

TREEDC Newsletter

January 2019

TREEDC Holds 5th Annual Renewable Energy Conference

The Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) recently held its 5TH annual Renewable Energy Conference at TREEDC Founding Member Tennessee Tech University on December 13 – 14, 2018. The theme of the conference was “Best Practices of Renewable Energy and Economic Development for Local Governments”. It brought together leadership from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), The University of Tennessee, USDA Rural Development, and the State Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Offices of Energy Programs and Sustainability. Mayors and officials with the cities of Bolivar, Cookeville, Dunlap, Lebanon, Livingston and Monterey discussed their community approaches to economic development and renewable energy.



From left to right: Scott McRae, Lebanon, Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic, Cookeville Mayor Ricky Shelton wear TREEDC 10th anniversary hats

Cookeville Mayor Ricky Shelton welcomed the audience. Keynote addresses were presented by TDEC Assistant Commissioner Molly Cripps and USDA Rural Development Area Director Christopher Hampton. Discussions included opportunities pertaining to the Volkswagen Diesel Settlement Fund and rural funding opportunities for local governments. 2018 TREEDC Champion awards were granted to Margaret Norris, UT-MTAS Executive Director and Ryan Ball of Johnson Controls

The 108 TREEDC Mayors would like to thank the following sponsors of our 2018 Annual Conference: Cumberland Securities, Johnson Controls, NORESO, Ameresco, Entegriy, Tri-State Electrical Contractors, Ridgeline Venture Law, Tennessee Tech University, The University of Tennessee, Tennessee Valley Authority, Gibson County Utility District, USDA Rural Development, Farmer Morgan, Lightwave Solar and Hannah Solar.



From left to right: Brian Stone, NORESO, Misty Smith, Dunlap and Ryan Ball, Johnson Controls

2018 TREEDC Champion Awards

The 2018 TREEDC Champion awards were granted to Margaret Norris, UT-MTAS Executive Director and Ryan Ball, Johnson Controls Account Executive during the Annual Conference at Tennessee Tech University. Norris has been instrumental over the years in facilitating TREEDC's long term strategic goals while providing much unsolicited research in current renewable energy related practices and policies. Ball assisted TREEDC with its 2018 Philippines outreach initiatives and mission work. Ball has also organized TREEDC's forum in Unicoi, Tennessee and has provided invaluable input to the organization. Congratulations to Margaret and Ryan!



2018 TREEDC Champion Margaret Norris



2018 TREEDC Champion Ryan Ball

Meet TREEDC's Newest Platinum Member: Tri-State Electrical Contractors

The TREEDC Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Tri- State Electrical Contractors (<https://www.tristateec.com/>) has joined TREEDC as a 2019 Platinum Member. Tri-State handles industrial, commercial and residential electrical accounts in Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. Other services include the following:



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- CCTV
- Alarm systems
- Access control
- Audio speaker systems
- Fire Alarm systems
- LED lighting New Construction and Retrofits
- solar energy consultation, design, installation and maintenance
- Back-up power generation

Tri-State CEO George Nelson also directs the Southeast Lineman Training Center (<https://www.lineworker.com/>) in Trenton, Georgia .The Training Center which was founded in 1999 is the premier training school for apprentice lineworker training. This training center could be an excellent opportunity for the cities to coordinate a workforce training program to coincide with the development of future manufacturing initiatives.

TREEDC Members Baxter and Putnam County Welcomes International Ceramic Tile Company

Ceramic tile manufacturer Portobello America, Inc. will locate its new U.S. headquarters and first U.S. production facility on the Tennessee Motor Speedway site in Baxter, Tennessee. The approximately \$150 million investment is expected to create 220 jobs in Putnam County.

TREEDC Member/Baxter Mayor John Martin said the town has already been approached about future developments. A new 126-home, housing development is being planned near the Portobello headquarters. With the economic impact of Portobello heading to the small town, Martin expects the facility to create a major growth in the community. Putnam County Executive Randy Porter said the \$150 million investment from Portobello is the largest in the history of the county and will create a growth in Baxter, as well as Putnam County.



TREEDC Member/Baxter Mayor John Martin

MTAS/ TREEDC Participate in Northeast Tennessee Renewable Energy Workshop in Unicoi



Former TREEDC Intern/Elizabethton City Manager Daniel Estes and Nevad in Unicoi.

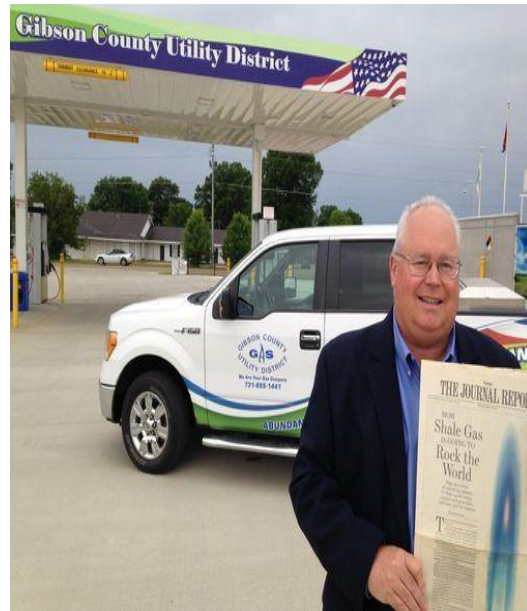
On November 9, 2018, the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) and the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) organized an informational lunch workshop for Northeast Tennessee communities. City and utility officials representing Bulls Gap, Bristol, Elizabethton, Erwin, Greenville and Unicoi were in attendance. The East Tennessee Development District also participated in the program. MTAS Municipal Management Program Manager Pat Hardy and MTAS Municipal Management Consultant Warren Nevad organized the workshop.

Nevad discussed recent energy developments in Northeast Tennessee and gave a historical perspective of the growth in renewable energy in Tennessee since 2008. TREEDC provides technical assistance to Tennessee cities and counties who desire to embark on clean energy technologies such as solar, compressed natural gas and energy efficiency. Various energy related case studies were presented to the attendees.

TREEDC Member Gibson County Utility District Acquires Trimble Gas System

On October 5th, TREEDC Member Gibson County Utility District (G.C.U.D) made history by purchasing the City of Trimble's Gas System. G.C.U.D. will assume all the duties of operating the Trimble Gas system and it will be integrated into the G.C.U.D. system. According to TREEDC Vice President/G.C.U.D. Executive Director Pat Riley, the Trimble Gas System was a great fit for their service area and operations.

The G.C.U.D. distributes natural gas to customers in Gibson County and Obion County and Dyer County, Tennessee including the towns of Trenton, Dyer, Kenton, Milan, Rutherford, Bradford, Gibson, Medina, Mason Hall and Yorkville. Natural gas is supplied by Texas Gas to two district gate stations. The ANR Pipeline Company supplies natural gas to one district gate station. Natural gas is distributed throughout the utility district from these stations.



TREEDC Vice President Pat Riley

Randy Boyd Appointed University of Tennessee Interim President



UT President Randy Boyd and TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land

Randy Boyd was appointed interim president of the University of Tennessee by the UT Board of Trustees Sept. 25, 2018. Boyd serves as the chief executive officer of a statewide university system that includes the flagship campus in Knoxville, campuses in Chattanooga and Martin, the Health Science Center in Memphis, the Space Institute in Tullahoma, and statewide institutes of agriculture and public service.

Boyd served as chair of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and as commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. He is founder and co-chair of the Governor's Rural Taskforce, which exists to help state government and industry leaders find solutions to the biggest challenges facing rural Tennessee.

Boyd recently met with employees of the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service to discuss his priorities and take questions from IPS. Boyd has worked with TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Land over the years in economic development and renewable energy.

Through his philanthropy, Boyd also supports the UT Knoxville Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research and the UT Institute of Agriculture Boyd Venture Challenge seed grant program for student entrepreneurs.

TVA Announces Large Solar Installations



The Tennessee Valley Authority has contracted with two of the nation's biggest solar power developers to build the largest solar installations ever built in Tennessee and Alabama to power Facebook's new data center in Huntsville, Alabama with 100 percent renewable energy.

TVA will erect a 227-megawatt solar farm in Colbert County, Alabama and NextEra Energy Resources will build a 150-megawatt solar farm in Lincoln County, Tennessee.

The 377-megawatt output from these facilities is part of a historic agreement that TVA made with the solar providers to supply Facebook with renewable power for the \$750 million data center Facebook is building in Huntsville. The 970,000-square-foot facility Facebook is building will employ about 100 workers and, as a condition of locating in Alabama, Facebook wanted to all of its electricity generated from renewable sources

TREEDC Launches 2019 Membership Campaign

TREEDC Chairman/University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver and TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land have officially launched our 2019 membership campaign. The TREEDC board has kept the 2019 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 2019 membership opportunities click <http://treedc.us/membership/index.html>



*TREEDC Chairman Dr. Keith Carver and
TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain
Land*