



TREEDC Newsletter October 2023



TREEDC Celebrates Its 15th Anniversary



From left to right: Mark Pruett, Wilmot & Associates, Steve Seifried, TAEBE/Ameresco, Steve Harmon, Harmon Construction, Warren Nevad, TREEDC President Dwain Land, Ben Farmer, Farmer Morgan, Andrew Click, Kimley Horn and Dr. Dennis Tennant, Tennessee Tech University

On August 28th, the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) held its 15th Anniversary Celebration in TREEDC President Dwain Land's hometown of Dunlap Tennessee. Back in 2008, Former University of Tennessee President Dr. Joe Johnson, Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) and mayors from Crossville, Gainesboro, Graysville and Pikeville formed TREEDC, a statewide organization of 108 city and county mayors promoting and connecting economic development with clean energy and energy efficiency. Over the years, TREEDC has worked with clean energy stakeholders such as TVA, TDEC, ECD and clean energy related businesses to advance renewable energy for all communities in Tennessee. TREEDC has won numerous state and international awards since 2008. Please click these links to learn more about TREEDC's accomplishments over the years:

[How Tennessee's Taken the Politics Out of Renewable Energy \(governing.com\)](#)

[Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council \(treedc.us\)](#)

[University of Tennessee – TREEDC International Exchange Program - UEDA | University Economic Development Association \(universityeda.org\)](#)

[Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards Recognize Positive Impacts Across the Tennessee \(tn.gov\)](#) and

[2022 TML Achievement Award -- Woodland Mills: Excellence in Green Leadership - YouTube](#)

Today, TREEDC is poised to assist local governments with funding assistance with the implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and other clean energy programs administered by the state and federal government.



2009



2012



2013



2014



2015



2018



2022

Inflation Reduction Act Provides \$369 Billion in Tax Credits and Direct Pay Options for Local Governments

The Inflation Reduction Act's (IRA) "elective pay" (often called "direct pay") provisions will allow tax-exempt and government entities for the first time to be able to receive a payment equal to the full value of tax credits for building qualifying clean energy projects. This could be game changing for local governments who were not previously eligible for tax credits because of the tax-exempt status. The Direct pay option is a mechanism that allows an entity to claim a tax credit as a rebate, this direct pay option is a part of the IRA for tax-exempt entities such as cities, counties, public schools, universities and rural cooperatives, providing these entities a new tool to fund clean energy projects. Qualifying technologies include solar, geothermal, electric vehicles, battery-generators, energy storage systems, and combined heat and power cogeneration. Most technologies need to be under construction by January 1, 2025 to qualify. For more information click here: [Direct Pay | Clean Energy | The White House](#). Contact TREEDC President Dwain Land at 423-718-3435 for assistance with this program.



Mark Your Calendars for TREEDC Conference on November 16, 2023



TREEDC will hold its annual conference and awards reception on November 16, 2023, at 37 Cedar Restaurant in Cookeville. The conference will start at 1 pm. Attendees will hear presentations from municipal sustainability professionals, energy services providers, clean energy initiatives and updates from TDEC Office of Energy Programs and USDA Rural Development funding opportunities. The awards reception will begin at 5 pm. For registration and agenda click here: [2023 TREEDC Renewable Energy Summit \(tntech.edu\)](#)

Tennessee Flood Ready Partners with TREEDC with Protect Tennessee Coalition



TREEDC Member Tennessee Flood Ready Tennessee announced in September the launch of Protect Tennessee, a statewide effort to promote resilience against all natural hazards. The new coalition builds upon Flood Ready Tennessee's commitment to ensuring every county in the state is equipped with the necessary resources to prepare for flooding disasters.

Natural disasters cost Tennesseans millions of dollars, and in the worst cases, their lives. The need for statewide resilience planning and engagement has never been more critical. According to the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR), natural disasters will continue to cost Tennesseans over \$500 million annually. Wildfires alone cost Tennessee taxpayers over \$4 million every year. Protect Tennessee aims to bring together experts and local leaders to ensure they have the resources, strategies, and tools they need to protect Tennesseans from the impact of natural disasters.

"The decision to extend our efforts shows that we are dedicated to keeping our communities safe from a multitude of risks, not just floods," said Dwain Land, President of the Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TREEDC) and a member of Protect Tennessee. "Floods are still a significant concern, but we know that Tennessee needs a more comprehensive approach that addresses threats like wildfires, tornadoes, and earthquakes. We want to make sure that every community has the information and strategies to protect their residents and infrastructure."

Protect Tennessee will continue to work closely with its 150 coalition members from 67 counties to support resilience efforts by the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and other state departments. By fostering partnerships at the community level, Protect Tennessee hopes to ensure that cities and counties are getting the resources and attention that they need to mitigate the damage caused by natural hazards.

"As the former Mayor of Dunlap, TN, I've seen firsthand the damage that floods, tornadoes, and other disasters can cause," Land said. "These types of disasters can and will happen again. We must ensure that all communities in Tennessee have ability to withstand disasters and bounce back quickly."

As part of its expanded focus, Protect Tennessee unveiled a new website, ProtectTN.com, featuring resources on resilience tailored to the specific challenges posed by different natural disasters. The coalition will host roundtables and gather advisory groups to raise awareness of the need to support resilience planning.

Protect Tennessee, formerly known as Flood Ready Tennessee, is a coalition of local elected officials, experts, and citizens advocating for increased investments in resilience planning. Over the past two years, the coalition was focused on flood mitigation and now is looking to ensure that all communities have access to the resources they need to mitigate the effects of natural disasters. Protect Tennessee's membership includes multiple organizations including TREEDC, the Tennessee Association of Floodplain Management, the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers, The American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee, The American Institute of Architects Tennessee, and Harpeth Conservancy. Find out more at: www.protecttn.com

Upper Cumberland Development District Holds Mayoral Workshop

On August 11th, Upper Cumberland Development District (UCDD) held a workshop for area mayors to discuss funding opportunities for infrastructure, rural economic development and renewable energy. Presentations were given by representatives from Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, Tennessee Municipal League, Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council and USDA Rural Development. Other topics discussed included local sales tax, solid waste, transportation and small business development. Special thanks to UCDD Director Mark Farley, Deputy Director Tommy Lee and Director of Advocacy Rebecca Smith for organizing this very informative workshop.



Mayors and officials from Allardt, Baxter, Cookeville, Livingston, Monterey and Spencer attend workshop

TAEBC Hosts Annual Opportunities Event on November 15, 2023



The Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council will hold its annual Opportunities in Energy event on Wednesday, November 15, from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. at [The Standard](#) in downtown Knoxville.

This all-day event invites members and stakeholders to hear about new and innovative “opportunities” in the advanced energy sector, including trends, businesses, technologies, partnerships and initiatives.

At the event, TAEBC is proud to feature a keynote panel on the evolution of the automotive industry in the state with Former Senator and Governor Lamar Alexander and Former Governor and current Founding Chairman of Silicon Ranch Corporation and Clearloop Phil Bredesen. Marianne Wanamaker, dean of the Baker School of Public

At the event, TAEBC will present a state or local leader with the annual [Thomas B. Ballard Advanced Energy Leadership Award](#). The award honors exemplary leadership and success in championing, connecting, and strengthening Tennessee’s advanced energy economy.

Attendees will receive breakfast, lunch and refreshments throughout the event. A networking happy hour will follow the event programming. For more details click: [Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council — Opportunities in Energy 2023 - Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council \(tnadvancedenergy.com\)](#)

Save the Date: Tennessee Smart Mobility Expo, December 5-6, 2023

Presented by TennSMART, in partnership with the State and Tennessee Clean Fuels, the Tennessee Smart Mobility Expo will be held **December 5-6** at the Music City Center in Nashville. The Expo is a showcase of the technology research and development occurring right here in the Volunteer State, from the latest on EV charging and grid security to vehicle-to-infrastructure technology and freight logistics. This year, the Smart Mobility Expo has joined with the Tennessee Sustainable Transportation Forum & Expo. The joint event aims to promote greater networking and educational opportunities for mobility stakeholders.

The Expo is a forum for everyone, from transportation leaders to breakthrough founders, to connect and collaborate on the future of mobility in Tennessee and beyond. With thought-provoking sessions, tech demonstrations, and a custom indoor test track with the latest EVs—including many built in Tennessee—the Expo celebrates the state’s position as an automotive manufacturing giant and generator of smart mobility solutions.

Speakers and panel sessions will be announced in the coming weeks. Learn more at tnsmartmobilityexpo.com.

Those interested in sponsorship or exhibitor opportunities at the event should contact Sara Pruneski at sara@hallstrategies.com.

Tennessee Secured \$7 Billion in Clean Energy Business in 2022



Clean technology manufacturing is exploding in Tennessee with \$7 billion in investments over 14 projects announced in the past year. Planned investments in the construction of electric vehicles, energy storage and solar panel materials were worth three times more than any other sector combined. For more information click here; [Tennessee secured \\$7B in clean energy business this past year — representing nearly 80% of new investments | WPLN News](#)

TREEDC Member University of Tennessee CIS Collaborates with ECD and West Tennessee Regional Partners



On August 31, both the Northwest and Southwest Regional State of Tennessee ECD hosted their first collaborative and in person Partners Meeting since the pandemic. The event was held at the UT Agriculture Research and Education Center in Jackson, TN. UT Center for Industrial Services (UT CIS) collaborated with ECD to host the event. Over 20 regional and federal partners were in attendance. USDA Rural Development's State Director Arlisa Armstrong served as the keynote speaker for the event. The next Regional Partner's meeting is tentatively scheduled for December.

UT CIS TMEP Solutions Consultant, Andre Temple, conceived of the idea of partnering with the ECD regions to host the meeting in the Jackson, TN UT offices to facilitate the partnership between the NWTN and SWTN ECD regions. For more information click here: [UT CIS Collaborates with Northwest & Southwest Regional State of TN ECD to Host Collaborative Partners Meeting | UT Center for Industrial Services \(tennessee.edu\)](#)

In Memoriam: UT-CTAS Consultant Frank McKee

This TREEDC Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Frank McKee. Frank passed away on July 29, 2023. Ironically, Frank was born in the same year as Former UT President/TREEDC Chairman Dr. Joe Johnson and the Tennessee Valley Authority: 1933. Frank's middle name was Delano the same as President Franklin Delano Roosevelt who was President of the United States when TVA started in 1933. My father (Richard Nevad, Sr.) was also born in 1933. That year apparently was a very momentous year.

Frank was a constant wealth of information during TREEDC's formidable years and was always eager to give our TREEDC mayors sound advice in renewable energy. Frank was a wonderful ambassador for the University of Tennessee. Frank retired as a County Government Consultant with the University of Tennessee County Technical Assistance Service. Frank graduated from the University of Tennessee with a master's degree in planning and was an avid University of Tennessee sports fan throughout his life. He was a United States Army Veteran, serving from 1953 to 1962. During his service, he was assigned to US Army OM Europe-Occupation Germany and was stationed at the Head Quarters U.S. Army QM Mortuary System in Frankfurt, Germany.

His life was dedicated to public service, which is reflected in numerous recognitions bestowed upon him. Some of those include Dedicated Service Award 1993-94 Tennessee River Valley Association, 1993 University of Tennessee Award of Merit for dedicated service, 1993 U.T. Institute for Public Service Award of Excellence, 2005 U.T Institute for Public Service Team Commitment Award for Economic Development Initiative and the 2007 Maynard Pate Regional Leadership Award presented by the Greater Nashville Regional Council. Earlier this year, as he approached his 90th birthday, he was honored once again. This time, it was a Joint Resolution of the Tennessee Senate and House of Representatives which acknowledges a lifetime of service to his beloved state of Tennessee through his successful efforts to better its cities and counties for improving the lives of all its citizens. Thank you, Frank, for your guidance and thoughtfulness to everyone who had the pleasure of working with you. Rest in Peace, Frank.



From left to right: Frank McKee and Warren Nevad at the 2012 Nashville Geothermal Forum

TREEDC Establishes Dr. Joe Johnson Legacy Award

The TREEDC Board of Directors has established the annual Dr. Joe Johnson Legacy Award in honor of our former TREEDC Chairman and Founder who passed away on September 29th. This award will honor a member that embodies the same caring and giving spirit that Dr. Joe gave to the University of Tennessee community during the past 60 years. We will miss his wisdom, sense of humor and stories. We will accept nominations until November 1st and this inaugural award will be presented at the TREEDC Annual Conference on November 16th. Please submit nominations to mayorland@gmail.com or call at 423-718-3435