



TREEDC Newsletter

April 2021



Mark Your Calendar: TREEDC Announces 2021 Annual Conference



MTAS Management Consultant Warren Nevad, Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic and TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land at prior conference

The Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) will hold its annual conference at Tennessee Tech University on December 9-10, 2021. 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. Please note that last year's annual conference which was changed to June 10, 2021 is changed again to December 9-10, 2021 because of COVID.

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. A registration link will be created later this Spring. 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.

TREEDC Member Highlight: The University of Tennessee County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS)



The University of Tennessee (UT) County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) is an agency of the UT Institute for Public Service (IPS). IPS is a statewide, system wide entity of the University that fulfills the University's public service mandate by applying its expertise to community and workplace needs. The work of CTAS is one of the many ways UT fulfills its outreach mission as a land-grant university to serve the citizens of Tennessee, by providing outreach to county governments. CTAS has been the answer to the technical assistance needs of county government for over 45 years. CTAS has also been active with fellow TREEDC member UT- Center for Industrial Services with energy audits. For more information about CTAS : [County Technical Assistance Service | CTAS \(tennessee.edu\)](https://www.tennessee.edu/ips/ctas/)

TREEDC Participates in Tennessee City Management Association Conference



On April 7, 2021, TREEDC organized a panel titled “Exciting Times in Renewable Energy” at the Tennessee City Management Association (TCMA) Spring Conference in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. MTAS Management Consultant/TREEDC Director Warren Nevad gave an historical overview of renewable energy in Tennessee since 2008 which was also the year that TREEDC organized as an organization of mayors promoting and connecting renewable energy with economic development for Tennessee’s communities. The panel consisted of Dave Adams, Wilmot Strategies, Jonathan Overly , East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition and Erik Schmidt , Chattanooga Sustainability Director. Best practices of renewable energy technology in transportation, Chattanooga and Nashville were presented to 125 city managers, administrators from Tennessee. For more information regarding TCMA click: [TCMA - Tennessee City Management Association \(tncma.org\)](http://tncma.org)

TAEBEC Announces Upcoming Advanced Energy Webinars

The Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council (TAEBEC) will host a series of regional business roundtables throughout 2021 to guide communication and outreach efforts tied to advanced energy; connect businesses with higher education and technical campuses to discuss evolving needs; gather information regarding workforce challenges; and collect feedback on existing and desired energy incentives. Each of these webinars is designed to cultivate an advanced energy economy that attracts and retains investment from innovative businesses. The virtual events are set to take place on the following dates:



- Middle Tennessee – **June 9 at 10:00 AM Central** (*registration available soon*)
- East Tennessee – **October 13 at 10:00 AM Central** (*registration available soon*)

Save the Date: Building Science Conference and Expo 2021

TVA EnergyRight will host the 2021 Building Science Conference and Expo from **August 17-18** at the Knoxville Convention Center and Knoxville Hilton Hotel. The conference will provide continuing education training and certification opportunities in addition to sessions on commercial building science, workforce development initiatives, serving hard-to-reach customers, and multifamily housing energy efficiency programs. The event promotes energy efficient home performance through education and the promotion of building science principles. Members of the Home Builders Association of Greater Knoxville (HBAGK) may receive a conference registration discount. Visit <http://buildingscienceconference.com/> to learn more.

2021 Better Buildings, Better Plants Virtual Summit



The 2021 Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit will be held as a virtual leadership symposium from **May 17-20**. Through the virtual summit, Better Buildings partners will have the opportunity to share best practices and new ideas for maintaining building operations, addressing workforce challenges, and continuing to improve energy security and resilience. The Summit will feature a series of webinars and peer exchanges as well as networking calls for the education, healthcare, local government, commercial, industrial, multifamily housing, and workforce development sectors. The Summit will also include a fireside chat with U.S. DOE national laboratories on trends and emerging technologies in the building energy space. Finally, the Summit will feature a collaborative workshop highlighting tools and resources on planning for energy resilience as well as sessions on community solar for multifamily buildings and energy efficiency barriers. View the full Summit schedule [here](#). To sign up for individual sessions, meet-ups, and workshops, [register here](#).

Energy Efficiency Finance Forum Announcement



The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) will hold its [13th Annual Energy Efficiency Finance Forum](#) in a virtual format from **May 25-26**. This event will explore the role that financing can play in cutting-edge initiatives and will highlight major opportunities to finance projects that save energy, reduce costs, and create jobs. Attendees will have the opportunity to network with leaders in finance, government, the utility sector, and from energy service companies to learn about successful projects and innovative models. [Click here](#) to register

Save the Date: Energy Efficiency Day is October 6

Each year, organizations and citizens across the country endorse energy efficiency's benefits and participate in online energy efficiency challenges and promotions in celebration of Energy Efficiency Day (EE Day). Cities, counties, and states issued official proclamations to recognize EE Day last year, as did the U.S. Senate. EE Day 2021 (#EEDay2021) will return on **October 6**, and event organizers have already [updated the EE Day website with new energy efficiency campaigns and materials](#). As fall approaches, EE Day organizers ask that interested parties sign up as 2021 supporters. These supporters will receive both updates from EE Day organizers as well as energy efficiency facts and materials to share on social media. Find more EE Day resources at <https://www.energyefficiencyday.org/>.

An Assessment of the Energy Sector in Tennessee



The Tennessee State Energy Policy Council, in partnership with UTK's Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, has released a report titled, "[An Assessment of the Energy Sector in Tennessee.](#)" The report provides a detailed, data-driven analysis of the state's energy sector and includes an examination of energy consumption (by energy source and end-use sector), electricity generation, available resource base, job benefits from the state's energy sector, environmental and health issues, and a comparison of Tennessee to other states in the Southeast.

Sustainable Energy in America 2021 Factbook

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy has released its [Sustainable Energy in America 2021 Factbook](#), which provides year-over-year data and insights on American energy transformation and progress within the energy efficiency, natural gas, and renewable energy sectors. This year's report features a special focus on how the COVID-19 pandemic affected the energy landscape in 2020. The report finds that, despite significant challenges, clean energy growth proved resilient in 2020. In fact, some clean energy trends even accelerated in growth throughout the year:

- The U.S. installed 33.6 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity in 2020—a 61% increase over capacity growth in 2019—to mark the highest year for growth on record.
- Wind enjoyed its best year ever with 17.1 GW constructed, while solar exceeded its previous record with 16.5 GW completed.
- Hydropower generation rose by 5% in 2020, now accounting for 35% of total renewable energy output.

[Click here](#) to access the full report.



TVA and Facebook Enter Into Green Invest Deal to Develop Solar Power and Battery Storage

Under a recently announced [Green Invest](#) agreement with Facebook, TVA will partner with Origis Energy to develop a 150 MW solar power system, in addition to a 50 MW battery storage facility, to support Facebook's two Tennessee Valley data centers. Facebook is committed to supporting its operations with 100% renewable energy starting in 2020; to do this, in August, Facebook [signed a Green Invest agreement](#) for a 70 MW solar facility that will be built in Madison County, Tennessee. In total since 2018, Facebook has announced purchases of 597 MW of power generated by multiple solar farms linked into the TVA electric grid in Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi. This recent news represents just a part of TVA's expanding renewable energy portfolio, as the power provider has [increased its contracted solar capacity by 60%](#) since October 2020. [Click here](#) to view the full press release.

TREEDC Member Roane State Community College Builds Future Entrepreneurs



Roane State Community College (RSCC) has partnered with middle and high school students in five local counties to help their students develop business savvy skills and learn how to become successful entrepreneurs.

Teams of students from Wartburg, Coalfield and Sunbright High Schools in Morgan County as well as Scott and Anderson County high schools, Clarkrange High in Fentress County, and Jacksboro Middle in Campbell County pitched their business ideas in March 2021 via timed ZOOM events.

The participating counties were selected because they've been hard hit by the downturn in the coal-mining industry. The Appalachian Regional Commission is funding the event. Roane State's role includes providing judges for the competition and the campus site directors choosing ambassadors to organize and coordinate activities.

TDEC Announces EV and Battery Manufacturing Investment

Governor Bill Lee and TN Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe recently announced that Microvast, Inc. will invest \$220 million to establish a new electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility in Clarksville. The facility, which will create 287 new jobs, will conduct research and development as well as produce electric vehicle battery cells, modules, and packs. To do this, Microvast will renovate and expand an existing plant in the area, which formerly manufactured components for vehicle brakes. Employee recruitment for this facility may begin by the end of 2021, and the company anticipates beginning operation in the summer of 2022.

Additionally, General Motors (GM) has revealed its intent to construct a second U.S. electric vehicle battery plant (in addition to the \$2 billion factory currently under construction in Ohio), which industry representatives speculate could be located near the company's existing facility in Spring Hill. This follows the announcement earlier this year that GM intends to phase out gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles by converting its entire passenger vehicle fleet to all-electric drivetrains by 2035. Last year, GM announced a \$2 billion investment in its Spring Hill operations to build fully electric vehicles such as the all-new Cadillac LYRIQ, the single largest expansion investment in Tennessee's history. Click here to read more about how Tennessee is becoming a nationwide leader in electric vehicle manufacturing.

Tennessee Electric Vehicle Survey



Electric vehicles represent a growing portion of Tennessee’s transportation sector. With around 11,000 electric vehicles on the road in Tennessee today, understanding how and where electric vehicles are used can better inform planning, policy, and future technology-related investments. To better understand Tennessee’s electric transportation landscape, Drive Electric Tennessee and Tennessee Clean Fuels are undertaking a large-scale survey of electric vehicle owners across the state. All responses will be anonymized and will be utilized to provide insights on electric vehicle use across Tennessee. The data will also be shared with the U.S. Department of Energy, as part of Tennessee Clean Fuels’ annual report on alternative fuel and advanced vehicle technology use within the state.

The survey should take about 5 minutes to complete. If you have any questions, please contact Drive Electric Tennessee at info@driveelectrictn.org
