

TENNESSEE GREEN STAR PARTNERSHIP MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



By: Vaughn Cassidy

Lucite International is the world's largest producer of methyl methacrylate (MMA) – the building block of all acrylic products. You can find acrylic almost everywhere, from architecture to health and medical, automotive to paints and coatings, and much more. Their products improve lives all around the world. Since 1995, the Lucite International facility has operated their Fite Road location in Memphis, where they currently employ 350 Tennesseans.

Everything Lucite International does revolves around achieving the sustainable well-being of people, society and the Earth. Their parent company, Mitsubishi Chemical, sums this up in one word - KAITEKI.

"The concept of KAITEKI is at the very heart of why we're in business" says David Wright, Environmental, Health & Safety (EHS) Specialist at Lucite's Memphis site.

"Everyone here understands that every decision we make, big or small, has consequences. We all contribute and take responsibility for maintaining and improving quality of life." This strong safety culture goes back to the origins of the company, as David explains: "Originally, we were a DuPont facility and the safety culture we inherited from this era fits perfectly with the idea of KAITEKI."

The site recently recorded an operating period of over 29 years without a lost-time injury and is a VPP (Voluntary Protection Programs) Tennessee Star site. In fact, this commitment to safety goes so far that even the City of Memphis and Shelby County Fire and Police Departments visit the site for annual drills and training sessions.

Producing MMA is a multi-stage process, during which about 97% of by-products are automatically recycled back into the process. Lucite International provides a small amount of one particular by-product to Chemours, a neighboring company. This low pH water discharge helps Chemours' wastewater treatment process and is a fantastic way to team up and beneficially re-use what would otherwise be a potential waste product.

As part of working towards KAITEKI, Lucite International is committed to achieving substantial reductions in its environmental impact. This means reducing dependence on fossil fuels, reducing water consumption and overall carbon footprint through looking at renewable feedstocks. For example, acetone can be produced from sugars or domestic waste. The company is currently investigating the feasibility of doing this, as well as introducing bio-methanol and bio-ethylene into the process. The ultimate goal is for renewable feedstocks to be converted directly into main products using these innovative new processes.

Since 2015, Lucite International has been proud to fly the Tennessee Green Star Partnership flag, as a local leader in safety and sustainability and an original participant in the Tennessee Materials Marketplace.

FEATURED THIS MONTH

- Established in 1995 in Memphis
- Employees over 350 Tennesseans
- Green Star Partner since 2015



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***Lucite International -
embracing KAITEKI for the
sustainable well-being of
people, society and our planet
Earth.***

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