



TREEDC Newsletter April 2022



Randy Johnson Named TREEDC Environmental Legacy Recipient



From left to right: Randy Johnson, Johnson Energy Solutions and TREEDC President Dwain Land

Randy Johnson, President of Johnson Energy Solutions was recently awarded the TREEDC 2021 Environmental Legacy award for his over 40 years of service to the clean energy industry and advocacy for comprehensive renewable energy planning and development. Randy served the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for 27 years and was instrumental in TVA's Integrated Resource Planning and Renewable Energy advances. The TVA Integrated Resources Plan was developed to help guide the federal utility's policy in meeting the region's future electricity needs. Today, at Johnson Energy Solutions, Randy is leading sustainable efforts focusing on economic development, waste reduction, energy efficiency, and waste to renewable energy arenas. One of his primary focus areas is on waste to clean distributed energy project development.

The TREEDC Environmental Legacy Award established by TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Land honors an individual with at least 20 years of effective and significant service. Award winners automatically become lifetime members of TREEDC. Previous Environmental Legacy Award winner is Attorney Bill Penny with Burr and Forman.

Flood Ready Tennessee Statement on Flood Resilience Legislation

Flood Ready Tennessee applauds the filing of [Senate Bill 2525/House Bill 2516](#) to establish the Tennessee Flood Resilience and Community Preparedness Task Force. This bill, sponsored by Senator Kerry Roberts and Representative Jay Reedy, is a significant step toward a meaningful, statewide resiliency plan that will save the lives and properties of Tennesseans from Memphis to Mountain City.



“We are thankful for the sponsors of this bill, which aims to make mitigation and resilience solutions more accessible to our rural communities who regularly experience flooding,” said Dwain Land, Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council President and member of the Flood Ready Tennessee coalition. “Floods are a costly disaster that our state experiences again and again, despite it being the most predictable natural disaster. Taxpayers bear the burden of paying to repair millions of dollars in damages to properties, homes, churches, and businesses every time it rains. Now, communities will have the chance to plan and fund projects that will save lives, properties, and money.”

Flood Ready TN is a coalition of elected officials, homeowners, small business owners, faith leaders, and community members across the state dedicated to making Tennessee resilient against the frequent flooding. Across Tennessee, flooding is widespread, destructive, and costs Tennessee taxpayers and individuals an average of \$243 million each year. Flood Ready TN believes Tennessee should take executive and legislative steps to better prepare for future floods by investing in statewide coordination efforts, green infrastructure solutions, and hazard mitigation.

TREEDC Hosts Philippine Department of Agriculture Officials



From left to right: Dr. April Alcazar, Undersecretary Roldan Gorgonio, UT President Randy Boyd, and Senior Advisor Dennis Layug

During the week of February 14th, TREEDC International Affairs Director Dr. April Alcazar, Philippines Undersecretary for Department of Agriculture Roldan Gorgonio and Philippines Senior Advisor to Secretary of Department of Agriculture Dennis Layug joined TREEDC member colleges: The University of Tennessee, Middle Tennessee State University, Tennessee Tech University and the University of Tennessee Martin and others for a week of promoting international agriculture and economic development. The delegation explored ways on how TREEDC member colleges can strategically align with international students and clean energy stakeholders. The Philippine delegation also toured Hico America’s Manufacturing Plant and The University of Tennessee Extension Services.

The TREEDC International Exchange Program started in 2012 and includes 10 member cities and 18 member colleges in the Philippines. The mission of the TREEDC International Exchange Program is to create renewable energy marketing opportunities and jobs for both Philippines and Tennessee entities through educational forums, business networking and collaborative projects while increasing clean energy solutions in the Philippines.



From left to right: Dr. Alcazar, Undersecretary Gorgonio, Sequatchie County Executive Keith Cartwright, Senior Advisor Layug and MTAS Management Consultant Warren Nevad

Charlottesville, Virginia Hires TREEDC Member CMTA Energy Solutions



CMTA Energy Solutions, a TREEDC member energy auditing firm was selected by the City of Charlottesville, Virginia to check out its 40 buildings, including city schools, to find ways to cut power usage, reduce water use and lower its utility bills. In the process, it hopes to add some renewable energy systems as well.

The building audits are part of the first phase of the city's effort to fulfill its commitment to climate action and reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. The city is conducting the audits as part of its Energy Savings Performance Contract through a cooperative program offered by a state agency, Virginia Energy. The audits include data analysis and inspections of the city's buildings. The contractor will collect data on each building's existing systems and operation while looking for ways to decrease energy and water use and save money.

Strategies and upgrades under consideration include standardizing the controls, plumbing fixtures and heating and air-conditioning equipment in city facilities. Officials are considering upgrading to the latest cost-effective LED lights with occupancy sensors to reduce energy costs when spaces are not in use.

Membership Highlight: Perfection Group

The Perfection Group ([Government \(perfectiongroup.com\)](http://perfectiongroup.com)) is a facility solutions provider servicing Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus, Indianapolis, Louisville, Lexington, Charleston, Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Nashville. Perfection Group not only operates in 5 states but runs 140 service vehicles and manages 250 associates. In 2009, Perfection officially launched their Green Building Solutions Business Unit. Today, Perfection has market leadership in their key business focus of County and Municipal Governments in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana.



Perfection designed an Energy Project for the City of Middletown, Ohio with a project investment of \$4.365 million to replace high voltage switchgear and motor control center equipment alleviating safety and operational concerns at both the Water Treatment and Wastewater Treatment plants. Additionally at the Water Treatment Plant, the plant-wide dehumidification systems were replaced not only to reduce operating costs and eliminate ongoing repair costs but to eliminate other safety concerns due to the failures of the existing systems. A new city distribution pump was implemented to supply fresh water to the city. The pump is operated on a variable speed drive which saves the city significant energy dollars while allowing for future system expansions.

Membership Highlight: Performance Services



Performance Services ([Design-Build Performance Contractors | Performance Services](#)) is an integrated design and delivery engineering company that specializes in constructing and renovating municipal, healthcare and education facilities, delivering optimal environments through design-build and guaranteed energy savings projects. Found in 1998 by President and CEO, Tim Thoman, Performance Services is built on a culture of excellence and the highest standards of quality.

Performance Services recently completed its energy services project with Arkansas Tech University. Essential components of the project included LED lighting retrofits and building automation systems upgrades across the campus. In addition to these energy improvements, the Energy Leadership program was implemented across the campus. An energy manager leads the behavioral-based student and staff energy awareness and cost reduction program, utilizing a web-based energy dashboard that provides real-time energy data to monitor and inform campus energy usage. Together, these improvements are expected to reduce annual utility costs by 13.8%

Energy Services Coalition Appoints Public Co-Chairs



The Energy Services Coalition and its Tennessee chapter's mission is to provide education and develop and disseminate information to increase the delivery of energy efficiency for the benefit of the general public. Educational activities include the development and dissemination of information about energy efficiency and how increased energy efficiency can be provided, encouraged, and acquired. The Coalition also serve as advocates for the widespread use of Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contracting by state and local governments. The Coalition made the following co-chair appointments for the Tennessee Chapter:

Rick Kumar-Rathor, TDEC, Energy Consultant

As an Energy Consultant with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (TDEC) [Office of Energy Programs \(OEP\)](#), Rick guides the strategic efforts of the Office's State Facility Utility Management (SFUM) team and oversees SFUM's continued support and maintenance of the State's [Utility Data Management \(UDM\) platform](#), which centralizes utility consumption and cost data for all State-owned and managed facilities.

Prior to joining TDEC, Rick worked as a planner, mechanical engineering project manager, procurement executive, and consultant within the manufacturing, healthcare, automotive, rail, industrial, and construction sectors. Rick holds a B.Eng. (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Westminster, London; an M.B.A. with Finance from Sheffield University, Sheffield; and an MSc in Building Services Engineering with Sustainable Energy from Brunel University, London.

Warren Nevad, TREEDC Director, Management Consultant, UT MTAS

Warren Nevad has served as a municipal management consultant for the University of Tennessee MTAS ([Home | MTAS \(tennessee.edu\)](#)) since 1999. He was co-founder of the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council ([Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council \(treedc.us\)](#)) in 2008 and serves as Director. Nevad holds his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Georgia and master's degree in public administration from Florida Atlantic University.

Energy Efficiency in the Southeast



Each year, the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) compiles efficiency data from nearly 500 electric utilities in the Southeast to present in its annual [Energy Efficiency in the Southeast](#) report. The latest report centers on utility efficiency savings from 2020, the most recent year with complete data, taken as a percent of annual electric retail sales.

This creates a standard metric to compare performance between utilities and states of different sizes. Data findings are presented with both historical context and the most recent policy trends to give a sense of how efficiency savings performance may develop in the coming years. [Click here](#) to access the report. [Click here](#) to view a recording of the report release webinar.

ACEEE State Energy Efficiency Scorecard: 2021 Progress Report

The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) recently published its State Energy Efficiency Scorecard: 2021 Progress Report. This year's iteration of the Scorecard does not provide a state ranking and instead serves as a progress report on state energy efficiency policies and programs that save energy while producing environmental and economic benefits. The report uses data vetted by state energy officials to assess states and the nation in five categories—transportation policies, utility and public benefits programs and policies, equity in state and utility planning and programs, building energy efficiency policies, and appliance standards. Find more information on the State Scorecard at <http://aceee.org/state-policy/scorecard>

Rural Energy Pilot Program Offered By the USDA

The Rural Energy Pilot Program (REPP) offers grant assistance to Rural Energy Community Partnerships (RECPs) to develop renewable energy that can meet the nation's energy needs and combat emissions while prioritizing environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity. REPP partnerships may be comprised of, but are not limited to, non-profit entities, State and local entities, tribal entities, municipalities, and other public bodies. Funding may be used to support community energy planning, capacity building, and technical assistance; community efficiency and weatherization; and installation of community-scale renewable energy technologies and systems. Eligible rural areas include any area that is not:



- a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants; or
- the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such a city or town, as defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census using the latest decennial census of the U.S.

Selected projects will receive up to 80% of total eligible costs, not to exceed \$2 million for grant terms of three years. Applicants are encouraged to review all application materials found in the REPP Notice of Funding Opportunity. The deadline to submit full applications will be due **July 18**. [Click here](#) to review Letter of Intent requirements and other important REPP information.

Nashville Mayor Cooper Releases Sustainability Agenda

Nashville Mayor John Cooper recently announced his 2022 sustainability agenda, which includes a vision of sustainable policies and practices for Metro Nashville in the years to come. The agenda includes a bold pledge to cut Metro Nashville government's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 relative to 2014 levels, plans to conduct a solar feasibility assessment for 600 city-owned sites, and a city-wide effort in partnership with Root Nashville to plant half a million trees by 2050.



The city hopes to begin solar installations as early as next year; funding for the feasibility research was already approved in January 2022. In December 2021, Metro Council approved legislation to invest about 1% of revenue from construction activities into restoring, caring for, and growing Nashville's tree canopy, an effort that will allow the city to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, reduce effects of heat in the urban core, and manage stormwater runoff.

National Community Solar Partnership Accepting Applications



The National Community Solar Partnership is a community of solar stakeholders working to expand access to affordable community solar for every American household by 2025. Partners leverage peer networks and technical assistance resources to set goals and to overcome persistent barriers to expanding community solar access to underserved communities.

National Community Solar Partners receive access to the full benefits of the Partnership, which includes technical assistance, networking opportunities, events tailored to community solar, resource databases, and peer information exchange. U.S. DOE is accepting applications to join the Partnership on a continuous basis. [Click here](#) to apply.