Whiting is BP’s largest refinery anywhere in the world. Its products — ranging from gasoline to jet fuel — help keep the Midwest moving.

“As the largest refinery within BP, we need to embrace the dual challenge — a world that is demanding lower-carbon energy, while at the same time demanding more energy overall,” says Refinery Manager Don Porter. “We are positioning ourselves to thrive in this evolving context.”

Building for the future
Whiting is constructing a new naphtha hydrotreating unit that will significantly reduce the amount of sulfur in its fuels. The new unit will be operational in 2020.

Meanwhile, the refinery has developed and implemented new performance indicators for optimizing and minimizing energy use on a daily basis.

Among its efficiency initiatives, the facility installed equipment to generate steam from exhaust gas. This reduces the amount of steam generated from its boilers, which in turn reduces the amount of fuel burned and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

The Whiting team is using innovative technologies to protect the environment and boost efficiency, as well as to improve safety.

- Gas cloud imaging cameras have the capability to continuously monitor facilities and identify new methane leaks earlier than during routine inspections.
- The refinery has deployed drones to inspect flares, rather than have workers climb up temporary scaffolding. The team also uses robots to clean sulfur tanks.

Fueling the Midwest
Located on the Lake Michigan shoreline in northwest Indiana, 17 miles southeast of downtown Chicago, Whiting is the largest refinery in the Midwest. It makes enormous contributions to the region’s transportation network, processing around 430,000 barrels of crude oil every day.

The refinery produces around 10 million gallons of gasoline, 4 million gallons of diesel and 2 million gallons of jet fuel each day.

Since opening its gates in 1889 as part of John D. Rockefeller’s Standard Oil Company, Whiting has been a key anchor of the northwest Indiana economy, as well as the surrounding community.

The Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce recognized the refinery in 2019 for its “outstanding contributions to economic growth and betterment of northwest Indiana.”

Over the years, Whiting and its employees have supported a diverse range of local and regional institutions, such as Ivy Tech Community College, Purdue University and the Lake Area United Way.

In numbers

- BP’s Whiting Refinery can produce enough gasoline each day to support the average daily travel of more than 7 million cars.¹
- Along with a range of liquid fuels, the refinery produces about 7 percent of all asphalt in the United States.
- BP supports more than 12,600 jobs in the state of Indiana.

¹ Calculation based on the average amount of gasoline an American passenger car uses each day.