



## Manufacturing's Commitment to Sustainability

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) represents 14,000 small, medium and large companies across all industrial sectors in all 50 states. In the wake of record-breaking economic optimism fueled by tax and regulatory reform, manufacturers are keeping our promise to hire more workers, raise wages and benefits and invest in new plants and equipment. We are also keeping our promise to deliver responsible environmental stewardship along with strong economic growth.

This is why the NAM joined with the Department of Energy's (DOE) nonpartisan Better Plants Program earlier this year to launch the Sustainability in Manufacturing Partnership. Through this partnership, manufacturers have the ability to collaborate with the DOE in exploring emerging sustainability technologies, addressing future energy problems and shining a spotlight on how sustainability is vital to manufacturing in America.

By facilitating the sharing of sustainability success stories like those included here, the program is helping manufacturers gain greater visibility into the sustainability best practices of industry peers. It is also helping Americans gain greater insight into the environmental commitment of a sector that is keeping its promises. Since 1990, **national pollutant concentrations have dropped dramatically**. Carbon monoxide concentrations are down 77 percent; lead 99 percent; nitrogen dioxide 54 percent; ozone 22 percent; coarse particulate matter 39 percent; fine particulate matter 37 percent; and sulfur dioxide 81 percent. The United States also has continued to lead the charge in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). Notably, manufacturers contributed **19 percent more value** to the American economy over the past decade while releasing **10 percent fewer GHG emissions**. To advance this goal even further, the NAM recently surveyed its members on their sustainability practices, and across the board, manufacturers are demonstrating that sustainability has become mainstream across all industrial sectors.

Everyone wants clean water and clean air. Everyone needs a good job and an economy that delivers new opportunities and a better life. Manufacturers are proving we can deliver both. For more information on the NAM-DOE Sustainability in Manufacturing Partnership, please visit [www.shopfloor.org/2018/04/the-nam-and-doe-better-plants/?\\_ga=2.248172743.1911520976.1538679535-731651861.1532446636](http://www.shopfloor.org/2018/04/the-nam-and-doe-better-plants/?_ga=2.248172743.1911520976.1538679535-731651861.1532446636), and for additional information on how manufacturers are paving the way as leaders in sustainability and energy efficiency, please visit [www.nam.org/issues/sustainability](http://www.nam.org/issues/sustainability).



Jay Timmons  
President and CEO  
NAM

## ENERGY

# 93.8%

of companies track usage

## RECYCLING

# 76.3%

of companies have a program

## WATER

# 81.3%

of companies track usage

**Energy:** Manufacturers are using cleaner sources of energy and reducing their consumption.

- Global manufacturing company Ingersoll Rand recently extended its climate commitment and signed a purchasing agreement for wind power that will account for **32 percent** of its U.S. electricity use. It is also starting a solar energy initiative that will soon cover **15 percent** of its energy load in both China and the United States.
- In 2017, Union Pacific **reduced its energy consumption by 3.8 million kWh.**

**Recycling:** Manufacturers reuse materials in innovative ways.

- The electronics manufacturer Texas Instruments **efficiently uses and reuses** materials generated by its manufacturing process. For example, it regularly cleans and shreds its empty chemical containers for sale to the plastics industry.
- Construction materials manufacturer USG Corporation's Rainier, Oregon, plant has a new **waste reclamation system** that turns job site wallboard waste back into gypsum panels. When new wallboard waste comes into the plant, a machine separates the gypsum core from the paper. The paper is sent to a local dairy farm where it is used as bedding, and the recovered gypsum is put back into the manufacturing process to be recycled into new wallboard. The new system allows USG Corporation to meet increased customer demand for products in post-consumer recycled content.

**Water Conservation:** Manufacturers are taking bold steps to reduce their water consumption.

- Smithfield Foods' conservation efforts saved more than **1.174 billion gallons of water** in 2017.
- Saint-Gobain, one of the world's largest building materials companies and manufacturer of innovative material solutions, started using a cooling tower to save water at its Riverport, Kentucky, facility in 2012. Within three years, it had **eliminated water withdrawal completely** from a well it had used for years (at 131 million gallons in 2012)—**and sealed it up.**

In a recent NAM survey, **71.9 PERCENT** of manufacturers said they had a sustainability policy in place, and another **8.3 PERCENT** are developing one.

Manufacturers will continue to lead by minimizing their environmental footprint, reducing air emissions, conserving critical resources, protecting biodiversity, limiting waste and producing safe products and solutions so others in the economy can do the same.

Why do manufacturers care about sustainability?

- **Because it is the best way to do business:** **62 percent** of companies have sustainable policies because it is their preferred business model, according to a recent poll of NAM manufacturers. The next most common reason, consumer demand, was cited by 50 percent of manufacturers.
- **Because everybody wins:** Emphasizing environmental sustainability is both the right thing to do and good business. In the words of Cummins Chairman and CEO Tom Linebarger, it often offers "**a win-win: less environmental impact and cost-reduction benefits.**"