



TREEDC Newsletter

July 2021



TREEDC Names Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic as West Tennessee Coordinator



From left to right: TREEDC President Dwain Land and Bolivar Mayor/TREEDC West TN Coordinator Julian McTizic

Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic was recently appointed to the position of West Tennessee Coordinator of the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council. The 108 mayors of TREEDC and Board are looking forward to working with Mayor McTizic to help bring in more clean energy development and awareness in West Tennessee. He will help TREEDC transform more West Tennessee communities into sustainable communities that creates new jobs and economic development in the region.

Mayor McTizic is a native of Bolivar, a rural town in Hardeman County, Tennessee. On July 1st, 2017, at the age of thirty, he was sworn in as the youngest, and first African-American elected Mayor of the City of Bolivar. He is a Paul Harris Fellow in the Bolivar Chapter of Rotary International, a member of the Bolivar General Hospital Healthcare Foundation, the NAACP, and the Joint Economic and Community Development Board. In his elected position, he is a member of the Young Elected Officials where he serves as the State Director for Tennessee. He is a member of the Executive Board of the Southwest Tennessee Development District, and is a Certified Economic Developer from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Mayor McTizic is a graduate of Hardeman County Leadership, the 2018 Class of WestStar. In 2019, Bolivar was designated as an Excellence in Community Development Award by TREEDC.



Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic

TREEDC International Affairs Director Participates in Fulbright Scholar Fellowship Program at UT-Martin



Left to right: MTAS Management Consultant Warren Nevad, University of Tennessee Martin Chancellor/TREEDC Chairman Dr. Keith Carver and Pasig City University President/TREEDC International Affairs Director Dr. April Alcazar

The Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TREEDC) is honored to have its International Affairs Director, Dr. Amihan April Alcazar, be awarded the Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellowship for Academic Year 2020-2021. During her stint at the University of Tennessee-Martin during the spring and summer terms, she conducted research on the State of Tennessee Model for community colleges in conjunction with the Drive to 55, the Tennessee Promise Program and the Tennessee Transfer Pathways as possible models which can be adapted in her native country, the Philippines.

She continues to represent TREEDC in its International Exchange Program for raising consciousness about renewables in the Asia-Pacific region, where the cost of electricity is comparatively higher than in the United States due to high production cost of power due to imported fossil fuels. Since 2008, TREEDC worked with the academic community, the local government units and businesses in Tennessee to increase renewables in the state and beyond.

TREEDC Member Bronco Power Boost Implements Strategic Marketing Alliance with Howard Hughes Corporation

As an opportunity to address Texas' recent struggles with electrical blackouts, Bronco Power Boost owner Billy Whittaker approached one of the nation's top selling master planned communities to provide backup power to homeowners in Texas. The marketing alliance with Howard Hughes Corporation provides a Bronco Power Boost battery-operated generator to new homeowners. The battery operated generator is an in wall installed supplemental electrical power source that automatically turns on during a power outage and provides electricity to essentials, such as a refrigerator, lights, security system, Wi-Fi, and devices. Click for more information: [Cypress, TX Master Planned Community - Houston Luxury Homes | Bridgeland](#)

TREEDC envisions this UL approved and patented backup generator to also provide needed clean power to commercial stores, medical facilities, offices, condos as well as single family homes across the United States. Future plans include developing software infrastructure to aid in electric load sharing and critical care backup to medical equipment such as dialysis and respirator machines. Congrats, Billy!



TREEDC President Dwain Land and Bronco Power Boost Owner Billy Whittaker leads recent TREEDC member meeting

TREEDC Member Highlights: CMTA Energy Solutions



CMTA is a multi-services corporation founded in 1968 as a Consulting Engineering firm. CMTA also integrates its expertise in energy efficient engineering and Design-Build construction to offer Performance Contracting services through the Energy Solutions division. Since CMTA's inception, the firm is recognized as a national leader for delivering high performance, sustainable projects.

CMTA is a national pioneer in the development of Zero Energy buildings, having engineered more than 5 Million square feet of Zero Energy projects across the country. CMTA worked with Richardsville Elementary School in Kentucky to develop the **first Zero Energy school in the United States**, annually generating more energy than it consumes and feeding the excess energy back into the grid. CMTA has offices in Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Texas, Massachusetts, Louisiana, South Carolina, Indiana, Virginia and West Virginia. Click for more information about CMTA: [CMTA | CMTA, Inc.](#)

UT Southern Becomes Newest UT Campus in Pulaski, Tennessee

After several months of conversations, meetings, measures and proceedings, the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees voted to acquire the assets of Martin Methodist College and establish a new UT campus in Pulaski, Tennessee: UT Southern. The addition of UT Southern will represent the fourth undergraduate college within the UT System, and the first new campus since UT Chattanooga joined more than 50 years ago. Additionally, UT Southern will be the only four-year and graduate institution of higher education between Sewanee in the east and Freed-Hardeman in the west, serving a southern Middle Tennessee region of 13 counties near the Alabama border.



“UT Southern is more than our newest campus,” UT System President Randy Boyd said. “It represents opportunity, revival, long-term economic success and forward momentum in the southern Middle Tennessee region. Sincere gratitude goes to Gov. Bill Lee, the Tennessee General Assembly, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and so many other regional and state stakeholders who helped support this effort.”

TREEDC is looking forward to working with UT Southern students and faculty in the near future to provide awareness and opportunities in renewable energy.

Save the Date: Tennessee Municipal League (TML) Annual Conference: September 18-21, 2021



TML's 81st Annual Conference & Expo will take place at the Chattanooga Convention Center September 18-21. TML is planning a full, in-person conference and expo for this fall. Expect great keynote speakers, valuable workshops with available continuing education credits, and an exhibit hall with reputable companies ready to meet your needs. We will have fun receptions to network and have a good time, and our annual awards presentations. TREEDC will be hosting a roundtable and will provide a presentation regarding alternative energies. Click: [81st Annual Conference and Expo | Tennessee Municipal League \(tml1.org\)](https://www.tml1.org) for more information.

Save the Date: TREEDC 2021 Annual Conference: December 9-10, 2021



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. 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. Click [Microsoft Word - TREEDC-2021 Conference Agenda1](#) for the tentative agenda. Members who are interested in giving a presentation can contact TREEDC President Dwain Land at 423-718-3435. We look forward to catching up with everyone at our annual conference.

Save the Date: 2021 Tennessee Valley Solar Conference: October 13



The Tennessee Solar Energy Industries Association (TenneSEIA) will host the Tennessee Valley Solar Conference on **October 13** at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Franklin. The purpose of the conference is to bring together solar advocates and adopters to discuss strategies, market trends, and policies that impact the Tennessee Valley solar industry. Visit <https://tenneseiasolar.com/conference/> to learn more.

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/>.

TAEBC Announces Upcoming Advanced Energy Webinars

The Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council (TAEBC) 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 date:



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

UT, ORNL, TVA, and TAEBEC Partner to Bring Innovative Tech Accelerators to Tennessee

ORNL, TVA, TAEBEC and the University of Tennessee (UT) have announced a local [Techstars Industries of the Future Accelerator](#) in partnership with Techstars, a worldwide network that advances the success of innovative entrepreneurs. The accelerator will work with 30 startups over three years to leverage clean energy, grid-scale energy storage, battery technology, cybersecurity, and other innovations to transform society. This will be the first Techstars-operated accelerator in Tennessee, the first affiliated with a national laboratory, and the first focused on “Industries of the Future.” The accelerator will create an environment where startups focused on these industries can thrive in the Oak Ridge-Knoxville area, refining their technologies, receiving mentorship, discovering and developing talent, and connecting to organizations to form partnerships and find potential customers. The program will begin accepting applications in July. [Click here](#) to learn more about Techstars and its global network.

In addition to the Techstars Accelerator, UT’s [Spark Innovation Center](#) recently announced that it will work with TVA and the Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council (TAEBEC) to [develop and implement the Spark Cleantech Accelerator](#) in Tennessee. Funded by an award from U.S. DOE’s “Energy Program for Innovation Clusters” (EPIC) Program, the accelerator will support energy hardware startups through a 10- to 13-week program each year that will include both in-person and virtual events, sector-specific curriculum, mentorships, prototyping resources, and connections with industry.

Report: Solar in the Southeast



The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) has released the latest iteration of its [Solar in the Southeast](#) report, which illuminates the critical role of utilities in the growing southeastern solar market. The purpose of the report is to document current progress and trends at both utility and state levels and to identify policies and practices to drive continued solar growth in the Southeast. To provide an equitable, unbiased comparison of various-sized utilities throughout the region, SACE has ranked utilities on the basis of watts of solar power sourced per customer. The report also features calculations and forecasts of total installed solar capacity by state.

The report shows a record year of growth for solar throughout the region, with nearly 4 GW of capacity added in 2020. TVA, while currently ranked 10th out of the 14 utilities considered (with 105 watts of sourced solar per customer), is projected to achieve 425 watts per customer by 2024, beating the current regional average. The report highlights the latest TVA solar projects, particularly those under its Green Invest program. It also identifies KUB as a SunRiser, a recognition reserved for utilities with the highest solar ambitions. [Click here](#) to access the full report. [Click here](#) to view an informational webinar covering the report.

TDEC to Provide Funding to Tennessee Local Power Companies for Home Uplift



In 2021, TDEC OEP provided grants of \$750,000 to TREEDC members Electric Power Board of Chattanooga (EPB), Knoxville Utilities Board (KUB), Memphis Light, Gas & Water (MLGW), and Nashville Electric Service (NES) to extend the reach of their respective Home Uplift Programs. These programs cover the costs of energy efficiency and weatherization measures for limited income homeowners that are customers in the noted service areas.

Eligible energy efficiency upgrades include air sealing, duct sealing/replacement, attic insulation, water heater and pipe insulation, wall insulation, HVAC cleaning and tuning, HVAC replacement, window and door replacement, heat pump water heater installation, refrigerator replacement, LED bulbs, and low-flow showerheads. In addition to saving money on their energy bills, participants also report improvements in the comfort and air quality of their homes. [Click here](#) for more information on Home Uplift.

TVA Launches School Uplift Program



TVA announced an investment of \$7.3 million in a new School Uplift program, which over the next three years will train school personnel to reduce their schools' energy use and reduce utility costs. The State's Energy Efficient Schools Initiative (EESI) will partner with TVA on the launch and has provided an additional \$600,000 in matching funds. Since 2008, EESI has provided over \$102.5 million for projects that improve energy efficiency in Tennessee's K-12 schools, saving its recipients more than \$43 million in energy costs to date.

Eleven schools recently completed the School Uplift pilot and have averaged nearly 20% annual savings on energy bills through behavior changes alone. Bledsoe County High School in Pikeville, Van Buren High School in Spencer, and Picket County K-8 in Byrdstown will be the first schools to earn energy upgrade grants worth \$400,000, which will provide much needed facility upgrades with a focus on further reducing energy consumption and costs. Additional schools have been awarded TVA-funded grants for solar pavilions.

TVA EnergyRight will be recruiting schools interested in participating in the 2022-2023 program. For more information, visit the School Uplift website [here](#).

TVA Sustainable Energy Updates

TVA has released its FY20 Sustainability Report, which provides a comprehensive overview of the utility's performance in providing reliable, clean energy to create a healthy environment and prosperous economy. The report highlights TVA's priorities and developments in the areas of grid decarbonization, technological innovation, economic development, environmental stewardship, resiliency, and transportation electrification. The report outlines a number of TVA's sustainability in energy goals, including lowering consumer energy costs through energy efficiency, adding 10,000 MW of solar energy by 2035 through collaboration with local power companies and participating customers in the Green Invest program, reducing carbon emissions, innovating utility-scale battery storage for renewable energy, prioritizing environmental justice for vulnerable communities, and becoming the nation's top-performing nuclear fleet by 2025. [Click here](#) to access the full report.

As part of its ongoing sustainability efforts, TVA is also preparing to phase out the last of its aging fleet of coal power plants within the next fifteen years. The power provider, which once generated nearly two-thirds of its power through the burning of coal, will turn toward expanding its natural gas, nuclear, and renewable energy portfolios. During a conference with top energy and union leaders, [TVA President Jeff Lyash said](#) that, by 2035, TVA anticipates cutting its carbon emissions from the burning of fossil fuels by 80% below a 2005 baseline. To date, TVA has already cut its carbon output by 63% since 2005, nearly twice the industry average for all U.S. utilities. TVA has shut down 34 of the 59 coal-fired units it once operated; it is preparing to shutter its Bull Run Fossil plant by 2023 and, subject to environmental studies and board approval, is planning to ultimately shut down its Cumberland, Gallatin, Kingston, and Shawnee coal plants by 2035.

Facebook and RWE Renewables Partner for New Solar Facility in Shelby County



TVA [recently announced](#) a new Green Invest partnership with Facebook and RWE Renewables to construct a 150 MW solar facility near Millington in Shelby County. Facebook will use 110 MW of this new solar capacity to support their data center operations in Gallatin and the broader Tennessee Valley. RWE will develop the \$140 million solar farm and, through a long-term power purchase agreement with TVA, will own and operate the plant. The project will generate more than \$12 million in property tax revenue and create more than 150 construction jobs. Due in part to its ongoing partnership with TVA, [Facebook recently announced](#) that its operations are now supported by 100% renewable energy, including [475 MW of new solar committed through Green Invest Agreements](#) and the purchase of 852 MW of solar power generated by solar farms linked to the TVA grid since 2018.

Metro Nashville Recognized for 2020 Solar Deal



The American Cities Climate Challenge Renewables Accelerator has selected Metro Nashville’s 2020 Green Invest solar deal as one of the “Top 10 Most Noteworthy City Renewable Deals of 2020.” The 100 MW project, which is tied for the largest renewable deal east of the Mississippi River in 2020, is recognized for its innovative use of public-private partnerships (e.g., collaboration with Vanderbilt University and other partners) to support the procurement process and to leverage collective buying power in order to meet shared climate goals more affordably and efficiently.

Metro Nashville’s solar array, which was announced last November, will produce enough electricity to power over 11,000 homes and will result in carbon emissions savings equivalent to the removal of more than 14,000 cars from the road each year for the 20 year term of the agreement. It represents a one-third step toward 100% renewable energy for the local government’s electric power needs and will lower its annual greenhouse gas emissions by 12%.