



## TREEDC Newsletter January 2020



### TREEDC Mayors Honor 2019 Tennessee Legislators of the Year

Senator Frank Niceley and Representative Kelly Keisling each received 2019 Tennessee Legislator of the Year Awards from the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Council (TREEDC). The awards were given at the Annual TREEDC Conference at Tennessee Tech University on December 13, 2019. “We appreciate the support Senator Niceley and Representative Keisling have given our TREEDC local government members in the legislature,” said TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land.

Senator Niceley serves as Vice- Chair for the Senate Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee along with membership of the Senate Transportation and Safety Committee. Representative Keisling serves as Chairman of the State Committee along with being a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committees. Mayor Land commended Senator Niceley and Representative Keisling for their dedication for advancing renewable energy and economic development across Tennessee.



*Senator Frank Niceley*



*Representative Kelly Keisling*

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### TREEDC Holds 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at Tennessee Tech University

The Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) recently held its 6<sup>th</sup> annual Renewable Energy Conference at TREEDC Founding Member Tennessee Tech University on December 12 – 13, 2019. The theme of the conference was “Creating a Renewable Energy and Economic Development Toolbox for Local Governments”.

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It brought together leadership from The University of Tennessee (UT) Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development, UT-Martin, Tennessee Tech University, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the State Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Offices of Energy Programs and Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) Rural Development. Mayors and officials representing the cities of Chattanooga, Franklin, Knoxville and McKenzie discussed their best practices in economic development and renewable energy. Various technologies presented included solar, waste to energy, energy efficiency, compressed natural gas and wireless street lighting. TREEDC awards were given to statewide leaders in renewable energy in 2019.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor/TREEDC Chairman Keith Carver welcomed the audience. Keynote addresses were presented by Johnson Controls Business Development Director Brandie Williams regarding the future of renewable energy related batteries and Tiffany Wilmot highlighting a viable community toolbox for sustainability and economic development. 2019 TREEDC Champion awards were granted to Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke and Brian Stone of NORESO. Mayor Berke has helped catapult Chattanooga in excellence in sustainability with the solar share program, building better cities initiatives and creating a resiliency task force for Chattanooga area mayors. Stone developed and managed the Dunlap Energy Efficiency Project. This project upgraded 130 city streetlights to LED bulbs, installed high-efficiency LED interior and exterior lights at all city buildings, water meters, and installed solar arrays on the roofs of nine municipal buildings including city hall, the fire department, police department, a city park, town maintenance facility, water treatment plant, and wastewater treatment plant.

Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero was granted “TREEDC Mayor Emeritus” for her outstanding contributions to clean energy and TREEDC over the past eight (8) years. TREEDC Community Leadership Awards were granted to Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic, Cookeville Mayor Ricky Shelton and Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes. TREEDC Legislator awards were granted to Senator Frank Nicely and Representative Kelly Keisling. ACS Commercial Roofing was recognized as a 2019 TREEDC Business Champion. ACS was recognized for their exemplary services to Metro Nashville Public Schools. ACS Commercial Roofing is a full-service company offering commercial roofing in Nashville and Johnson City, Tennessee. GST International was also a recipient of the 2019 TREEDC Business Champion Award for their innovative work in concrete and masonry.

The 108 TREEDC Mayors would like to thank the following sponsors of our 2019 Annual Conference: Cumberland Securities, Johnson Controls, NORESO, Entegriy, Priority Waste Services, Tri-State Electrical Contractors, Tennessee Tech University, The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service, USDA Rural Development, Farmer Morgan, and Lightwave Solar.



*From left to right: McKenzie Mayor Jill Holland, Franklin Mayor Ken Moore, and Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke at the TREEDC Annual Conference*

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## 2019 Annual Conference Pictures



*From left to right: Representative Kelly Keisling, Mayor Dwain Land and Jim Tracy, Tennessee Director U.S.D.A Rural Development*



*From left to right: Mayor Dwain Land, Warren Nevad, MTAS, Warren County Executive Jimmy Haley and UT-Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver*



*TREEDC 2019 Champion: Brian Stone, NORESKO*



*TREEDC 2019 Champion: Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke*



*TREEDC Mayor Emeritus Madeline Rogero*



*Community Award: Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic*



Community Award: Livingston: from right to left: Alderman David Langford, Alderman Ronald Dishman, Mayor Curtis Hayes, Nevad, Alderman Ken Dodson, Alderman Rex Dale and Alderman Chris Speck

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## Attorney Bill Penny Wins TREEDC's Inaugural Environmental Legacy Award

Attorney Bill Penny with Burr and Forman was awarded the TREEDC 2019 inaugural Environmental Legacy award for his over 40 years of service as an environmental attorney and advocate for renewable energy in the southeastern United States. Mr. Penny authored the books: *A Practical Guide to Tennessee Environmental Law* and *A Practical Guide to Tennessee Administrative Law*. The TREEDC Environmental Legacy Award established by TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Land honors an individual with at least 20 years of effective and significant service. Award winners automatically become lifetime members of TREEDC.



*From left to right: Nevad, Bill Penny and Mayor Land*

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## TREEDC Launches 2020 Membership Campaign



TREEDC Chairman/University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver and TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land have officially launched our 2020 membership campaign. The TREEDC board has kept the 2020 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 2020 membership opportunities click <http://treedc.us/membership/index.html>

*TREEDC President Land and Chairman Carver*

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## Knoxville Receives Recognition for Propane Mower Fleet

The Propane Education and Research Council (PERC) recently honored the City of Knoxville with its 2019 Green Leadership City Award, which PERC provides to one American city each year in recognition of said community's commitment to social and environmental health. PERC recognized Knoxville for its adoption of a clean, propane-powered mower fleet as well as other environmentally friendly programs that support the City's sustainability and emissions-reductions goals. By September 2019, the City had converted 18 of its 25 commercial lawnmowers to run on propane, reducing the mowers' carbon dioxide emissions by 10 tons in 2018 alone. During the award ceremony, Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero accepted a \$5,000 donation from PERC, which will go toward the Beardsley Community Farm, a Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee nonprofit that promotes food security and sustainable agriculture.

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## Tennessee Clean Fuels Turns 15

U.S. DOE's Clean Cities program advances the nation's economic, environmental, and energy security by working locally to advance affordable, domestic transportation fuels and technologies. In Tennessee, there are two U.S. DOE-designated Clean Cities Coalitions: the Middle-West Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition (MWTFC) and the East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition (ETCF). Collectively, these Coalitions are known as Tennessee Clean Fuels. This October, both MWTFC and ETCF celebrated their 15th anniversaries as Clean Cities Coalitions under U.S. DOE. Since inception in 2004, the two coalitions have brought together stakeholders in the public and private sectors to deploy alternative and renewable fuels, idle-reduction measures, fuel economy improvements, and new transportation technologies. According to U.S. DOE, MWTFC, ETCF, and their stakeholders reduced energy consumption by over 19 million gallons of gasoline equivalent in 2017 alone (resulting in the avoidance of more than 90,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>). Learn more at <http://www.tncleanfuels.org/>

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## REAP to Fund Rural Energy Projects

The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) provides loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. This program helps improve American energy independence by both increasing the private sector supply of renewable energy and decreasing the demand for energy through energy efficiency improvements. Over time, these investments can also help lower energy costs for small businesses and agricultural producers. Funding for Fiscal Year 2020 is available in a variety of forms, each under its own application process and timeline. Grant applications are due by **March 31**. Applications for loan guarantees are accepted year-round.

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Funds may be used for renewable energy systems, such as biomass (biodiesel and ethanol, anaerobic digesters, and solid fuels); geothermal for electric generation or direct use; hydropower below 30 MW; hydrogen; small and large wind generation; small and large solar generation; and ocean (tidal, current, thermal) generation. **With regard to transportation, REAP funds may be used for solar-assisted electric vehicle charging stations.**

Funds may also be used for the purchase, installation, and construction of energy efficiency improvements, such as high efficiency heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems (HVAC); insulation; lighting; cooling or refrigeration units; doors and windows; electric, solar, or gravity pumps for sprinkler pivots; switching from a diesel to electric irrigation motor; and replacement of energy-inefficient equipment.

[Click here](#) to learn more and to apply for REAP financial assistance. [Click here](#) to find the REAP point of contact for your Tennessee region.



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## New Volkswagen Community Grant Program in Tennessee

Volkswagen, TVA, and the Conservation Fund recently created a community grant program to support local governments, tribal entities, or nonprofits working in eastern Tennessee to promote environmental education, local watershed quality, and outdoor recreation (which could include transportation and mobility projects such as trail development/enhancement and/or improved public access to outdoor recreation resources). Applicants are eligible to receive up to \$50,000, and applications are due by February 14. [Click here](#) to review the grant application.

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## Gov. Bill Lee and TDEC Seek Environmental Achievers

Tennesseans are invited to submit nominations now for the 2020 [Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards](#). These awards recognize those committed to preserving Tennessee's natural beauty and environment. Categories include agriculture, water quality, building green, environmental education and more. The deadline for nominations is March 31, 2020. Award recipients will be announced in May 2020.

For nomination process click here

<https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/opsp-policy-and-sustainable-practices/governor-s-environmental-stewardship-awards/gesa-application.html>



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## In Memoriam: Gina Lopez, 1953-2019



*Secretary Gina Lopez*

This newsletter is dedicated in the memory of Gina Lopez. Gina was a Filipino environmentalist and philanthropist who served as Secretary of the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in an *ad interim* basis under President Rodrigo Duterte. She was previously the Chairperson of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission under two consecutive administrations. Lopez gave the keynote address at the 2014 TREEDC – Philippine Association of Extension Program Implementers (PAEPI) Annual Conference. Gina was a dear friend to our TREEDC Philippine partners. The TREEDC Board will establish an annual award in honor of Gina Lopez's spirit of environmental protection to be given to a TREEDC Philippine member. Rest in Peace, Gina.