



TREEDC – Clarksville/Montgomery County, Tennessee Renewable Energy Meeting Report: May 9, 2012

From: Warren Nevad, the University of Tennessee MTAS

The Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) held a luncheon with TREEDC members Clarksville and Montgomery County on May 9th at Austin Peay State University. Representatives from the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service, County Technical Assistance Service, Tennessee Solar Energy Association, USDA Rural Development , Pathway Lending, Tennessee Departments of Environment and Conservation and Agriculture, City of Franklin and Energy Source Partners convened together to learn more about best management green practices in Clarksville, Montgomery County and at Hemlock Semiconductor.

TREEDC President/Ducktown Mayor James Talley advised the audience that TREEDC was very proud to have Clarksville Mayor Kim McMillan and Montgomery County Mayor Carolyn Bowers together at the luncheon to share their successes in renewable energy development and economic development. Mayor McMillan addressed the crowd by stating that she believes in the mission of TREEDC which is to promote and connect renewable energy for all communities in Tennessee. Mayor McMillan also expressed to President Talley her support for a TREEDC- Austin Peay State Community Energy Forum next year. Mayor Bowers also welcomed the audience and stated that she was proud of the work at the Bi-County Landfill and Green Certification Program for Clarksville-Montgomery County organizations. She also urged more county mayors to join TREEDC.

Michelle Newell, Program Manager stated that the Green Certification Program was designed to help businesses learn and implement best practices in the area of environmental stewardship in an effort to sustain resources through a series of free workshops taught by environmental and other subject area specialists. Newell also advised the audience that Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Commissioner Bob Martineau will be speaking at the Inaugural Green Certification Awards program on May 22nd . Go to <http://www.mcgtm.org/green/green-certification-program-awards-banquet> for more information. MTAS Consultant Warren Nevad gave an update of TREEDC and mentioned the new website: www.treedc.us. TREEDC has partnered with TDEC and the Tennessee Economic and Community Development (ECD) Energy Division to conduct a strategic planning retreat in the Fall. TREEDC also has partnered with the Tennessee Gas Association to explore the feasibility of developing a statewide network of compressed natural gas stations. The next TREEDC forum will be held at Tennessee Tech on July 27th. Nevad also thanked MTAS Executive Director Steve Thompson for his support of renewable energy. TREEDC Consultant Bill Owen recommended that area businesses and citizens join the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Green Power Switch program by signing up at www.greenpowerswitch.com/treedc.

Pete Reed, Bi-County Solid Waste Director explained how the Bi-County landfill converts methane gas to renewable energy, which is sold to the Tennessee Valley Authority power grid through the Cumberland Electric Membership Corp. The landfill gas is collected at 21 wells, then moves to the on-site facility through lines, similar to a gravity sewer system. Once there, the gas is diverted either to the flare station or a treatment station, where the gas is refrigerated to remove excess moisture.

The luncheon keynote speaker was Brian Amick, Hemlock Semiconductor Loss Prevention Team Leader. Amick informed attendees that Hemlock Semiconductor evaluated 60 sites in 5 continents to find a suitable location to build a polysilicon manufacturing facility in Clarksville, Tennessee. Amick gave an excellent overview of the manufacturing process of polysilicon. He cited the factors to select Clarksville and Montgomery County included that the property was a TVA certified mega-site and the skilled workforce in Tennessee and Kentucky. Amick also complimented Austin Peay State University for their willingness to develop a training program partnership with Hemlock in chemical engineering technology.

The next TREEDC forum is scheduled for July 27, 2012 at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, Tennessee. TREEDC Chairman/University of Tennessee President Emeritus Dr. Joe Johnson will be the morning keynote speaker. Please check out the membership tab on the newly revised TREEDC website at www.treedc.us if your community or organization is interested in becoming a 2012 TREEDC member. Individuals or businesses that enroll under the TVA Green Power Switch program will be entitled to membership privileges for 2012. For more information about TREEDC and speaking/sponsorship opportunities, contact warren.nevad@tennessee.edu .