

Sold, Locked, Packed & Shipped in Sunlight

Aztech Locknut Goes Extreme Green!

By Sara Vasicek, Aztech Locknut Company

Here at Aztech Locknut Company, our locknuts are green and getting greener every day! For 31 years Aztech has been supplying the distributor marketplace with high-quality, competitively priced locknuts. Today, after 18 months of transformation at our building in Aurora, IL, we can proudly say that every process step we take is good for the environment and healthy for our workers. Our owner and President, Mark Kaindl, has always been focused on improving our operations and our product quality, and the most recent fruits of those efforts are advanced Environmental Certifications resulting in exciting changes to the way we use energy, reduce waste and create the very best environment for our people. Aztech Locknut is ISO4001 Certified, has completed the aggressive requirements of LEED-EB, Gold Certification, and is now in the required energy performance period.

Imagine your locknut order grown in fresh air and sunlight ... Starting with our Sales department — your Aztech sales rep takes your locknut order in natural sun light provided by Solar Light Tubes, with fresh air circulating from Energy Recovery Ventilators, and using a completely paperless process. From there the work flows to our brightly lit Quality and Production departments, all with outside views to the natural environment of our business campus. On to our Warehouse where parts are packed and orders are processed and shipped in a sunlit and airy environment where the light bulbs only come on at night! Even with the dynamic weather conditions of our Midwest location, all of these departments have exceptional temperature regulation — fueled by an advanced Multi-Split heating and cooling system tied to a Geothermal pallet on the bottom

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A sales department lit by solar tubes that is comfortable, enjoyable, and paperless!



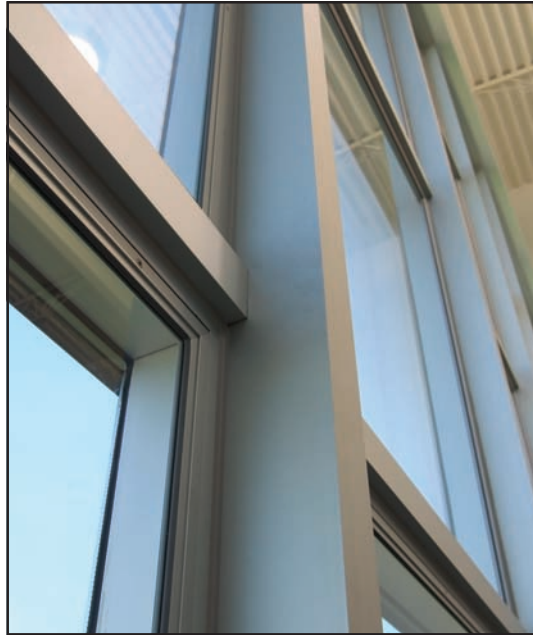
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of our pond! Automatic sensor-controlled light monitoring means lights remain off until needed. A whole building Solar Hot Water Recovery and Reuse System collects heat from rooftop Solar Evacuated Tubes and waste heat from production processes and uses it for domestic hot water, production parts cleaning equipment, office dehumidification in summer and for warehouse heat in the winter. The combined energy and maintenance savings are projected to reduce these costs by 60%.

Aztech has positioned recycling containers throughout the facility for everything except food waste. The use of eco-friendly cleaning products improves air quality and reduces the use of harmful chemicals. Even outside the building, our biodiverse landscaping improvements in-

clude no-maintenance natural plants, low fertilization and minimal mowing. The lawn irrigation system even recycles water from our retention pond!

All this sounds expensive, and it is, but Mark has developed arguments drawn from both available research and documented experience supporting a 400% return on the cost of all these changes within 8 years, without considering the significant refunds, rebates and tax deductions earned. For example, most Americans spend 90% of their time indoors; green building efforts allow us to enjoy more of the natural atmosphere than the typical building environment. When a work environment and its ergonomics are comfortable, it is proven that employee satisfaction and pro-



A third glass panel installed, in addition to original thermopane, dramatically improves comfort and energy savings.



Production enjoys daylight and outside views.



The company sponsored an all electric car conversion and provides the inside charging station and power for this green commuter.



Eight rooftop HVAC units were replaced by a state-of-the-art mini-split heat and air cooling system with a geothermal loop and HRVs.



Solar hot water from rooftop collectors is distributed for a variety of uses, summer and winter.

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ductivity increase while sick time decreases. A happier and more productive work force means better service and better products for our customers resulting in more sales at a lower cost.

A 2008 study by GreenBiz. com estimates that the number of employees impacted by environmental workplace quality improvements in LEED-certified companies will eventually increase 25-fold. The estimated dollar value of the increased productivity of those employees is in the trillions of dollars. According to the NRDC, the EPA has estimated that building-related illnesses could account for \$60 billion in lost productivity.

A company's best asset is its employees, and Aztech's working environment is more comfortable than ever thanks to our environmental initiatives: Sunlight, outside views, occupant temperature control, and fresh healthy air. This summer, we began trying out a 4-day workweek; a more comfortable work environment means that a 10-hour work day can be just as productive as an 8-hour day. It's also one less day that our employees are driving their cars to work. Additionally, working remotely from home has been available for over three years and has been used on various levels by employees throughout our office.

Our people find the experience of actively participating in a



Office roofing was upgraded with additional insulation, heat stop radiant barrier, and reflective membrane further improving the building envelope.



Shipping has challenges and opportunities in the year-round connection to the environment.



Packing has more than enough sunlight to operate without bulbs.



Electricity supplied to the building is sub-metered into dozens of categories that help to identify opportunities to conserve.

dramatic effort to promote environmental responsibility has a positive impact on them personally and this spills into their life away from work.

All of this means that you, our customers, are buying locknuts that are not only high-quality and a great value, but that you can feel good about. I'm proud to work for a green company, and one that is on the forefront of making real changes toward reducing the needless waste of energy so common in our businesses.

Have you had your recommended serving of green locknuts today? 