



# TREEDC Newsletter

## July 2020



### TREEDC Announces 2020 Annual Conference



The Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) will hold its 7<sup>th</sup> annual conference at Tennessee Tech University on December 10-11, 2020. The theme of our conference will be Post-Pandemic Economic Recovery for our cities, counties, businesses and colleges and universities. We will have panel presentations and discussions relating to economic recovery resources available to our members, COVID-19 assistance programs from our business members, and lessons learned from our mayors during the pandemic.

*University of Tennessee Management Consultant Warren Nevad and MTAS Executive Director Margaret Norris*

We will also have our annual awards presentations, exhibitors and networking opportunities. We will also introduce you to our start-up companies that are part of the TREEDC network. Members who are interested in giving a presentation can contact TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land at 423-718-3435. We look forward to catching up with everyone at our annual conference.

### Tennessee Startup Company Produces Eco-Friendly Battery Operated Back Up Power Boost



*From left to right: Nevad, Billy Whittaker and Dan Black*

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Recently, the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) partnered with Bronco Power Boost, a new Tennessee Clean Energy Startup Company based in Nashville, Tennessee. One of TREEDC's planning objectives since 2008 is to create more awareness regarding the vast potential of Tennessee startup green companies who are creating jobs and environmental benefits. Bronco Power Boost provides local governmental offices, businesses, private homes and condos with a supplemental electrical power source that takes over automatically when power goes out due to storms and other uncontrollable factors. This eco-friendly back up power source is unique in that it can be installed indoors, is noise free, and will power up to six essential circuits automatically for 20+ hours. Unlike a traditional gas-powered generator, there's no gas need, no dangerous carbon monoxide emissions, and no cumbersome and unsightly extension cords. TREEDC applauds Owner Billy Whittaker for his vision and fortitude to invent a product that is environmentally safe, energy independent, scalable and sustainable. His work will revolutionized how backup power is provided for during a power outage, as well as provide protection of valuable data for local governments and businesses worldwide.

For more information please click <https://www.broncopowerboost.com/green-energy>

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## **TDEC Announces Awardees for Transit and Shuttle Bus Grant Program Under Volkswagent Settlement**



The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) recently announced that the following three entities will receive \$5,690,845.53 in grant funding to support transit bus replacement

- Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority
- City of Knoxville (Knoxville Area Transit)
- Memphis Area Transit Authority

These projects will be funded under TDEC's Transit and Shuttle Bus Grant Program, which is the state's second grant program to be funded by the Volkswagen Diesel Settlement Environmental Mitigation Trust (VW Settlement EMT). The purpose of the trust is to execute environmental mitigation projects that reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx).

"These grants will allow us to provide energy-efficient buses for transit systems in three of our largest communities, where mass transit is a key service," Gov. Bill Lee said. "These grants meet a need and meet the spirit of the settlement."

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“These grants will support the adoption of all-electric and diesel-hybrid buses, so they will have a significant environmental impact,” TDEC Commissioner David Salyers said. “This will help reduce emissions and enhance quality of life in these communities.”

The grants include:

-Chattanooga Area Regional Transit Authority – Will be awarded \$1,882,203.00 in funding to support the replacement of three diesel transit buses with three all-electric transit buses as well as the acquisition and installation of associated charging infrastructure.

-City of Knoxville/Knoxville Area Transit – Will be awarded \$1,695,907.53 in funding to support the replacement of three diesel transit buses with three diesel-hybrid transit buses.

-Memphis Area Transit Authority – Will be awarded \$2,112,750.00 in funding to support the replacement of three diesel transit buses with three all-electric transit buses as well as the acquisition and installation of associated charging infrastructure.

The grantees will thus replace a total of nine engine model year 2009 or older diesel transit buses with six all-electric and three diesel-hybrid transit buses. These projects are expected to yield NOx emissions reductions of an estimated 17,027.46 pounds, or 8.51 tons, over the lifetime of the new vehicles. All nine transit buses funded will operate 70 percent or more of the time in former nonattainment areas for ozone and/or fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) National Ambient Air Quality Standards and will collectively travel more than 400,000 miles each year.

In 2019, TDEC awarded over \$8,380,826.94 in VW Settlement EMT funding to 37 grantees to support school bus replacement projects across Tennessee. TDEC is the lead agency for administering the state’s VW Settlement EMT allocation. Announcements on future funding programs under the trust will be shared by the department.

For additional information on the VW Settlement, visit the TDEC website here: <http://www.tn.gov/environment/VWSettlement>. Interested persons and entities are advised to sign up for the TDEC VW email list at <https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1843437/1737620/>.

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## UT CIS Offers No-Cost Customized COVID-19 Plans for Manufacturerers

In response to the current COVID-19 outbreak, the UT CIS Health, Safety, and Emergency Preparedness team is available to provide no cost, virtual consultations with manufacturers to discuss strategies and plans for creating and implementing your customized COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan.

The UT CIS Health, Safety, and Emergency Preparedness Consulting team is staffed with safety and health professionals with training in emergency preparedness and backgrounds in plant safety and health. To get started please contact UT CIS Safety and Preparedness Manager [Walter Idol](#) or UT CIS OSHA Consultant [Bryan Lane](#). You can also contact your local [Solutions Consultant](#) to get started.

UT CIS has also developed a reference guide to assist you as you maintain, resume or restart operations. You can download the free guidebook from our COVID-19 Resource Dashboard. [Get the Guidebook.](#)



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## American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy Publishes Mayoral Toolkit for Energy Savings



As city leaders focus on mitigating the hardships wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic, a toolkit release by the American Council for an Energy -Efficient Economy (ACEEE) offers seven energy-saving strategies to help revive and strengthen urban economies. Cities all over the country, from Seattle to Cincinnati, provide examples of how these strategies are getting results. Click <https://www.aceee.org/toolkit/2020/06/mayors-toolkit-energy-efficiency> to download the toolkit.

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## TREEDC Member Johnson Controls Offers COVID-19 Related Webinars



TREEDC member Johnson Controls has dedicated a resource link <https://www.johnsoncontrols.com/events/webcast> to assist local governments and industries with information regarding reopening buildings and facilities that were closed during the COVID-19 crisis.

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## TREEDC Member Warren County Saves Significant Energy Dollars

Energy savings are accumulating for Warren County Schools. According to Warren County Mayor Jimmy Haley, the goal is to save \$450,000 in 2020 and the school system is on track to exceed that projection.

In the first three months of 2020, the project saved \$10,964 in January, \$8,312 in February and \$32,297 in March when schools closed in the middle of the month.

April 2019 - \$17,948

May 2019 - \$18,027

June 2019 - \$11,780

July 2019 - \$13,445

August 2019 - \$9,403

September 2019 - \$3,356

October 2019 - \$17,981

November 2019 - \$14,888

December 2019 - \$13,540



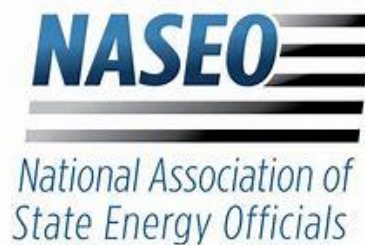
*Warren County Mayor Jimmy Haley*

Congratulations to Warren County for taking the initiative to plan and implement comprehensive energy efficiency upgrades to their school system.

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## NASEO Energy Security Committee COVID-19 Response and Resources

Staff from the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) and its associated Energy Security Committee are working with State Energy Offices; DOE's Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER); and private sector partners to share information and best practices related to the COVID-19 outbreak and its impact on critical energy infrastructure, the energy sector workforce, and energy supply chains. As part of this



effort, NASEO has compiled a [consolidated list of verified resources and articles](#) related to COVID-19 and the energy sector's response. NASEO will continue to provide updates, resources, and forums for communication throughout the duration of the pandemic.

NASEO's Energy Security Committee Co-Chairs (Ben Bolton, Energy Programs Administrator, TDEC OEP and Megan Levy, Local Energy Programs, Wisconsin) have been hosting a series of weekly calls related to the COVID-19 pandemic response. These informative calls feature briefings from federal agencies like CESER as well as State-level energy security staff. NASEO and DOE also utilize the [Energy Emergency Assurance Coordinators \(EEAC\)](#) network to identify energy security points of contact in each state. EEAC allows such energy security personnel to readily exchange information on plans and response to energy emergencies.

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## EIA Releases Its Annual Energy Outlook 2020



The United States Energy Information Administration (EIA's) [Annual Energy Outlook 2020](#) provides modeled projections of domestic energy markets through 2050, considering several detailed energy impact scenarios that take into account potential macroeconomic growth, global oil prices, future costs of renewable power generation technologies, and technological progress.

The 2020 report summarizes the following energy trends:

- U.S. energy consumption grows more slowly than gross domestic product throughout the projection period as U.S. energy efficiency continues to increase. This decline in the energy intensity of the U.S. economy continues through 2050.

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- The electricity generation mix continues to experience a rapid rate of change, with renewables projected as the fastest-growing source of electricity generation through 2050 due to the continued decline in capital costs for solar and wind projects that are supported by federal tax credits and higher state-level renewables targets. With slow load growth and increasing electricity production from renewables, U.S. coal-fired and nuclear electricity generation declines; most of this decline occurs by the mid-2020s.
  - The United States continues to produce historically high levels of crude oil and natural gas. Slow growth in domestic consumption of these fuels leads to increasing exports of crude oil, petroleum products, and liquefied natural gas.
  - After falling during the first half of the projection period, total U.S. energy-related carbon dioxide emissions resume modest growth in the 2030s, driven largely by increases in energy demand in the transportation and industrial sectors. However, by 2050, emissions remain 4% lower than 2019 levels.

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### **TVA Turns to the Sun for More Power, Shifting Focus from Rooftop Solar to Large-Scale Projects**

Distributed Solar Solutions is a TVA program designed to encourage solar energy projects that are directed by its local power company (LPC) partners. The idea is to encourage more solar development across the Valley by seeding LPC partnerships with business and community interests. Because it is working at the local level, this program moves renewable energy closer to the customers.



Only solar photovoltaic systems qualify for Distributed Solar Solutions, and they must generate between 50 kW and 2 MW of electricity. With such large-scale solar projects planned throughout the Valley, TVA plans to increase its solar energy capacity by 44% from 2019. [Click here for more information](#)

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### **Ann Arbor, Michigan Unveils Plans for City's First Solar-Powered, Climate Resilience Hub**

Ann Arbor's new [A2Zero plan](#) to confront climate change calls for creating five "resilience hubs" around the city in the coming years. "Resilience hubs are community-serving facilities augmented to support residents and coordinate resource distribution and services before, during or after a natural hazard event," the plan states. "At their core, resilience hubs empower communities to take action around preparedness and increase community and neighborhood capacity."

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The city's vision is to have a robust network of such hubs to empower residents to care for one another during a disaster for up to five days before government assistance may be needed.

"Many lower-income residents do not have access to a variety of resources in case of an emergency," the plan states, suggesting the hubs can be a place to access those resources.

City officials on Friday, June 26, announced plans to install a 23.53-kilowatt solar array and two Lithium-ion storage batteries at the Northside Community Center off Pontiac Trail this summer, laying the foundation for it to become the city's first resilience hub — or what the city now calls a "resilience center."

The city's goal is that every city ward has a functioning, community-designed and community-operated resilience hub that helps improve sustainability, resilience and social cohesion by 2030. Kudos to Ann Arbor, Michigan for their visionary work in renewable energy.