



TREEDC Newsletter January 2024



TREEDC Hosts Annual Conference/ Awards Reception



From left to right: MTAS Municipal Management Consultant Warren Nevad, TREEDC President Dwain Land, University of Tennessee and MTAS Executive Director Margaret Norris who received the inaugural Dr. Joe Johnson Legacy Award at the 2023 TREEDC Annual Conference at Tennessee Tech University

On November 16, 2023, the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) partnered with Tennessee Tech University (TTU) and the Energy Services Coalition (ESC) to host its annual conference and awards reception in Cookeville, Tennessee. Presentations were given regarding local government opportunities in clean energy from the Inflation Reduction Act, updates from TDEC Office of Energy Programs, TN Flood Ready, Ford Blue Oval Electric Vehicle Manufacturing, and USDA Rural Development Performance Services. Cumberland Securities sponsored the reception.

Attendees introduced themselves and shared progress regarding their projects. During the conference, TREEDC President Dwain Land recognized and honored the achievements of former UT President/TREEDC Chairman Dr. Joe Johnson and announced the establishment of the annual Dr. Joe Johnson Legacy Award which honors a TREEDC member that embodies the same giving and caring spirit that Dr. Johnson demonstrated to the University of Tennessee community during the past 60 years. This year's inaugural winner was University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) Executive Director Margaret Norris. TREEDC appreciates folks attending our conference and we enjoyed the fellowship among our stakeholders. After the presentations and networking session, TREEDC President Dwain Land presented the following annual awards:

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- 1) TREEDC Environmental Legacy Award: Brian Stone, Performance Services
 - 2) TREEDC Excellence in Innovation: Billy Whittaker, Bronco Power Boost
 - 3) TREEDC Champion: Madeline Shelly, UT College of Veterinary Medicine Assistant Alumni Affairs Director
 - 4) TREEDC Excellence in Community Resiliency: Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes
 - 5) TREEDC Excellence in Community Development: Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic
 - 6) TREEDC Champion Dana Deem, UT-MTAS, and
 - 7) TREEDC Champion Kim Raia, UT-CTAS.



From left to right: TREEDC Co-Founder Emanuel Bailey, Billy Whitaker, Bronco Power Boost and Atiba Bailey, McBee Bailey & Associates attended the annual conference. Whittaker was awarded TREEDC Excellence in Innovation



From left to right: TREEDC President Land presents 2023 TREEDC Environmental Legacy Award to Brian Stone, Performance Services

TREEDC Launches 2024 Membership Campaign



TREEDC Assistant Madeline Shelly and TREEDC Chairman 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 2024 membership campaign. The TREEDC board has kept the 2024 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.

During 2023, TREEDC embarked on a new strategic partnership with Protect Tennessee to facilitate more resilience planning and mitigation resulting from natural disasters and promoted Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) as a financing mechanism used by local governments to advance renewable energy. In 2024, TREEDC is poised to assist our members with the implementation of funding opportunities generated from the recent passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure and Inflation Reduction Acts and recent favorable legislative renewable energy initiatives enacted by the Philippines. This past year TREEDC celebrated its 15th anniversary of TREEDC's mission to connect economic development with clean energy across Tennessee.

TREEDC is a 501 C 3 charitable organization. For more information regarding 2024 membership opportunities click <http://treedc.us/membership/index.html>



As the legislative session kicks off, TREEDC is excited to update you on developments that will enhance disaster resilience in Tennessee.

TEMA's Budget Requests

TEMA has presented crucial budget requests that stand to significantly enhance our state's disaster preparedness and response capabilities. These requests include funding for the implementation of a Mesonet (Statewide Weather Station System) and expansion of the flood predictor tool program. These technological advancements promise to provide real-time, county-by-county weather data and improve our ability to mitigate, respond to, and recover from natural disasters. We're excited to support TEMA in both requests and encourage you to reach out to your representatives to let them know that Tennessee needs to invest in resilience tools.

Resilient Tennessee Revolving Loan Fund Act

We are thrilled to acknowledge the sponsorship of the Resilient Tennessee Revolving Loan Fund Act by Representative William Lamberth. This act, a key component of our shared resilience strategy, aims to create a revolving loan fund to support local communities impacted by disasters. We encourage you to reach out to Representative Lamberth's office and thank him for his commitment to improving disaster resiliency.

[Resilient Tennessee Revolving Loan Fund Act](#)

2023 Energy Efficiency Impact Report

Over the decades, energy efficiency has transformed the way we use energy and has helped build a cleaner economy that is more secure, more affordable, and more productive. After several years of slowed progress, recent federal funding provides the opportunity for states, local governments, businesses, and households to further investments in energy efficiency. Given the accelerating urgency of climate change and the race to improve U.S. productivity and competitiveness in a quickly evolving international market, we need to fully capitalize on the expansive, diverse, affordable, and innovative energy efficiency toolkit.

Using 59 indicators, the Energy Efficiency Impact Report tracks progress in a variety of sectors, including utilities, buildings, industry, and transportation and examines how policy and other tools are used to incentivize energy efficiency.



Renewable Energy Grows at Fastest Rate in Decades: IEA



Renewable energy expanded more than 50 percent last year compared to 2022, potentially putting the international goal of tripling capacity by 2030 in sight, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). Global energy systems' renewable energy capacity reached nearly 510 gigawatts last year, according to the IEA. For more information click: [Renewable energy grows at fastest rate in decades: IEA | The Hill](#)

State and Local Planning for Energy (SLOPE) Platform

The State and Local Planning for Energy (SLOPE) Platform is a collaboration between U.S. DOE and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) designed to support data-driven state and local energy planning by delivering modeled energy data at state and local jurisdictional levels. Users can explore energy data potential and projections to better understand opportunities and options in energy planning. The platform includes equity filters to help communities prioritize equitable and inclusive clean energy planning and investments. SLOPE includes two distinct tools to support jurisdictions' planning needs: a Scenario Planner to compare scenarios for the future of energy, costs, and emissions for counties and states, and a Data Viewer to explore city, county, and state data on renewables, efficiency, and transportation.

Appalachian Carbon Forum

The 2024 Appalachian Carbon Forum, hosted by the University of Kentucky and Oak Ridge National Lab (ORNL), will take place **March 7-8** in Lexington, KY. The two-day forum brings together a diverse range of thought leaders and innovators to identify and develop energy solutions for the Appalachian region.

The forum will feature discussions on the representative needs, challenges, and opportunities unique to the area with participants from local communities, private industry, national laboratories, academia, and government located along the Appalachian Mountain range. Sessions include topics ranging from clean energy solutions to emissions reduction and meeting power demands while working towards net-zero targets.

View the [agenda here](#) and [register for the 2024 Appalachian Carbon Forum here](#).

TDEC Seeks Nominations for 2024 Governor's Environmental Awards

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation recently announced the 2024 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards Program. This process 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 2024 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



In Memoriam: Dr. Joe Johnson, Founding TREEDC Chairman/ UT President Emeritus

This TREEDC Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Joe Johnson who back in 2008 was instrumental in building our TREEDC team across Tennessee and the Philippines. Dr. Joe served as TREEDC Chairman from 2008 until 2018. We could never thank him enough for his guidance, letters and friendship. For more information about the life of Dr. Johnson click here: [UT System President Emeritus Joe Johnson Mourned, Leaves Lasting Legacy - UT System News \(tennessee.edu\)](https://www.tennessee.edu/news/ut-system-president-emeritus-joe-johnson-mourned-leaves-lasting-legacy)



Dr. Joe Johnson and the late former Jamestown Mayor Darlene Davis in 2017



MTAS Consultant Warren Nevad, Dr. Joe Johnson and Martin Penny, AARP in 2011



Dr. Joe Johnson, TREEDC President Dwain Land and Nevad in 2016