Written by Rick Carter, Executive Editor
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Sustainability, like product quality, is built into the culture at this automaker's ENERGY STAR Partner plant in Tennessee.

At 5.4 million square feet, Nissan's assembly plant in Smyrna, TN, is one of North America's largest. The 28-year-old facility—*the first Japanese auto plant built in the U.S.*—is also one of the greenest in any industry. Smyrna's rich variety of ongoing, successful and growing sustainability efforts is a key to why Nissan North America was honored as a 2010 ENERGY STAR Partner of Year. The award, which also honors two other Nissan North America plants and its headquarters building in Franklin, TN, cites the company for scoring in the top 25% of energy-efficient facilities in the U.S. and for making sustainability an unshakable part of its mission and culture. In Smyrna, real sustainable savings are a daily reminder of what green teamwork can accomplish and a driver to do more.

NISSAN

Smyrna Assembly Plant

Location:	Smyrna, TN
Employees:	3400
Facility size:	5.4 million square feet
Property:	884 acres
Production started:	June 16, 1983
Models produced:	Nissan Altima midsize sedan
	Nissan Altima Coupe
	Nissan Altima Hybrid midsize sedan
	Nissan Frontier King Cab pickup truck
	Nissan Frontier Crew Cab pickup truck
	Nissan Maxima sport sedan
	Nissan Xterra sport utility vehicle
	Nissan Pathfinder sport utility vehicle
Capacity:	550,000 vehicles annually

Source: Nissan North America, Inc., 2011

How to Become an ENERGY STAR Superstar

According to the Department of Energy, there are five key reasons why Nissan North America, Inc., won the 2010 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Award. Based on activities that took place during the 2009 calendar year at the company's three vehicle-assembly and powertrain plants in the U.S. and Mexico, and its headquarters facility in Franklin, TN, Nissan was recognized for:

- Implementing strategies to achieve an absolute energy reduction of 30%.
- Earning the ENERGY STAR for its auto assembly plants and headquarters building.
- Educating employees, the public and customers on the value of energy efficiency and ENERGY STAR through Nissan public events, plant tours, workstation screensavers and energy fairs.
- Impacting the company's Energy Value Chain by helping suppliers manage energy. Nissan asks its suppliers to complete EPA's ENERGY STAR Energy Program Assessment Matrix to gauge the maturity of suppliers' energy programs and directs them to ENERGY STAR.

- Actively supporting EPA's ENERGY STAR Focus on Energy Efficiency in Motor Vehicle Manufacturing.
- Sharing best energy-management practices with ENERGY STAR partners.

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