have reduced the utilities needed.

GM's Spring Hill Manufacturing is way more than the largest employer in Maury County. The facility is hidden away in the farmland to allow the natural beauty of Middle Tennessee to shine. The employees take pride in what they do and care about reducing their environmental footprint. This GM plant takes pride in its craft while blooming where it was planted.

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. General Motors was the first corporate champion of the Tennessee Materials Marketplace. The environmental health and safety team helped initially connect the United State Business Council and TDEC.



***"We create sustainable solutions that improve the communities in which we live and work"***

*General Motors Environmental Statement*

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 General Motors and other sustainable industries in Tennessee by becoming a member, please contact us.