A consistent passion for environmental leadership and mentoring others is what makes this facility a KY EXCEL success.

Nestled in the old industrial side of Winchester, KY sits a factory which established its first building in 1946 and has been at the current location since 1963. Leggett & Platt Winchester Spring is a branch of Leggett & Platt, Inc. based out of Carthage, Missouri. For the past 75 years, they have been producers of bedsprings consisting of a single cone spring wire coil that was patented in 1885.

Leggett & Platt, Inc. has an overall eco initiative that encourages employees to carry out efforts to “create a safer workplace, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and landfill requirements while increasing operational efficiency.” Projects are focused on site changes that incorporate conservation, recycling, reuse and renewable and sustainable energy efforts “while collaborating with their customers to preserve our environment.”

**Simple Internal Changes**

Like many facilities that have been around for decades, Leggett & Platt Winchester Spring has a variety of machines to create quality products. The mechanical nature of some of the older machines require a substantial amount of oil to operate. The facility employees have come up with ways to reuse the oil in the machines, causing less waste. They also place absorbent mats under the machines that sit in rubber trays. These mats soak up any oil dripping from the machines, then are collected, cleaned and reused again.

Recently, LED lighting was installed inside their machinery. This change alone has increased employee safety and saved the company over $7000 per year in utility costs. Many ideas for better stewardship come from fourteen employees that make up the Leggett & Platt Winchester Spring “Green Team.” The team meets together often and brainstorms ways to make their work safer, more efficient and environmentally sustainable. As you walk through the facility, you can see their efforts demonstrated in color coded recycling and tool stations and Green Boards that provide information on environmental topics.

Leggett & Platt Winchester Spring’s focus is recycling and reuse of extra materials that come from the manufacturing process. Designated bins are placed throughout the facility to collect extra wire, spools and...
Key to Success

Employees are considered partners and ideas are encouraged. So many great ideas to improve the environment have come from them.

pallets that accrue through shipping and packaging of materials. The Green Team takes the refuse and transforms it into benches and craft items that they donate to community events, schools and organizations. Leggett & Platt Winchester Spring is 70-80% waste free and always looking for ways to improve that number. Most recent reduction efforts resulted in three months without needing a dumpster pick-up.

Installation of electronic emissions monitors on all of their vehicles, getting them Green Fleet certified and phasing out motorized carts used around the facility by replacing them with adult sized trikes have all been examples of Green Team efforts. Employees feel a sense of accomplishment when they can reduce the carbon footprint of the facility while also increasing productivity.

Community Care

Green Team employees are also passionate about creating environmental leaders in the community. They participate in local events that promote environmental responsibility and stewardship like the Clark County Clean-up where they have “adopted” four city streets surrounding their facility. They frequently visit Justice Elementary School through the Partners in Education Program teaching social responsibility, environmental and career education.

Leggett & Platt Winchester Spring recently developed a college career partnership that allows students to work part-time support positions alongside some of their veteran workers. The program includes job shadowing, learning the manufacturing industry as well as real world skills like interviewing and resume writing. The program has been so successful that it has expanded to include Clark County High School juniors and seniors.

Long Term Leaders

Leggett & Platt Winchester Spring is an award recipient through the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection as well as with other entities due to their consistent care for the environment and their community. Showing no signs of slowing down, they are currently mentoring the Leggett & Platt Leitchfield Branch in Green Team formation and projects. Leitchfield joined the KY EXCEL program in January 2017.

Building more environmental leaders to carry sustainable stewardship efforts into the future is what makes Leggett & Platt Winchester Spring a KY EXCEL program inspiration!