

TENNESSEE GREEN STAR PARTNERSHIP MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



By: Vaughn Cassidy

Clayton Giles is located in New Tazewell, TN, a city in central Claiborne County, adjacent to the twin city of Tazewell. The 43-acre, multi-building facility has over 200,000 square feet under roof and manufactures single and multi-section homes. Producing between nine to ten “floors” for their homes per day, the team at Clayton Giles are committed to waste reduction and efficiency in their operations. In fact, in the last seven years, they have reduced the amount of waste per home built by nearly 80%. Clayton’s ability to maintain production levels and quality standards while reducing waste is very impressive.

Clayton maintains quality standards while reducing waste in several ways including by ordering materials in bulk and ordering their engineered wood products in pre-cut dimensions. “We simplify our models and options to allow for standard, repeatable dimensions to mitigate waste in production,” said Lisa Lujan, the Environmental Health and Safety manager for Giles. “Waste reduction is considered a key performance indicator for all facilities, so we monitor those numbers closely and have committees that meet monthly to discuss new ideas or process improvement,” said Lujan.

Clayton Giles recent successes include a 200% increase in recycled materials resulting in a diversion of almost 1,400 tons of waste from landfill and a reduction in water use by nearly 300,000 gallons. That is a reduction in water use of 35% since 2022. These successes are simpler than one would think. Water reduction was achieved in part by daily walk-throughs to ensure that hoses and faucets were properly shut off and had no leaks. Additional measures including the use of air pressure in place of water to test for plumbing leaks in finished homes. The recycling of water in the mud and grout washout stations and other process efficiencies are expected to continue reduction efforts. Recycling of materials was also a commonsense approach.

FEATURED THIS MONTH

- Site acquired by Clayton Homes group in 2006
- Employs approximately 270 employees (92% retention rate)
- Member since 2023



TGSP Recognition Ceremony

"The most surprising portion of our recycling increases in the past year were improvements in tracking," said Lujan. "Our teams members really embraced the idea of reuse; being able to accurately capture those totals proved crucial in achieving these results."

All homes built by Giles are not just Energy Star Certified homes; but as of last month, are now eBuilt™ homes-- built to the Department of Energy's rigorous Zero Energy Ready Home specifications. These high-performance homes are 40-50% more energy efficient than a traditional home, and they are designed to be solar-ready. Clayton Homes as a corporation since July 10th have already built over 3,000 eBuilt™ homes and are the first single-family homebuilder to offer Zero Energy Ready homes at this scale. The Clayton Giles facility, like all Clayton Homes manufacturing sites, have LED lighting and smart thermostats to boost the passive energy efficiency of their operations. Additionally, the facility has plans to convert the forklift fleet to all electric by 2030.

Team member engagement is a large component of Clayton Giles' success. Clayton Giles has a very high retention rate of 92% across an average of ten years and has many employees with over 40 years of employment.

The engagement of Clayton Giles team members extends beyond the company to the community. Clayton Giles team members are offered Volunteer Time Off, which is eight paid hours for local volunteering. They have a 60%, or 162 employees, participating in volunteer projects. Notably, Clayton Giles employees completed multiple upgrades to a local building offering many services to the New Tazewell community including computer classes, GED tutoring, and training in job skills.

Clayton Giles is an extraordinary organization, pursuing sustainability goals while maintaining the highest level of employee commitment and continuing meaningful outreach to their community.



[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 Clayton Giles in New Tazewell and other sustainable industries in Tennessee by becoming a member, please contact us.