



Department of  
**Environment &  
Conservation**



## Valmont-Newmark: Supporting Sustainable Infrastructure

Valmont Industries is recognized throughout the world as a leader in irrigation systems and engineered products for infrastructure.

In 1946, Robert Daugherty committed his entire savings of just over \$5,000 to founding Valmont Industries with the belief that business could and should be done better. More than a half century later, Valmont Newmark in Jasper, Tennessee is an integral part of that vision.

The Jasper, Tennessee location specializes in galvanized steel transmission and distribution poles that tower up to 140 feet tall and hold over 20,000 pounds. Valmont Newmark supports much of the nation's power and communications infrastructure. Literally!

Michael Slaton, Safety and Environmental Manager for Valmont Newmark in Jasper, is proud of the fact that his company supports sustainability as well. In 2014, Valmont Newmark became a member of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's [Tennessee Green Star Partnership](#) (TGSP) which is a voluntary environmental leadership program designed to recognize industries in the state which are committed to sustainable practices.

"We recycle cardboard, batteries, used oil, light bulbs, spent drums and we are working on everything else," said Michael. Currently the facility recycles 95% of all materials not being shipped to customers.

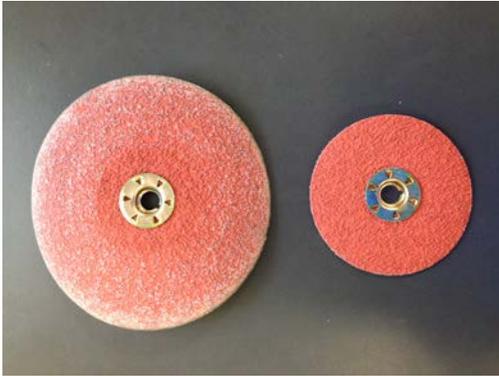
"Our scrap steel recycling is easy. The steel vendors love us." Cutting and welding such large structures as 12-sided galvanized steel poles that can be as much as 10 to 12 feet in diameter results in a lot of steel to recover. "Last year we generated 6,800 tons of high-grade steel scrap."



- Established in 2000
- Located in Jasper, TN
- Employs 194
- Member since 2014

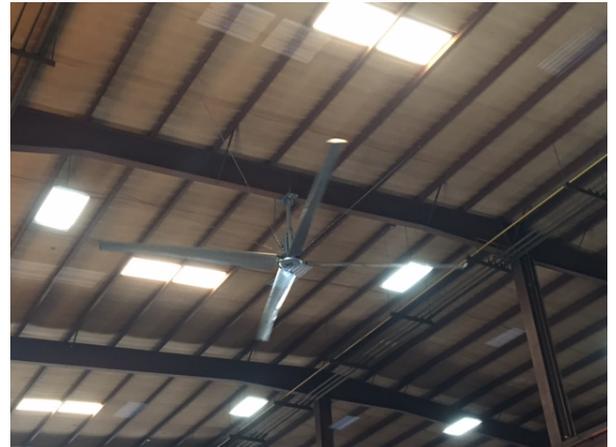


Valmont Newmark's most valuable commodity is their innovative employees.



"Our employees generate most of our ideas," said Slaton during a recent tour of the facility. The welding seams of the enormous steel poles that Valmont Newmark manufactures need to be sanded before they are finished. One day one of the employees suggested that they were wasting a lot of sanding discs. The team then implemented a process to trim the used 8 inch discs down to 4 inches so the inner part could be used as well, further reducing production waste.

The welding and sanding process creates a hot environment. Another employee suggestion was to install large, slow-moving fans overhead to reduce the cost of heating and cooling the production floor. "That was a popular decision," said Slaton.



Engaging employees in operational decisions is a critical part of Valmont's success. That level of engagement is even more impressive considering Valmont Newmark is often called on to fill emergency orders. The big steel poles are a crucial part of getting the electrical grid back up in areas that are suddenly hit with disasters.

The storms of April 2014 are an excellent example. Arkansas and much of the South were without power due to severe damage to substations and distribution lines. Entergy, one of the many power companies that Valmont Industries serves, submitted a rush order for several sections of galvanized steel poles. The engineering team at the Valmont Newmark site began reviewing drawings, sourcing material, and creating the production orders on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Steel was cut, brake pressed, welded, and complete by Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> with the first delivery made on May 5<sup>th</sup> to the sites needing them most. That was an amazing feat of logistics, planning, and production. Valmont Newmark is a great example of a company that is committed to responding to the needs of their customers and to Tennessee's environment.

