

TENNESSEE GREEN STAR PARTNERSHIP MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



HITACHI
Inspire the Next

 **Hitachi Energy**

By: Vaughn Cassidy

Hitachi Energy is a global technology leader with a combined heritage of almost 250 years, employing around 36,000 people in 90 countries. The North American headquarters is based in Raleigh, North Carolina, and the company employs more than 4,600 in both manufacturing and office locations throughout the region, serving utility, industry, and infrastructure customers across the value chain, and in emerging areas like sustainable mobility, smart cities, energy storage and data centers. Hitachi Energy of Alamo manufactures and assembles critical components for the nation's power grid infrastructure including bushings, tap-changers, and measurement and safety devices for worldwide and domestic customers such as Duke Energy and Dominion.

The facility in Alamo began in 1980 as Westinghouse and then ABB Inc. acquired the property in 1990. Just recently, Hitachi Energy acquired the site in 2020. The Alamo facility averages 20,000 bushings and on the average 590,000 components each year. There is very little waste from the actual manufacturing of products, however, due to the weight and/or sensitive nature of components, Hitachi Energy receives and distributes in wooden crates and frames. This leads to a very large sum of excess and unusable wood waste.

"For years of our operation, this wood was just thrown away as solid waste to the landfill," said Anna Lentz, a member of the Health, Safety and Environment team at the Alamo location. "Wooden pallets are especially a problem for landfills since they are hard to compact and take years to break down." The decision was made to find the highest and best use for the wood waste in West Tennessee. The Health, Safety and Environment team decided to engage DBA Page Spreading in the nearby city of Kenton.

Wooden pallets and other wood framing pieces with nails are processed by DBA Page Spreading for mulch to be used in the local landscaping industry. The amount of wood waste diverted from the landfill is remarkable with well over 230 tons diverted in 2021, and in 2022 so far there have been over 40 pickups that total 200 tons in the first quarter alone.

FEATURED THIS MONTH

- Began operations in 1980
- Partner since 2005

FUN FACT:

- Among the largest high voltage test labs in North America
- Builds energy distribution components for industry and utilities throughout the world



left to right: Anna Lentz, HSE Intern;
Julie Duncan, HSE Manager; Lex
Mayes, HSE Specialist

“There is a clear trend towards increasing our diversion rate,” said Julie Duncan, head of the Health, Safety and Environment team. “The wood recycling tonnage has nearly doubled from 2020, in just the first quarter of 2022. The cardboard/paper and metal recycling rates have remained fairly steady over the years.”

The plant also recycles scrap metals, as many items come as solid cores and need to be hollowed out or cut into shape. This leaves a lot of remaining metal shards, that are collected and then sold to an outside party. Metals include steel, copper, aluminum (non-cans), bronze and brass, and mixed metals. The facility also compresses, bales and recycles cardboard and paper. Hitachi Energy Alamo facility has successfully diverted an average of just over 70% of materials waste after struggling with diversion for years. In 2021, 220 tons of cardboard and just over 380 tons of assorted metals were diverted from the landfill.

Hitachi Energy also provides for the health and well-being of their employees. Many employee-based wellness activities include daily stretching routines, weekly pushup competitions, blood drives, 5k run/walks, a safety committee made up of volunteers, and recently a collaboration with a local family-owned gym with the company paying for half of any employee’s membership.

Hitachi Energy tries to give back to the community whenever possible. Anytime an employee luncheon is catered and there is remaining food, employees take the food to the Crockett County Jail. There are also plans to reinstitute a recycling program to directly benefit the jail by taking their aluminum cans.

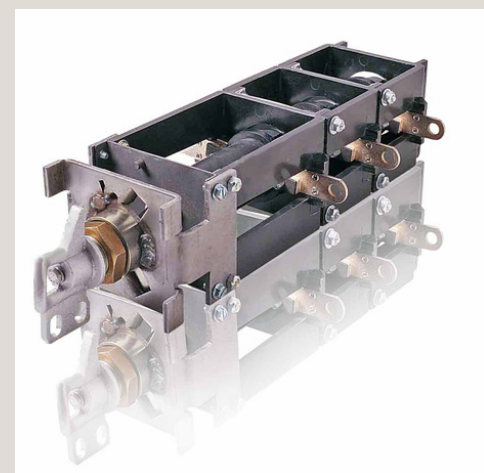
Hitachi Energy is a unique industry that is committed to sustainability, their employees, and their community. We are pleased to have them as a Tennessee Green Star Partner since 2005.

[Transformer Insulation and Components | Hitachi Energy](#)



Dry Bushings

[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.



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