



TREEDC Newsletter April 2020



COVID-19 Impact: Message from TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land

First of all, we hope everyone is healthy and safe from this coronavirus outbreak which has impacted Tennessee along with the rest of the world. The disruption and impact it's had on our families, communities and global economies is profound. This is an unprecedented time as we all learn together to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the start of this crisis, our goal is to be here in spirit for our members and stakeholders. We would rather be able to visit you in person. Please know that the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) and TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land are available if you need help or just someone to talk about this situation. My number is 423-718-3435. TREEDC has postponed several events this past quarter and we will be poised to get back on track and bring our outreach to even higher levels in the very near future. Be safe!

TREEDC Releases Annual Report



From left to right: TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land, MTAS Consultant Warren Nevad, Warren County Executive Jimmy Haley and TREEDC Chairman/UT-Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver

2019 was a very memorable and productive year for the 108 mayors and 30 universities and colleges of the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) a 501 c (3) organization. We participated in conferences with the Tennessee Municipal League, Tennessee Tech University, Tennessee Rural Development and International City Management Association (ICMA). We also organized events and business matchmaking in Knoxville, Martin, Memphis and Nashville. We implemented a Career Day in Renewable Energy for students at Sequatchie County High School and Chattanooga State.

During 2019, TREEDC forged many new relationships with new state officials and clean energy stakeholders. We also provided technical assistance to many of our member cities and counties regarding grant and financing opportunities to our members. Member Cities Bolivar, Chattanooga, McKenzie, Somerville and Franklin continued to make giant strides in renewable energy development. Member Counties Lake, Overton, Smith and Sequatchie commenced energy efficiency projects for their communities. To view our 2019 annual report click here: <https://treedc.us/annual-reports/annual-report.pdf>

TREEDC Member Knoxville to Built 212 MW Solar Facility, Signs Long-Term Agreement with TVA

The Knoxville Utilities Board (KUB) has signed a long-term power supply agreement with TVA and will build a 212-megawatt solar facility in Knoxville, which will be the largest solar facility of its kind in Tennessee. As part of the agreement, TVA will provide a 3.1 percent rebate to KUB, saving the city-owned utility \$9.5 million a year, and will help support Knoxville's plan to build its own 212-megawatt solar farm projected to supply about 8 percent of KUB's annual electric load. KUB will build its own solar generating facility under TVA's Green Invest program to help meet the renewable goals of private companies wanting to buy only renewable power. Read more [here](#).



Chattanooga Smart City Research Surpasses \$110 Million in Funding



A coalition of Chattanooga government, university, business, and nonprofit agencies have secured \$110 million in federal funding to execute the Chattanooga Smart Community Collaborative, which comprises a series of projects focused on applying new, connected, and interactive technologies that can track and positively influence the city's energy consumption, public and environmental health, and transportation footprint. Many of these projects are enabled by the citywide fiber network that was installed by Chattanooga's local power company, EPB, in 2009; this network made Chattanooga the first "Gig City" in the Western hemisphere (the first city to roll out a citywide gigabit network) and, within its first four years, added at least 2,800 jobs and spurred more than \$865 million in investment into the local economy connections, lowering power bills, and attracting businesses to the area.

GNRC Mayors Declare 2020 the Year of Transportation

The 65 mayors of the Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC) have declared 2020 to be the Year of Transportation, calling upon fellow policymakers as well as the public to address traffic congestion and infrastructure challenges in Middle Tennessee. For context, Middle Tennessee is currently home to about 2 million people who each travel, on average, 33 miles and 48 minutes per day over a collective 1,600 bridges and 13,000 miles of roadway. Between 2010 and 2040, the GNRC expects the region to experience a 76% increase in population, 86% more volume on area roadways, 26% slower travel speeds, and a 162% increase in the amount of miles traveled in congested conditions. To address these imminent mobility concerns, the GNRC is gathering local and State leaders to develop a new Unified Transportation Plan that will identify and prioritize transportation solutions eligible for federal funding across the region. Learn more about the plan at <https://www.solvehistogether.org/>

TAEBC Holds Annual Meeting



The Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council (TAEBC) held its annual meeting in Franklin on March 5, 2020. Speakers included TDEC Commissioner David Salyers and Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe as well as representatives from TDEC OEP, TVA, Shell and Weiss Associates. Presenters discussed a variety of advanced energy topics, including sustainable energy, transportation electrification, net-zero emissions, and more. Click <https://tnadvancedenergy.com/taebc-annual-meeting-2020-highlights-electrification-initiatives-advanced-energy-leadership/> to read more about the annual meeting.

Morgan County Designates Just Be Green Villages as Economic Development Area

Morgan County Executive Brian Langley and the County Commissioners of Morgan County, approved a Resolution on March 10, 2020 designating Just Be Green Villages as an economic development area pursuant to state legislation established in 2018. Being designated an economic development area affords more opportunities for private investments and grants for this future community development. The economic development area will include a mixed use development village that includes global green labs, environmentally sensitive housing, green academy and Veterans' health services. Just Be Green will introduce the first smart tech, agro community development built from the ground up. The project will allow for employment, active retirement and leisure vacation within the Deer Lodge area. For more information visit www.justbegreenvillagesamerica.com



Just Be Green Villages Founder Gary Hunt and Morgan County Commission

Vanderbilt Partners with TVA, NES on Renewable Energy Initiatives

Vanderbilt University will partner with TVA and Nashville Electric Service on a renewable energy procurement project to help achieve the campus's sustainability and emissions goals. Under this project, Vanderbilt will draw power from a planned solar farm to be built in Bedford County. The 35 MW farm is expected to become fully operational in 2022 and will offset around 70% of Vanderbilt's annual, indirect greenhouse gas emissions from purchased electricity.

The partnership is the first of its kind under TVA's new Green Invest program, which matches demand for green power from large businesses and industrial customers with cost-effective renewable projects. Modeled off of TVA's previous work with Facebook and Google to identify renewable energy sources for some of the power generator's largest electricity customers, the program leverages long-term agreements to build new, large-scale renewable energy installations in the Valley through competitive bid processes. [Click here to learn more](#)

TVA Launches Initiative to Strengthen Public Power COVID-19 Response

TVA recently announced an initiative to support increased flexibility for local power companies who are responding to urgent community and customer needs during the ongoing response to the COVID-19 outbreak. TVA will make up to a total of \$1 billion of credit support available as an option to local power companies through the deferral of wholesale power payments based on the needs of individual local power companies. Detailed plans will be customized for each participating local power company based on individual needs and financial impacts. A portion of the local power company's monthly TVA wholesale power payments would be deferred for a period during the ongoing COVID-19 response and an appropriate repayment plan will be put in place.



MTAS and UTK's Baker Center Partnering on COVID-19

TREEDC Member the University of Tennessee MTAS has partnered with the University of Tennessee Howard H. Baker Jr. Center. The Baker Center does quite a bit of public policy research and has produced reports with economic and public health forecasts related to the COVID-19 outbreak. They are especially interested in meeting the needs of public health agencies and elected officials across the state as they seek evidence-based guidance on policy development and implementation. TREEDC would like to share this site with you so that they can develop the best policies possible to confront this emerging pandemic in Tennessee. As you will see, the website has a clear link for the submission of questions. They hope to be able to provide responses within 24-48 hours. You may access the website here <http://core19.utk.edu/index.html>. For more COVID-19 resources prepared by MTAS click <http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/knowledgebase/covid-19-coronavirus-resources-local-government-tennessee>

US Utility Scoreboard Reveals a Dramatic Increase in Energy Savings

The 52 largest US electric utilities have dramatically increased their overall energy savings as they adopt innovative ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, according to the [2020 Utility Energy Efficiency Scorecard](#). Leading the way are Eversource Massachusetts and National Grid Massachusetts, which tied for first place for the second time, followed by San Diego Gas & Electric (#3), Commonwealth Edison in Illinois (#4), Baltimore Gas and Electric (#5), and Pacific Gas & Electric (also #5).

This year's scorecard, released by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), comes at a time of rapid transformation in the utility sector and highlights notable changes since ACEEE's first such ranking in 2017. It finds that, as a group, the utilities boosted their annual energy savings by 20% since 2015, saving almost 20 TWh of electricity in 2018 from programs administered that year— enough to power 1.8 million homes. Notably, utilities are increasing efficiency investments in low-income communities and speeding the adoption of electric vehicles.

This year's report highlights the ways in which the utility landscape has transformed since 2015, the baseline for our 2017 scorecard. New technologies are emerging; states, utilities, and other stakeholders are increasingly focused on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the important role of efficiency in supporting emissions reductions; and distributed energy resources (DERs) are continuing to come online.

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Nominations Open for the Sustainable Transportation Awards

The Tennessee Departments of Environment and Conservation and Transportation (TDEC and TDOT) invite nominations for the sixth annual [Tennessee Sustainable Transportation Awards](#). Winners will be announced at the [Tennessee Sustainable Transportation Forum & Expo](#), which will be held in November in Chattanooga.

The Tennessee Sustainable Transportation Awards recognize outstanding initiatives to improve the efficiency, accessibility, affordability, and sustainability of transportation systems in the state, consistent with ongoing efforts to improve the health and well-being of Tennesseans, provide for a strong economy, and protect and enhance our state's natural resources. A panel of reviewers representing an array of interests will select award winners based on the following criteria:

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- **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;
 - **Equity and Access** – how the project provides sustainable transportation benefits to all community members and creates accessible mobility solutions for diverse audiences.

Eligible applicants include federal, State (excluding divisions under TDEC and TDOT), and local governments; commercial, nonprofit, and industrial organizations; public and private institutions of higher education; and utilities. The entity must be located in Tennessee, and the project must have been completed in the last five years. All nominees must have a minimum of three consecutive, current years of exceptional environmental compliance with TDEC. Self-nominations are encouraged.

More information, including the nomination form, can be found at <https://www.tn.gov/environment/TSTA>. **June 19** is the last day for nominations to be submitted. Questions about the awards can be directed to Alexa Voytek at Alexa.Voytek@tn.gov or 615-532-0238.

Tennessee Green Fleets Certification Program Open for 2020

The [Tennessee Green Fleets \(TGF\) program](#) offers an opportunity for Tennessee fleets to receive certification for their transportation efficiency efforts. Organized by [Tennessee Clean Fuels](#), TGF certification is based on an applicant's vehicle data and fleet fuel use. The TGF program recognizes fleets based on actions taken to reduce petroleum consumption, lessen greenhouse gas emissions, and implement alternative fuel vehicles. Applicants who receive certification will be honored during the [2020 Tennessee Sustainable Transportation Forum and Expo](#). Applications for 2020 TGF certification are due **July 29**. For more information about the program, visit <http://www.tncleanfuels.org>.

