

TREEDC Newsletter

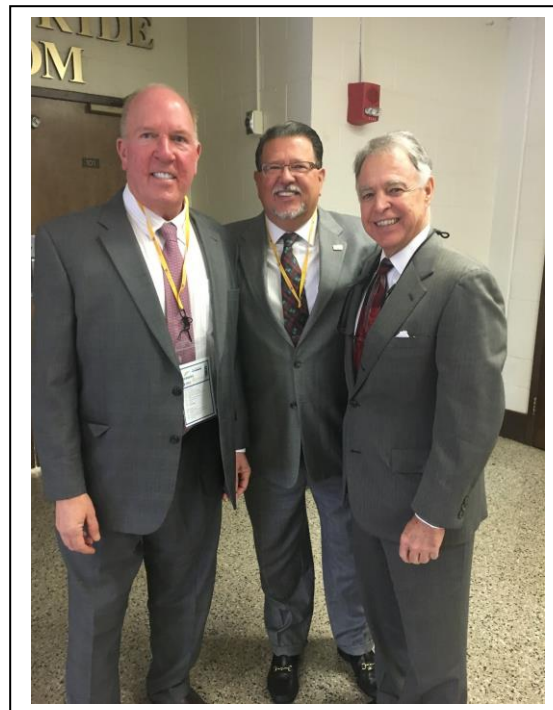
January, 2017

TREEDC Holds 3rd Annual Conference at Tennessee Tech University

The Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) recently held its 3rd annual International Renewable Energy Conference at TREEDC Founding Member Tennessee Tech University on December 15 - 16, 2016. 90 stakeholders registered for the conference which was bannered under the theme of "Best Practices of Renewable Energy for Local Governments". It brought together leadership from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), USDA Rural Development, the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, and the State Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Offices of Energy Programs and Sustainability. The conference consisted of a delegation from Central Mindanao State University in the Philippines and three (3) panels highlighting energy efficiency, innovative renewable energy technologies and solar for community development.

TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land and Cookeville Mayor Ricky Shelton welcomed the audience. Keynote addresses were presented by TVA Board Member Mike McWherter, TREEDC Board member/ Gibson County Utility Director Pat Riley, TDEC Sustainability Director Lori Munkeboe and ECD Chief Operating Officer Ted Townsend. Panel presentations were given by TREEDC members NORESCO, Siemens, City of Knoxville, City of Lebanon, Apex Clean Energy, Mid-State Construction, Epurga, Hannah Solar, Lightwave Solar, and Vis Solis. Presentations from the conference can be found here <http://treedc.us/newsletters/reports/index.html>

The conference also included a demonstration by TREEDC Member University of Tennessee at Martin's Mobile Energy Trailer which was funded by TREEDC Member USDA Rural Development grant.



From left to right: TVA Board Member Mike McWherter, TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land and TREEDC/Epurga Consultant Bill Owen



From left to right: TVA Board Member Mike McWherter, TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land and TREEDC Board Member Pat Riley

Mike McWherter Named to TREEDC Board



TREEDC Newest Board Member Mike McWherter greets TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land

Former TVA Board Member Mike McWherter has graciously accepted an invitation from TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land to serve on the TREEDC Board effective January 4, 2017 for the upcoming year. Members of the TREEDC Board of Directors also include Chairman/University of Tennessee President Emeritus Dr. Joe Johnson, Huntingdon Mayor Dale Kelley, Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes, Gibson County Utility District Director Pat Riley, and Memphis Councilman Dr. Edmund Ford, Jr.

McWherter will assist TREEDC with outreach efforts in Northwest Tennessee and help oversee our strategic planning initiative for 2017. Welcome, Mike!

MTAS Partners with UT-Martin and TREEDC to Bring Energy Conservation Awareness to West Tennessee

The University of Tennessee at Martin, the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) and the Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TREEDC) hosted a forum on the topic of conserving West Tennessee's energy footprint on October 13, 2016. Attendees included local leaders and UT- Martin engineering students. The forum also included UT Martin's mobile energy classroom which was financed through a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture. The project, led by John Cole and co-authored by Drs. Paula Gale and Rachna Tewari, all from the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, included both static and hands-on demonstrations of current energy production, conservation and renewable technology.

Brian Stone, of NORESKO, LLC, addressed energy contracting for community facilities, and James Talley, of Hannah Solar discussed case studies in solar power from Hawkins County, TN and Tybee Island, Ga. Pat Riley, director of Gibson County Utilities explained the benefits of using compressed natural gas for university fleets, and Warren Nevad, of MTAS, discussed the Port of Cates Landing municipal waste-to-energy project proposal to the Tennessee Valley Authority.

MTAS and TREEDC will also partner with an upcoming energy and water conservation forum at TREEDC Member University of Tennessee at Chattanooga on February 22, 2017.



TREEDC Board member Pat Riley at UT-Martin Conference

TREEDC Member Vis Solis Opens a 1 MW Solar Array in Roane County

TREEDC Member Vis Solis, Inc. hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the launch of their new 1 megawatt (MW) solar array, Plateau Park Solar, at Plateau Partnership Park industrial development complex in Rockwood, Tennessee. Also held at the event was a kickoff for the next solar project: Eastbridge Solar Advantage in Knox County. Community and elected officials from Rockwood, Crossville, and Roane, Morgan, and Cumberland Counties were in attendance.

Plateau Park Solar is a 1 MW solar photovoltaic electric power-generating facility developed in cooperation with Plateau Partnership Park and TREEDC Member city of Rockwood, Tennessee. Engineering, procurement, and construction of Plateau Park Solar are performed by TREEDC Member Tennessee Valley Alternative Energy as the primary subcontractor.

The project is located on a 6-acre parcel at Plateau Partnership Park, a commercial and industrial development site. Plateau Partnership Park is the product of a historic economic development partnership of Cumberland, Morgan, Knox, and Roane Counties in East Tennessee. The solar project will create a major environmental attribute for this industrial complex that is immediately adjacent to Interstate 40.

The project will sell electric power to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) through an interconnection with Rockwood Electric Utility. The 1 megawatt solar array will be constructed using 3,276 solar modules at 305 watts each. The modules will be connected to a single axis tracker to maximize generation.

TREEDC Members Vis Solis and Tennessee Valley Alternative Energy join TREEDC President Dwain Land and Roane County dignitaries in ribbon cutting ceremony



TREEDC Awards State Officials and Mayor Dwain Land for Being TREEDC Champions in 2016

During the TREEDC Annual Conference in Cookeville, Tennessee, the University of Tennessee MTAS/TREEDC Director Warren Nevad presented TREEDC 2016 Champions Awards to TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land, TDEC Office of Sustainability Director Lori Munkeboe and TDEC Director of Office of Energy Programs Molly Cripps.

Mayor Land was recognized for his leadership in starting the Dunlap Energy efficiency Project and for leading TREEDC to new growth in memberships during the past year. Lori Munkeboe was lauded for working closely with TREEDC over the years to help facilitate needed renewable energy related educational and outreach initiatives with TREEDC members. Molly Cripps was recognized for working closely with TREEDC cities to help launch various solar and renewable energy related projects over the years.

TREEDC Launches 2017 Membership Campaign

- The TREEDC board has kept the 2017 membership dues levels unchanged from prior years. Memberships help pay for expenses related to TREEDC's outreach, educational and project facilitation for our member local governments. Being a TREEDC member, affords networking and developmental opportunities, sponsorships of various events and participation in our International exchange program. TREEDC is a 501 C 3 charitable organization. For more information regarding 2017 membership opportunities click <http://treedc.us/membership/index.html>

TDEC Announces Third Annual Sustainable Transportation Awards and Forums

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) invites Tennesseans to submit nominations for the third annual 2017 Sustainable Transportation Awards. The deadline to submit nominations is March 31, 2017.



The Awards recognize outstanding initiatives within the state of Tennessee to reduce transportation-related energy and emissions, in line with an overarching effort to save natural resources, improve the health and well-being of Tennesseans, and create efficiencies in the delivery of goods and services.

"The annual Sustainable Transportation Awards and Forum provides an opportunity to recognize key transportation achievements and innovations as well as to energize the discussion around what can be done next," said TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineau.

A panel of judges representing diverse interests will select award recipients based on the following criteria:

- **Innovation:** How the project utilized new thinking or creative approaches to meet a particular transportation challenge.
- **Best Practices and Replicability:** How the project demonstrates a transferable solution, such that others could adopt or implement similar programs or initiatives.
- **Changes in Transportation Behavior:** How a project worked to encourage or achieve changes in transportation behavior in order to make a transportation system more efficient.
- **Improvements to Public Health and Safety:** How a project creates improvements to public health, well-being, or safety in a given community.

The University of Tennessee MTAS' Energy Management Workshops to be conducted in March 2017 Across Tennessee

The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) will be conducting Municipal Energy Management training courses for interested folks in March 2017. MTAS Management Consultant/TREEDC Director Warren Nevad will be the instructor. This course discusses key issues in energy for local governments, emerging technologies in energy, and practical solution tools including energy audits, energy benchmarking calculation, and best practices gleaned from case studies. Contact warren.nevad@tennessee.edu for more information.

The schedule of courses is as follows:

Dates/Locations/Times:

March 7 Bartlett 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST
March 8 Nashville 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST
March 10 Knoxville 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST
March 13 Collegedale 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT



TREEDC to Hold Forum at University of Tennessee at Chattanooga on February 22, 2017



THE UNIVERSITY of
TENNESSEE 
CHATTANOOGA

The theme for the upcoming forum at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga on February 22, 2017 will be Conserving Energy and Water Resources in Southeast Tennessee. Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke along with Chattanooga area green businesses will be giving presentations at this free forum which includes lunch. Check www.treedc.us for more details.