

# TENNESSEE GREEN STAR PARTNERSHIP MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



# L A Z B O Y®

By: Caleb Powell

Since its establishment in 1973, La-Z-Boy's manufacturing facility in Dayton, TN has evolved into a beacon of sustainable practices while maintaining its reputation for crafting comfortable furniture. With approximately 1,400 dedicated employees, the facility operates as the largest employer in Rhea County, embodying the spirit of skilled craftsmanship and community engagement.

Spanning over one million square feet, La-Z-Boy's facility in Dayton comprises Plant 06, known as 'the chair plant,' and Plant 19, referred to as 'the sofa plant.' Together, these facilities have the capacity to produce over 1.3 million units annually, including a full range of sofas, chairs, and accessories. La-Z-Boy's motto of "Live Life Comfortably" resonates through every piece, reflecting the commitment to quality and innovation.

At the forefront of La-Z-Boy's operations in Dayton is its state-of-the-art research and development division. Housed within a sprawling 70,000 square foot LEED® Silver certified innovation center, the division pioneers cutting-edge solutions in furniture design and manufacturing. By locating this division within the heart of its manufacturing hub, La-Z-Boy enhances collaboration and efficiency, ensuring that innovation drives every aspect of its production process.

La-Z-Boy's commitment to sustainability extends beyond its products to every facet of its operations. The facility leaves no stone unturned in its quest for environmental stewardship. From comprehensive waste management strategies to energy-efficient lighting retrofits, La-Z-Boy prioritizes sustainability at every step.

## FEATURED THIS MONTH

- Headquartered in Monroe, Michigan, La-Z-Boy has been producing furniture for over 85 years.
- Employs approximately 1,400 team members.
- Member since 2013

## FUN FACT:

- The Dayton facility stands as the largest La-Z-Boy manufacturer in the company.



Notably, the facility's partnership with local suppliers underscores its dedication to sourcing materials responsibly and supporting the local economy. They partner with a company that takes the facility's compactor trash, grinds and shreds it, and turns it into fuel for kilns. The Dayton facility also uses their waste sawdust to fuel the boilers that heat and cool the massive buildings. Recycling has always been a top priority throughout the Dayton facility. In the first three months of 2024, they recycled 1.6 million lbs. of cardboard, 4.9 million lbs. of metal, 432,615 lbs. of wood, and over 1.05 million lbs. of poly foam. Their PET and HDPE containers are primarily shipped to regional processors that clean and pelletize the materials for use in the flooring/carpeting industries, to mold automotive components, and to create new recycled content containers. LDPE film is sent to a facility in North Carolina that creates sustainable decking.

Beyond its manufacturing endeavors, La-Z-Boy remains deeply entrenched in the Dayton community. Recognizing the importance of fostering a strong and vibrant local ecosystem, the company actively engages in outreach programs and charitable initiatives. Each year the facility donates a premium recliner to the Tennessee Recycling Coalition's (TRC) annual conference to add to the silent auction. This donation helps TRC fund scholarships and recycling bin grants throughout the state to promote recycling and sustainability. La-Z-Boy holds and conducts training that directly provides skills to our emergency service workers, such as confined space rescue and machine rescue. By investing in the well-being of its employees and the broader community, La-Z-Boy continues to make a positive impact beyond its factory walls.

As La-Z-Boy's Dayton facility continues to thrive, its commitment to sustainability, innovation, and community remains steadfast. Through ongoing advancements in manufacturing processes and a dedication to social responsibility, La-Z-Boy reaffirms its position as a leader in sustainable furniture manufacturing. With a focus on excellence and environmental stewardship, La-Z-Boy looks ahead to a future where comfort, quality, and sustainability converge seamlessly.



[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 La-Z-Boy and other sustainable industries in Tennessee by becoming a member, please and other sustainable industries in Tennessee by becoming a member, please contact us.