

TREEDC Newsletter

March 31, 2011 Volume 1

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Quarterly Publication

Upcoming Events

- April 5: TREEDC FORUM: Jackson, TN
- April 6: Southern Consortium Public Universities (SCUSO): Charlotte, NC
- April 14: USDA Rural Development Conference : Cookeville, TN
- April 28: TCMA Presentation :Franklin, TN
- June 6/7: TN Gas Association Presentation Asheville, NC
- June 12: TN Municipal League Reception: Murfreesboro, TN
- June 24: TREEDC FORUM Franklin, TN

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The University of Tennessee President Emeritus Dr. Joseph Johnson Announces Founding Members

The Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development (TREEDC) Council Chairman Dr. Joe Johnson has announced that the following organizations have joined 35 cities and 8 counties statewide to become founding members of TREEDC: 1) USDA Rural Development, 2) Genera Energy, 3) Tennessee Department of Agriculture, 4) Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), 5) Maupin Technologies, 6) Asset Equity & Corporation, 7) Lightwave Solar Electric, 8) Gibson County Utilities, 9) Oak Ridge National Lab/ UT – Battelle, 10) The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), 11) Jackson Energy Authority, 12) Efficient Energy of Tennessee, 13) ECotality, 14) Memphis Bioworks, 15) Biodiesel Logic, 16) Bartlett Chamber of Commerce, 17) Pathway Lending, 18) Sustainable Future, and 19) McBee Bailey & Associates. TREEDC is grateful to Dr. Johnson for his leadership in Tennessee renewable energy. Contact TREEDC Assistant Joelene Harris at treedc08@yahoo.com for membership information.



TREEDC Chairman Dr. Joe Johnson addresses the Crossville renewable energy forum held on March 1, 2011

Renewable Symposium Held in Roane County

On October 22, 2010 the Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TREEDC) held its first membership symposium in East Tennessee in Roane County. Held at Roane State Community College in Harriman, more than 80 attendees from 29 cities, 16 counties, and 7 states met to discuss current programs and future statewide developments in renewable energy. Randy Johnson with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) gave an informative presentation about TVA Integrated Resources Plan.

Community leaders discussed local government best practices, alternative transportation fuels and renewable electric generation. TREEDC Member Edmund Ford, Jr. gave an update about the Memphis/Shelby Sustainable plan. Special thanks to the Roane Alliance for their assistance in organizing the forum.



from left to right: Bill Owen, TREEDC Consultant; Graysville Mayor Ted Doss; Graysville Commissioner/TREEDC 2nd Vice President Andy Beene; The University of Tennessee MTAS Consultant Warren Nevad; Ducktown Mayor/TREEDC East TN Coordinator James Talley, Gainesboro Mayor/TREEDC Vice President John Fox, Kingston Mayor Troy Beets, Emanuel Bailey, McBee Bailey & Associates/TREEDC Treasurer; Pikeville Mayor/TREEDC President Greg Johnson

TREEDC Legal Affairs Director/Jackson City Councilman Ernest Brooks Appointed to National League of Cities Steering Committee

National League of Cities President James Mitchell, Jr., has announced the appointment of City Councilman Ernest Brooks, II to the National League of Cities' (NLC) 2011 Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Advocacy Steering Committee. This Committee has the lead responsibility for developing NLC federal policy positions in the areas of energy, clean air, solid and hazardous waste, water quality and supply, national wetlands, and endangered species. Councilman Brooks will host the second West TREEDC Forum in Jackson on April 5, 2011. As a member of the committee, Councilman Brooks will play a key role in shaping NLC's policy positions regarding the environment and renewable energy.

The National League of Cities is the nation's oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans. Brooks is also assisting TREEDC with various biomass gasification projects and legislative priorities.

TREEDC Assists with Statewide Biofuels Efforts

In 2010, TREEDC assisted the cities of Crossville and Clarksville with developing their own biodiesel production facilities. These innovative cities commenced an aggressive community wide recycling program of waste vegetable oil to generate feedstock to produce biodiesel. These programs were modeled after Hoover, Alabama. TREEDC and Biodiesel Logic will give a presentation on April 28, 2011 at the Tennessee City Manager's Association meeting in Franklin, Tennessee.

TREEDC was also appointed as an ambassador to the Genera Energy/Dupont Danisco cellulosic ethanol development project. Recently, TREEDC received training from officials with the University Of Tennessee Institute Of Agriculture to help promote this project statewide. This project will involve using switchgrass as a non-food feedstock to produce ethanol for alternative fuel. The TREEDC board believes that this project will become an economic catalyst for job creation in rural communities in Tennessee. The goal is to produce at least 4,000 green jobs statewide to support the market development of cellulosic ethanol.

Lightwave Solar Electric Receives National Award from National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP)

TREEDC founding member Steve Johnson of Lightwave Solar was recently recognized at the 12th Annual NAIOP Awards Gala for "Industrial Development of the Year" for their work with Permboil. Lightwave Solar also has installed the first solar system in the Nashville school system. Congratulations Lightwave Solar!

TREEDC Officials Visit Washington, DC to promote TVA Green Power Switch Program

On January 20, 2011, TREEDC President/Pikeville Mayor Greg Johnson, Memphis Councilman Edmund Ford, Jr., Jackson Councilman Ernest Brooks, II, Ducktown Mayor James Talley, and TREEDC consultant Bill Owen met with the new Tennessee congressional delegation to share their mission of promoting renewable energy with economic development and to urge support of the TVA Green Power Switch (GPS) program. TREEDC Consultant Owen is a member of the TVA redesign of the GPS program. TVA has approximately 12,000 residential subscribers and 500 commercial to the GPS program. This program is used to invest in renewable energy sources such as biomass and solar to meet their goals of sustainability. TREEDC leaders are willingly and able to assist TVA with the marketing and promotion of their GPS program through the outreach forums and community gatherings. TVA has already partnered with TREEDC with their electric vehicle and integrated resources planning activities.



From left to right: Nevad, Memphis Councilman Edmund Ford, Jr., District 8 Congressman Stephen Fincher, Jackson Councilman/TREEDC Legal Affairs Director, Ernest Brooks, II.



From left to right: District 5 Congressman Jim Cooper, Talley, Owen, Johnson, Nevad and Ford, Jr.

TREEDC Members Partner to Install Largest Solar Installation in West Tennessee

Tennessee's largest solar energy power project was opened for business on January 27, 2011 in Jackson, TN. The grand opening of the project, located at the American Drive Business Center, was attended by TVA CEO Thomas Kilgore and Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam. The Business Center solar farm will be participating in the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Generation Partners Program, which provides technical support and incentives for the installation of renewable power generation systems. The solar system was designed and built by TREEDC member Efficient Energy of Tennessee (EETN).

The project includes a one megawatt (MW) solar power system which will be interconnected directly to TREEDC member Jackson Energy Authority (JEA) power grid and purchased by the TVA. The energy produced from this solar array is enough to power more than 250 homes. Also included is a 47 kilowatt (kW) installation which will power a portion of the operations at the Business Center, located at 96 American Drive in the Madison Industrial Park. Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce president Kyle Spurgeon praised Jackson Councilman/TREEDC Legal Affairs Director Ernest Brooks, II for his efforts in promoting renewable energy in Jackson.



TREEDC Legal Affairs Director chats with TVA CEO Tom Kilgore

TREEDC Secretary/Crossville Mayor J.H. Graham, III holds sustainable forum

TREEDC, a statewide environmental economic development organization of municipal and county mayors formed by the University of Tennessee held its first 2011 membership forum at the Crossville Art Circle Public Library on Tuesday, March 1, 2011. More than 90 attendees representing 21 cities, 8 counties, USDA Rural Development, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Economic and Community Development, Upper Cumberland Development District, Wyndam Fairfield Glade resorts and area citizens and businesses joined together to discover innovative municipal statewide best practices in renewable energy. Sustainability professionals from TREEDC partner cities Athens, Chattanooga, Cookeville, Franklin, Knoxville, Nashville and Oak Ridge presented informative details about their unique environmental programs to the audience. Participants also heard presentations about the ECotality electric vehicle project update and Truck stop Electrification project in Crossville to install 50 solar electrified and HVAC supplied truck spaces at ECO Plateau Travel Center in Crossville. The City of Crossville assisted TREEDC and the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) with the development of its educational and networking forum which offered area stakeholders valuable insights in sustainability opportunities for the Upper Cumberland region communities and businesses.

TREEDC Secretary/Crossville Mayor Graham highlighted the city's recent successes with the annual sustainability fair for area students and its commitment to reduce their carbon footprint by producing biodiesel processed by used vegetable oil from restaurants in the county. The University of Tennessee President Emeritus Dr. Joe Johnson urged the audience to support TREEDC's goals to help the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) promote more green power community investment in Tennessee. Dr. Johnson who also serves as the TREEDC Chairman of the advisory board urged more cities, counties, small businesses, corporations and individuals to help TREEDC accelerate more market development of cellulosic ethanol, biomass gasification, solar energy, biodiesel and energy efficiency programs. TREEDC President and Pikeville Mayor Greg Johnson recognized various mayors and elected officials from Ducktown, Graysville, Gainesboro, Kingston, Byrdstown and Cumberland and Bledsoe counties.



from left to right: Bailey, Crossville Mayor J.H. Graham, III, Beene, Talley, Beets, Nevad, Johnson and TVA Valley Relations Representative and TREEDC member Penny Judd

TREEDC Members: City Of Memphis and ECOtality Begin the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project

Memphis Mayor A C Wharton recently signed an agreement with TREEDC member ECOtality to bring electric vehicle charging stations to Memphis. TREEDC member/Memphis Councilman Edmund Ford, Jr. stated that the introduction of electric vehicles will bring economic development and renewable energy opportunities to the area. Stephanie Cox with the EV Project has announced plans on February 22, 2011 that the electric vehicle charging infrastructure project was expanding its scope to the City of Memphis.

The charging stations will be in place by September of this year with 4 at the Peabody Hotel. With 15,000 charging stations expected to be in place this year across the country, Nissan is spearheading the project with the introduction of their fully electric vehicle called the Leaf. The EV Project is funded partially by a federal Department of Energy grant, and the chargers will charge any vehicle with plug in capabilities.

The city and Memphis Light Gas and Water are also switching some of their fleet vehicles over to electric. ECOtality has given several presentations at various TREEDC forums and the Council is providing technical assistance regarding zoning, permitting and inspection requirements for the system of electric chargers.

For more information visit our website at www.treedc.us. Contact warren.nevad@tennessee.edu.