



TREEDC Newsletter January 2021



Lincoln County Starts Solar Project



From left to right: Nancy Harris, Lincoln County Planning Director, UT-MTAS Management Consultant Warren Nevad and Lincoln County Building Inspector Charles Hunter

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has entered into a 20-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with Elora Solar LLC (Elora Solar), an affiliate of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, to purchase the electric power generated by a proposed solar photovoltaic (PV) facility in Lincoln County, Tennessee. The proposed Elora Solar Energy Center would be constructed and operated by Elora Solar and would have alternating current (AC) generating capacity of up to 150 megawatts (MW). To interconnect to TVA's existing electrical grid, Elora Solar would build the new Elora Solar 161-kV transmission line (TL) that would connect the proposed on-site Elora Solar 161-kV Substation to TVA's proposed Mann Road 161-kV Switching Station at the northern extent of the new TL. TVA would connect the new Mann Road 161-kV Switching Station to TVA's existing Winchester-Fayetteville 161-kV TL and install fiber-optic overhead groundwire on this existing TL. Under the terms of the conditional PPA, TVA would purchase the electric output from the solar facility for an initial term of 20 years, subject to satisfactory completion of all applicable environmental reviews.

Elora would acquire approximately 1,702 acres of land in Lincoln County, Tenn., and construct, operate, and maintain a single-axis tracking photovoltaic solar power facility of up to 150 megawatts alternating current generating capacity. TVA would purchase the power generated as agreed under this option. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has signed off on an agreement with a pair of PV developers to develop the largest solar installations in Tennessee and Alabama at 150MW and 227MW, respectively.

The energy output from these installations will be used to help support Facebook's data center in Huntsville, Alabama with 100% renewable energy sources.

John Bradley, TVA's senior vice president of economic development, said: "TVA's commitment to the environment and our diverse portfolio are among the top reasons why businesses choose to relocate to the Valley. TVA's ability to deliver large amounts of renewable, reliable energy at competitive rates makes the Valley an attractive place to do business and recruit quality jobs."

Back in 2017, the TVA issued a Request for Proposals in conjunction with Facebook in order to land a large source of PV energy.

As part of the agreement, First Solar will develop the 227MW installation in Colbert County, Alabama, while NextEra Energy Resources will develop a 150MW project in Lincoln County, Tennessee. TVA is planning to invest US\$8 billion in renewable energy over the next 20 years.

Doug Perry, TVA vice president of commercial energy solutions, said: "This announcement demonstrates TVA's commitment to invest in renewable energy that attracts high-paying jobs to benefit the communities we serve. This partnership aligns the core values of TVA's public power model with Facebook's mission to bring the world closer together – powered by renewable energy."

Perry added: "Solar power has a bright future for families in the Tennessee Valley if we can continue to attract top-tier companies like Facebook."

TREEDC Partners with AARP



TREEDC is pleased and honored to announce that AARP has joined the TREEDC network. AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. AARP has more than 38 million members. TREEDC is looking forward to working with AARP's Livable Communities in 2021.

TREEDC Member Roane State Named Community College of the Year

Roane State was recently named Community College of the Year as part of the College System of Tennessee's second annual Statewide Outstanding Achievement Recognition (SOAR) Awards.

Roane State was recognized for using success coaches to guide incoming freshmen as well as experienced students through their college venture.

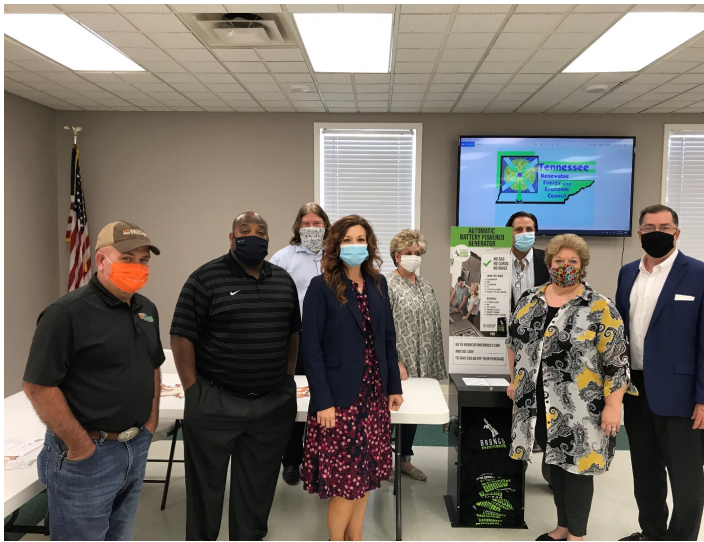
The college was also applauded for their faculty's efforts in integrating active and collaborative learning to help students engage more deeply with their coursework and generate a sense of belonging with each other.



Roane State President Chris Whaley is especially happy that the college was able to win this award during the COVID-19 pandemic. “We have transformed our practices in many ways – first with our processes to on-board students and now in the classroom through our Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges quality enhancement plan,” added President Whaley. “Change isn’t easy – to lead or to follow – but I am so grateful to the faculty and staff at Roane State for their willingness to lead and to be a part of all that we have done and that we’re going to do.”

The SOAR Awards, launched last year by the Tennessee Board of Regents, recognizes two Colleges of the Year – a community college and a college of applied technology. The Board also recognizes the outstanding students, faculty and staff members at its colleges with individual awards. For a full list of 2020 award winners, visit tbr.edu/soar.

MTAS/ TREEDC Holds Lunch & Learn Event with Overton County Chamber of Commerce



On October 22nd, MTAS and TREEDC conducted an in-person Lunch and Learn about renewable energy with TREEDC Board Member/Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes and members of the Overton County Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Hayes and Nevad discussed the origins of TREEDC which was created by MTAS to link local governments in Tennessee with economic development and renewable energy. Mayor Hayes also discussed the progress of renewable energy since 2008 and outlined future objectives. Contact MTAS if your community is interested in a Chamber of Commerce Lunch and Learn Event with TREEDC.

front left to right: Jason Garrett, UT Extension, Livingston Mayor/TREEDC Board Member Curtis Hayes, Overton County Chamber of Commerce President Shannon Cantrell, Tammy Mangrum, Willis Layne Insurance, Warren Nevad, MTAS, back row - Dr. Dennis Tennant, Director of Tennessee Tech University External Relations, Jill Robbins, Willis Layne Insurance, Dan Black, Vice President Bronco Power Boost

TAEBC's 2020 Opportunities in Energy Event Emphasizes Importance of Transportation Electrification and Advanced Energy Efforts

The Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council hosted its annual Opportunities in Energy event virtually recently. The event featured TNECD Commissioner Bob Rolfe, a panel discussion about making Tennessee the destination for the electric vehicle supply chain, and preview of the upcoming Advanced Energy Economic Impact Report.

TAEBC Executive Director Cortney Piper kicked off the festivities by providing an overview of TAEBC's mission and accomplishments in 2020. She spoke about challenges the state faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic and how Tennessee is uniquely positioned to capitalize on transportation electrification to help with economic recovery efforts

Commissioner Rolfe spoke about the importance of recruiting original equipment manufacturers to the Tennessee region, Tennessee's automotive accomplishments, and the Drive Electric Tennessee initiative. He emphasized that the state is committed to becoming an electric vehicle transportation leader in the southeast. This year's event included a panel session called, "Tennessee's EVolution: Making the state a destination for the electric vehicle supply chain." Panelists discussed the importance of transportation electrification efforts, areas of opportunity, and steps Tennessee can take to accelerate its goal to become the top state for EV manufacturing.



ACEEE Analysis Finds Small Cities Can Lead on Clean Energy, Too



Washington, DC—An analysis of clean energy efforts by 30 small cities finds several leaders taking significant steps to cut energy waste and embrace clean energy—pointing the way for other small municipalities across the country to do the same. The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) examined the cities' efforts to make homes and buildings more energy efficient, to scale up the use of renewable energy, and to ensure community involvement in developing equitable clean-energy policies. The cities analyzed, with populations generally between 16,000 and 100,000, are in California, Connecticut, Maryland, Minnesota, and New Jersey.

San Luis Obispo (California) received the top score of the group, earning points for its policy incentivizing all-electric equipment and appliances in new buildings and for participating in a program that offers carbon-free electricity to residents. Second place went to Goleta (California), followed by St. Louis Park (Minnesota), Manhattan Beach (California), West Hollywood (California), West Hartford (Connecticut), Rockville (Maryland), Dublin (California) and Red Wing (Minnesota) (tied), and Rochester (Minnesota).

ACEEE evaluated each of the communities on policy metrics assessing government operations, community initiatives, buildings policies, and energy and water utilities. The combined scores allowed ACEEE to rank the municipalities. The analysis assessed policies and programs to make energy efficiency upgrades in homes and businesses, accelerate the adoption of renewable energy, set long-term commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and establish and enforce building codes.

ACEEE scored the cities' energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies using the metrics from its annual *City Clean Energy Scorecard*, employing a modified version of its Local Clean Energy Self-Scoring Tool, Version 4.0 released in 2019. The leading small cities outperformed a significant portion of the larger cities scored each year (excepting transportation policies, which were not evaluated for the small cities). Contact Ben Somberg at 202-658-8129, bsomberg@aceee.org for more information.

Two Recent Developments Put Nashville on Track for a More Sustainable Future

Mayor John Cooper's office has made two announcements that bring Nashville closer to a more sustainable future. The first is the mayor's signature of legislation updating Metro's building codes and energy standards. The second is a partnership with Nashville Electric Service, TVA and Vanderbilt University to construct 100 megawatts of utility-scale solar power. That project will put Metro more than one-third of the way toward being sourced with 100 percent renewable energy, according to the mayor's office.

Nominations: 2021 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award

Each year, the Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards honor outstanding accomplishments that support the protection and enhancement of Tennessee's natural resources. Nominating an individual, group, or organization for their achievements is a meaningful way to promote conservation and recognize effective environmental leadership in Tennessee.

Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2021 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards, and we are asking you to draw on your knowledge and experience to help us identify organizations and individuals who are improving the quality of Tennessee's land, air, and water.

The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards include ten categories:

1. Agriculture and Forestry
2. Building Green
3. Clean Air
4. Energy and Renewable Resources
5. Environmental Education and Outreach
6. Materials Management
7. Natural Resource
8. Water Quality
9. Sustainable Performance
10. Lifetime Achievement

Any individual, business, organization, educational institution, or agency is eligible, provided it is located in Tennessee and the project was completed during the 2020 calendar year. All nominees must have a minimum of three consecutive years of overall environmental compliance with the Department of Environment and Conservation. Self-nominations are encouraged. A panel of judges representing agricultural, conservation, forestry, environmental, and academic professionals will select award recipients based on criteria including level of project or program completion, innovation, and public education. The deadline for nominations is **April 1, 2021**. Award recipients will be announced in June 2021.

We need your help. If you feel like an individual or group would be a good candidate for the awards, direct them to the nomination forms and other pertinent information on our [website](#).

TREEDC Conference Moved to June 10, 2021



2019 Conference from left to right: Representative Kelly Keisling, Mayor Dwain Land and USDA Tennessee Director Jim Tracy

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, the TREEDC board of directors postponed the 7th annual conference originally slated for December 10 – 11th at Tennessee Tech University. Our new conference date will be June 10 – 11, 2021 at Tennessee Tech. Here is link to conference: [Microsoft Word - TREEDC-2021 Conference Agenda1](#) and [TREEDC \(tntech.edu\)](#).

We will include an optional golf outing as well as our customary annual awards program and reception. More details to follow in the upcoming months. Hopefully, by this time it will be safe for TREEDC supporters to network and facilitate fruitful discussions as we move forward to leverage our 12 years of renewable energy leadership in Tennessee. TREEDC thrives on person to person interaction and a virtual conference would not be conducive to the spirit of our camaraderie among our mayors, schools, and business members.

TREEDC Mayors Discuss 2021 Initiatives

Recently, TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land, Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic and Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes met to discuss TREEDC's workplan for 2021. Some of these initiatives include our statewide community partnership with AARP, career days with TREEDC member community colleges, June 10th Annual Conference and outreach of new energy related products such as the Bronco Power Boost and safety window film. The TREEDC mayors look forward to working with new Tennessee Senator Bill Hagerty and all new recently elected mayors in Tennessee.



*From left to right: Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic,
Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes and MTAS
Municipal Management Consultant Warren Nevad*

TREEDC Launches 2021 Membership Campaign



*TREEDC President/Mayor Dwain Land and
TREEDC Chairman/UT-Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith
Carver*

TREEDC Chairman/University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver and TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land have officially launched our 2021 membership campaign. The TREEDC board has kept the 2021 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 2021 membership opportunities click <http://treedc.us/membership/index.html>

University of Tennessee Earns Prestigious Design for Creating Economic Growth

The University of Tennessee at Knoxville has earned a prestigious designation for its role in creating community engagement, economic growth and workforce development in Tennessee and beyond.

UT is one of only three universities designated this year as an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

Among the accomplishments that helped UT achieve the designation are:

- UT Extension offices that provide resources and educational opportunities in every Tennessee county;
- More than 80 research centers and institutes throughout the university;
- Partnerships like the one with Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Volkswagen that created Volkswagen's first "innovation hub" in North America;
- UT programs dedicated to addressing workforce needs of the future.