



TREEDC 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Conservation Day On the Hill: Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) and TREEDC

TREEDC Partners with TEC for Conservation on the Hill



TEC DIRECTOR Jeff Barrie and MTAS Management Consultant Warren Nevad

This year TREEDC partnered with the Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) for participation for Conservation Day on the Hill. A total of 120 participants - from Memphis to Kingsport - joined other partner organizations at the Tennessee state capitol to speak with 85 legislators about protecting the environment and supporting the Tennessee Waste to Jobs Act.

Congratulations to TEC President Jimmie Walker, TEC Director Jeff Barrie and staff for organizing this event.

TREEDC Participates in Belmont University Panel: Engaging the Community

Earlier this year, TREEDC Member Belmont University conducted an informational panel involving ways for students to engage in assisting non-profit organizations in the Nashville area. This panel was presented to students in the class "Project Planning and Execution." The five (5) Belmont Honors Students pictured below decided to base their research project from a perceived lack of student engagements in hopes to connect students to volunteering opportunities in the greater Nashville community. In order to combat this issue, the students decided to bring their classmates into spaces to learn about ways they can get involved with volunteer work in the community. For more information click: ["Engaging the Community WellCore Series: How a Belmont Honors Collectiv" by Katelyn Anziano, Ella Buettner et al.](#)



Front row: Belmont Honor Students: Lauren Watts, Emerson Carrigan, Karolin Hanna, Katelyn Anziano and Ella Buettner. Back row: Jeff Overby, Belmont, Justin Munoz, Conexión, Ernie Rodriguez, Dream Streets, Emily Whitcomb, Soles 4 Souls, Warren Nevad, MTAS and Maggie Atchley, The Nashville Food Project.

Middle Tennessee Mayors Association Conducts Inaugural Meeting



March 27th Inaugural meeting of the Middle Tennessee Mayors Association – Upper Cumberland Chapter.

On March 27, 2025, Livingston Mayor Lori Burnett hosted the first Middle Tennessee Mayors Association (MTMA) meeting with the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS). The mission of MTMA is to promote the economic interests and public welfare of the municipalities of Middle Tennessee. Mayors from Hartsville-Trousdale County, Crossville, Liberty, Livingston, Monterey, Sparta, and Spring City attended the meeting. The topics discussed included MTAS training, budgets and infrastructure. The next meeting will be hosted by Sparta Mayor Jerry Lowrey later this summer.

This organization will provide mentoring for new mayors, provide an opportunity to network and discuss shared issues facing mayors around the state and be extremely valuable in providing outreach to the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) and MTAS.

New 1.4-MW Solar Array will Power the Tennessee Air National Guard Base



Chroma Energy Group announced the completion of a new 1.4-MW solar installation at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base in Louisville, Tennessee. The solar system, designed to enhance the base's energy resilience and offset energy costs, is part of a phased initiative to establish a microgrid at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base. The base will eventually add battery storage to the installation, further reducing the base's grid reliance. Once finished, the microgrid will enhance base operations during power outages and national emergencies, providing increased energy reliability for critical operations like air refueling missions. For more information click: [New 1.4-MW solar array will power Tennessee Air National Guard base](#),

Renewable Energy Best Practices: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE)



The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has announced the fourth round of [Renewables Ready Communities Awards](#) (RRCA). This round will support deployment of 1,836 megawatts (MW) of solar power projects – enough clean energy to power more than 1,830,000 Michigan households and businesses.

“Michigan’s Renewables Ready Communities Awards continue to support local communities and our prosperous, healthy, clean energy future,” said EGLE Director Phil Roos. “These awards will enable communities to invest where they see needs in infrastructure, public safety, and more, while accelerating the build-out of affordable green power to hundreds of thousands of Michigan residents.”

The RRCA awards program provides flexible funding to local units of government to help fund community improvements and additional services for their residents. Examples include local road and bridge repairs; public safety systems; park and playground enhancements; accessibility accommodations; and upgrades to grounds, energy for public buildings, and streetlights.

The program aims to speed the build-out of large-scale renewable energy projects such as wind, solar, and storage by providing these incentives for communities that permit and host the projects. RRCA grants are provided in addition to the tax revenue and community benefits already received by host communities. For more information click: [EGLE awards over \\$8.1 million for renewable energy projects throughout the state](#). This could be a program for Tennessee to explore in the future.

Seven States Power Corporation Receives USDA Funding to Support Solar and Storage in the Tennessee Valley

In January 2025, Seven States Power Corporation was awarded over \$439 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the Empowering Rural America (New ERA) Program. The funds will support 250 MW of solar energy and storage initiatives in the Tennessee Valley. The associated project will power nearly 113,000 homes each year, create over 100 jobs, and reduce emissions by nearly 291,000 tons annually. The new solar generation is expected to take up to three to five years for design finalization and full project deployment. For more information click : [USDA Continues Historic Commitment, Partnering with Rural Communities on Clean, Affordable Energy | Home.](#)

Industrial Training & Assessment Centers Implementation Grants



The U.S. DOE Industrial Training & Assessment Centers (ITAC) Program has re-opened [applications](#) for small and medium-sized manufacturing (SMM) firms to receive grants of up to \$300,000 per unique assessment recommendation from ITAC assessments. These grants will support projects to improve energy and material efficiency, increase productivity, and reduce emissions at SMMs. U.S. DOE has extended the application [deadline](#) and selection process for this program to be compliant with recent Executive Orders. The application deadline is to be determined, and U.S. DOE will provide a 30–60-day notice prior to closing the application portal. For more information click: [ITAC - Industrial Training & Assessment Centers Implementation Grants.](#)

Community Energy Innovation Prize Round 2

U.S. DOE recently announced the second round of the [Community Energy Innovation Prize](#), a multi-million-dollar competition supporting grassroots innovation, entrepreneurship, capacity building, and economic development.

One of the three available prize tracks is the Vehicles Ecosystem Track. In this track, a total prize pool of \$2.6 million will be awarded to up to 10 teams for supporting the deployment of clean transportation technologies in a manner that promotes access to clean transportation technologies, improves health and air quality outcomes, and lowers the burden of transportation impacts on community members.

Eligible entities include private entities (for-profits and nonprofits); nonfederal government entities such as states, counties, tribes, and municipalities; academic institutions; and individuals. [Applications](#) were due June 20.

TVA Draft Integrated Resource Plan Released

TVA released its draft [2025 Integrated Resource Plan](#) (IRP), a comprehensive plan that will shape TVA's energy system through 2050, and released the accompanying draft [Environmental Impact Statement](#) (EIS). The drafts result from months of planning, analysis, and active engagement with stakeholders, including TDEC OEP's own Ben Bolton, and the public to evaluate how TVA can continue to provide affordable, reliable, resilient, and increasingly cleaner energy for decades to come. The IRP considers resource needs as well as physical and operational constraints, risks, and proposed resource choices. The accompanying EIS analyzes potential environmental impacts to the Tennessee Valley that could result from the proposed actions in the IRP.

In Memoriam: Carlos Mayer: A Worldwide Solar Pioneer



Carlos Mayer center- dark jacket and former Rockwood Brillo Miller opens Plateau Park Solar in 2016

Sympathy is expressed in memory of Carlos Mayer, who passed away in January of 2025. Carlos was one of the early solar pioneers in Tennessee and assisted in the development of Plateau Park Solar, Chattanooga Solar Share and Fayetteville Solar Project. Back in 2014, Carlos and Tim Hayes of TREEDC Founding Member Vis Solis helped TREEDC launch its International Exchange Program by developing TREEDC's first solar project in the City of Puerto Princesa Philippines Municipal Complex. Carlos assisted TREEDC with emergency flashlight distribution for victims of Typhoon Yolanda and often gave presentations to students in Tennessee and the Philippines. He also provided educational tours with Barry Brown to our Philippine delegation visiting Tennessee in 2014. Carlos also developed many projects in Germany. He was a worldwide solar pioneer. Rest in peace, Carlos.

TREEDC President Land Reelected as Dunlap Mayor



TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land

Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) President Dwain Land was recently reelected as Mayor of Dunlap, Tennessee. Mayor Land previously served as Dunlap Mayor from 2009 to 2021. Mayor Land has served Dunlap with distinction, spearheading numerous projects that have enhanced the quality of life for residents. His accomplishments include the revitalization of downtown Dunlap, improvements in local infrastructure, and initiatives aimed at boosting the local economy. Check out Season 1 "Small Town America" on Roku channel which features the city's efforts to rebuild downtown and its country charm.

In addition to his role as Mayor, Dwain Land has been the President of the Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TREEDC) since 2015. Under his leadership, TREEDC has driven forward numerous clean energy and resiliency projects across the state and Asia, fostering economic development social responsibility and sustainability. Congratulations, President Land.

Chattanooga Receives Municipal League Award for Excellence in Energy Efficiency and Conservation



Several departments within the City of Chattanooga have worked together to improve the city's storm water system, resulting in decreased flooding risks, improving water quality, and becoming a national model for tackling stormwater issues.

For a city-wide approach to mitigating flood risk while improving local waterways and watersheds, the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) is proud to present the City of Chattanooga with an award for Excellence in Energy Efficiency and Conservation. The award was presented Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025, at the 85th Annual Conference of the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) held at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

As trees and native plants are important to stormwater management, the Chattanooga Public Works Department has partnered with the city's Forestry Department and the Natural Resources Division of the Parks and Outdoors Department to pass a new tree ordinance.

The city, public works department, Chattanooga EPB, and Reflection Riding also worked together to receive a \$6 million grant to increase tree canopy in disadvantaged neighborhoods. This will also bring down core neighborhood temperatures and improve health care outcomes as well as decrease energy usage in the community.

The public works department also started an anti-litter campaign to remove trash and debris from local waterways. The floating litter booms on Chattanooga Creek have kept more than 2.6 tons of trash out of the Tennessee River since May 2023.

To get citizens involved, the City of Chattanooga has created two programs that provide both residents and businesses owners with the opportunity to aid in stormwater

mitigation. Educational resources and financial incentives for the use of native plants, rain gardens, rain barrels, and other eco-friendly practices are available to homeowners through the RainSmart Yards and Rewards program and non-residential landowners through the Green Grants program.

Technology has also been employed to allow both public works and emergency responders to arrive on scenes more quickly and protect citizens. With flash flooding being the deadliest type of flooding, the city's new Automated Flood Warning System instantly closes flood-prone streets to traffic, preventing people from crossing dangerous roadways.

The automated gate system includes flashing lights on either side of the high-water area and allows real-time data collection, analysis and management as well as alarm and notification that gates have been closed. Prior to this system, public works employees were often put at risk having to manually put in barriers, often in the dark or after hours.

Data gathered at the site is also helping the city better understand issues related to flooding as well as forecasting where responses may need to be concentrated during flood events.

Beyond amazing work on stormwater and water quality, the Chattanooga Public Works Department has renewed its American Public Works Association (APWA) accreditation, one of only two in the state and 147 in the country to receive this national designation. Congratulations to the City of Chattanooga.

Middle Tennessee Mayors Association Conducts 2nd Meeting



MTAS Executive Director Margaret Norris speaks at the MTMA lunch in Sparta on July 10, 2025

Sparta Mayor Jerry Lowery recently hosted the second Middle Tennessee Mayors Association (MTMA) meeting with the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) on July 10, 2025. Mayors from 17 area cities attended this luncheon meeting provided by the City of Sparta, Tennessee. Attendees heard informative updates from MTAS Executive Director Margaret Norris, Tennessee Municipal League (TML) Executive Director Anthony Haynes, MTAS Training Program Manager Johanna Owenby and Upper Cumberland Development Council (UCDD) Deputy Director Tommy Lee.

Gary Cohen, Executive Director of Tennessee Waste to Jobs (TWTJ) explained to the mayors the key elements of the Waste to Jobs Act. This piece of legislation is aimed at promoting waste reduction and recycling efforts across the state. The act encourages businesses to create jobs by investing in waste management and recycling technologies. It provides incentives for companies to develop innovative solutions for waste management, with the goal of creating economic opportunities and reducing environmental impact. This act also supports local economies by encouraging the use of recycled materials in manufacturing and other industries.

The mayors gave updates about their communities. The topics discussed included MTAS training, budgets and infrastructure. Officers for the inaugural year will be President Livingston Mayor Lori Burnett; 2) Vice President Jerry Lowery; and 3) Fayetteville Mayor Donna Hartman. This organization will provide mentoring for new mayors, provide an opportunity to network and discuss shared issues facing mayors around the state and be extremely valuable in providing outreach to TML and MTAS. The mission of MTMA is to promote the economic interests and public welfare of the municipalities of Middle Tennessee.



TWTJA Director Gary Cohen addresses the mayors

TREEDC Member PATH Partners with Nashville Electric



Streetlighting conversion results in Nashville

PATH is proud to partner with Nashville Electric Service (NES) and Metro Nashville to lead a transformative, multi-phase streetlight retrofit across the city. This ambitious project involves converting over 55,000 public streetlights to energy-efficient LED fixtures—supporting Nashville’s Vision Zero initiative to create brighter, safer roadways.

As of March 31, 2025, more than 23,000 lights have been upgraded, resulting in an estimated 1.37 million kWh in monthly energy reduction and over \$116,000 in monthly savings. With approximately 25,573 installations completed to date, the project is well underway and will continue through 2025 and beyond.

Private and security lighting is not included in this retrofit, which focuses solely on public infrastructure within Metro boundaries. To learn more and read project updates, visit nashvillestreetlights.com

Southeast Energy Policy Forum



BAKER SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The [Southeast Energy Policy Forum](#) took place **August 5-6, 2025**, in Knoxville. The Forum was hosted by the Center for Energy, Transportation, and Environmental Policy, housed at the Howard H. Baker Jr. School of Public Policy and Public Affairs at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. It convenes industry leaders, nonprofits, ORNL, TVA, and government officials for accessible policy analysis, insights on the policy process, and policy-centered technical discussions about emerging technologies.

The 2025 Forum fostered discussions around four key questions:

- What can we expect from the new administration?
- How much energy demand growth should we expect?
- How can we spur the infrastructure development necessary to meet this demand growth?
- What is energy security, and how does international trade affect our energy system?

USDA Announces New Presidential Appointee to Serve Rural Tennessee



Patrick Jaynes was recently appointed by President Donald Trump to serve as the USDA Rural Development State Director for the state of Tennessee. Director Jaynes will

implement President Trump's America First agenda at USDA Rural Development, ensuring the needs of America's farmers, ranchers, and producers remain a top priority.

Before being named State Director for USDA Rural Development, Jaynes worked as Senior Consultant for Nashville-based Jigsaw Consulting, where he engaged in local, state, and federal government relations. Prior to his work with Jigsaw, Patrick served for 18 years as Deputy Chief of Staff and State Director with U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander.

State Directors serve as the Chief Executive Officer of USDA Rural Development in the states and territories and are tasked with leading teams to carry out the mission of Rural Development to the benefit of all rural Americans. In conjunction with the guidance and support of the National Office, State Directors are responsible for advancing the key priorities and initiatives of the Presidential Administration, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development. State Directors also provide key leadership to foster a mission-driven, accountable, and high-performing workforce focused on operational excellence, public trust, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources.

TVA Offerings for Business and Industry



[TVA EnergyRight](#) offers various types of support for business and industry partners, including energy efficiency incentives, revitalization programs, and strategic energy management. TVA provides no-cost [energy assessments](#) to customers with an electrical demand of 1,000 kW and greater to identify and quantify incentive-eligible energy efficiency projects. For industrial customers with an electrical demand of 3,500kW and greater, TVA and its LPCs offer the [Strategic Energy Management](#) program, which lasts two years and helps qualifying industrial customers increase profitability and achieve sustainability goals by reducing energy use and lowering carbon emissions. The program provides energy performance modeling, energy mapping, onsite engineering studies, and individualized monthly coaching, all tailored to help eliminate energy waste.

EPA Community Change Grant Program

EPA announced \$2 billion in funding from the Inflation Reduction Act for the Community Change Grants Program. Funding is available for projects that deploy clean energy, reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges. These place-based investments will be focused on community-driven initiatives to be responsive to community and stakeholder input.

There are two separate tracks available:

- Track I: Community-Driven Investments for Change, which is expected to award approximately \$1.96 billion for 150 projects at \$10-20 million each.
- Track II: Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance, which is expected to award approximately \$40 million for 20 projects at \$1-3 million each.

Eligible applicants include partnerships between two community-based non-profit organizations and partnerships between a community-based non-profit organization and a local government, institution of higher education, or federally recognized tribe. View the Notice of Funding Opportunity and the Grants.gov page for additional information. Applications for this were due **November 21**.

TREEDC Conducts Training at The University of Tennessee MTAS Rural Community Development Institute



Students and instructors at the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) RC DI

On October 14, the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development (TREEDC) members Tennessee Department of Office of Energy Programs, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and Greeneville/Greene County Emergency Management presented informative updates at the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) Rural Community Development Institute (RCDI). A total of 20 municipal officials representing 8 cities learned more about how community resiliency and renewable energy interact with sound rural economic development projects. Congratulations to Dr. Chris Shults for organizing a very successful training institute for MTAS.



From left to right- UT-MTAS Grants and Research Director Dr. Chris Shults, TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land and MTAS Management Consultant Warren Nevad

Work Begins at Cookeville's New Energy Department Facility



From left: Peter Metts and Patrick Greer of AEI; Tim Huddleston of W&O Construction; Carl Haney, Energy Department director; James Mills, Cookeville city manager; Vice Mayor Luke Eldridge; Mayor Laurin Wheaton; Councilman Eric Walker; Councilman Chad Gilbert; and Joe Nichols and Phillip Staton of Clinton Engineering.

TREEDC Member City of Cookeville has broken ground on a new Energy Department headquarters, a \$23.3 million project that will consolidate the City's Electric and Gas divisions into one location. City officials said the move will improve efficiency, strengthen customer service and generate long-term savings for ratepayers. The headquarters will be built on city-owned property along West Davis Road, next to the current Energy Division facility. Once construction is complete, the current Electric Division building will be renovated and incorporated into the project to form a single campus housing both gas and electric services.

Cookeville Mayor Laurin Wheaton said the project reflects the City's commitment to modernizing utilities. "Today we are making history once again with the groundbreaking of the new Energy Department headquarters," Wheaton said. "This project reflects our city's commitment to not only improving and expanding our facilities, but also to delivering long-term benefits for our ratepayers and increasing the efficiency of our Gas and Electric Department. I could not be prouder of the vision and hard work that brought us to this moment." Congratulations to Cookeville!

TREEDC Member City of Maryville Flip the Switch for New Solar Facility



On August 28, 2025, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), DENSO Manufacturing, Silicon Ranch, and TREEDC Member City of Maryville recently flipped on a new solar facility at DENSO's site in Maryville. The 12.82-acre energy infrastructure project will produce energy for DENSO's operations and support the local power grid. The site includes over 4,000 solar panels and is expected to produce approximately 3,400 MWh of energy per year.

Maryville Mayor Andy White stated that the project was a partnership with TVA, DENSO, and Silicon Ranch and highlights the city's commitment to a cleaner, more sustainable future. For more information click here: denso.com/us-ca/home/news/newsroom/2025/20250828-01/

IPS/TREEDC Intern Omar Watkins Completes Internship



From left to right: Algood City Administrator Keith Morrison and IPS Intern Omar Watkins

Omar Watkins, Tennessee Tech University political science student recently completed the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service (IPS) summer internship program. The purpose is to help students determine whether a career in city or county management is the right fit for them and to help students decide what field within public administration is best for them. The program is open to students in public administration and other majors and exposes them to a variety of fields related to local governments services.

The internship program is also designed to offer graduate students and undergraduate seniors interested in working with local government an opportunity to study, observe and participate in a dynamic internship experience. Mr. Watkins assisted TREEDC member cities Algood, Liberty and Spring City with projects relating to parks and recreation, community development and city manager recruitment. He also assisted TREEDC with research and conference planning.



Liberty Mayor Audrey Martin and IPS Intern Omar Watkins

Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies



Appalachian
Regional
Commission

The Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC) [Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies](#) (ARISE) aims to drive large-scale, regional economic transformation through collaborative projects. The funding opportunity seeks to strengthen Appalachian business and industry and grow and support the development of new opportunities. Projects will be funded up to \$500,000 for planning projects and \$10 million for implementation projects. All proposed projects must align with at least one of the ARC's five strategic investment goals:

1. Building Appalachian Businesses
2. Building Appalachia's Workforce Ecosystem
3. Building Appalachian's Infrastructure
4. Building Regional Culture and Tourism
5. Building Community Leaders and Capacity

Eligible entities include local development districts, state and local government, institutions of higher education, and public or private nonprofit organizations and associations. [Pre-applications](#) were due **December 5**.

Southeast Renewable Energy Summit



Infocast hosted the [Southeast Renewable Energy Summit](#) on **November 3-5** in Atlanta, GA. The event brought together state policymakers, industrial customers, utility executives, financiers, and renewable developers to tackle current renewable energy challenges. The summit provides definitive updates on project opportunities and execution across key Southeastern states, including North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Attendees will learn how increasing demand has led to procurement and investment opportunities, the impact of state legislative and regulatory priorities on purchase power agreement negotiations, and how utilities across the region are planning to meet near-term service obligations.

Tennessee Environmental Council Host to Solid Waste Policy Forum



Since 1973, the Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) has been convening community gatherings to explore solutions to critical environmental issues facing Tennessee. The purpose of this year's Policy & Practice Forum is to foster a constructive community dialogue about solid waste solutions, with a focus on diverting valuable materials from landfills and promoting a circular economy in Tennessee. The goal of this day is to foster a productive dialogue to identify the most effective and sustainable solid waste solutions that benefit all Tennesseans—the economy, communities, and the environment. TEC will convene industry leaders, policymakers (including the confirmed opening keynote speaker, Chairman Shane Reeves), public officials, and solution-focused organizations to address the state's growing landfill crisis.

TAEBC Event: Opportunities in Energy



The Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council (TAEBC) hosted its annual [Opportunities in Energy](#) event on November 19 in downtown Knoxville. The event brought together TAEBC members and stakeholders to discuss all new and upcoming “opportunities” in the advanced energy sector, including trends, businesses, technologies, and other exciting developments.

Tennessee Clean Fuels and National Association of Fleet Administrators (NAFA) to Host Alternative Fuel and Advanced Vehicle Technologies Event in Nashville

Tennessee Clean Fuels and NAFA Tennessee hosted an alternative fuels and advanced vehicle technologies event on **November 14** in Nashville. The event included panel discussions on the use of alternative fuels and advanced vehicle technologies in Tennessee and a showcase of alternative fuel vehicles. Speakers will represent organizations including Tennessee Clean Fuels, NAFA Tennessee, EPB Chattanooga, and the Cities of Chattanooga and Knoxville.

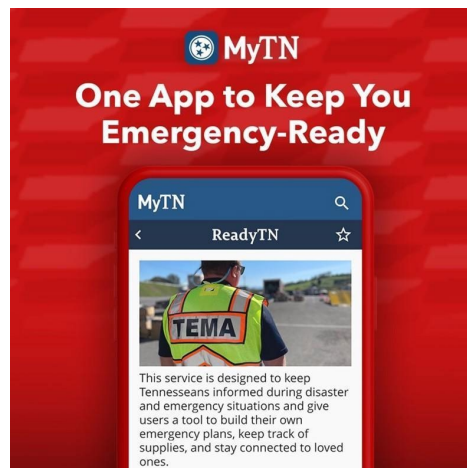


The State of U.S. Energy Factsheets



The [Business Council for Sustainable Energy](#) and the [Clean Energy Business Network](#) recently released [The State of U.S. Energy](#), which provides a current view of the benefits of energy investments in 14 states. The Tennessee factsheet highlights energy projects driving economic growth in the state and policy solutions to meet growing energy demand. It also includes facts on the state's generation mix, investment, jobs, and project case studies from energy businesses. The factsheet notes that \$20 billion in capital expenditure has been invested in energy and manufacturing projects since June 2022, and that nearly 7% of the state's employment is in the energy industry. [Download the Tennessee factsheet here.](#)

Personal Preparedness: MyTN App replaces ReadyTN



The ReadyTN app is being phased out and will no longer be updated or available in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. However, the MyTN app includes available services and resources for the State of Tennessee and now includes personal preparedness resources from TEMA, including emergency preparedness, response, and recovery information for Tennesseans.

The app displays real-time weather and emergency alert messages, as well as maps of open Red Cross Shelters, Smartway maps of real-time traffic conditions from the Tennessee Department of Transportation, and local emergency management contact information. MyTN has resources to help individuals build emergency kits, create emergency plans for themselves and their families, and learn about the emergency hazards Tennesseans face.

[Learn more about MyTN and download the app here](#)

TREEDC Hosts Annual Conference/Awards Reception



From left to right: Maris Masellis, Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) Communications Dir, The Honorable State Senator /Former Oak hill Mayor Heidi Campbell, Warren Nevad, MTAS Consultant and Jeff Barrie, TEC Executive Director received awards at TREEDC Annual Conference

The Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) partnered with Tennessee Tech University (TTU) and the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) to host its annual conference and awards reception in Cookeville, Tennessee. Dr. Michael Aikens, Tennessee Tech University (TTU) Assistant Vice President for Economic Development and Dr. Dennis Tennant, TTU Director of Professional Studies planned and organized the event which featured an update on smart distribution grid modeling from Dr. Ali Arzani of Tennessee Tech University Center for Energy Systems Research. Attendees introduced themselves and shared progress regarding their projects. Tennessee State Senator Heidi Campbell provided the keynote presentation regarding the benefits of Tennessee Waste to Jobs Act. The awards reception was sponsored by PATH Company, Tennessee American, Local Government Corporation, MTAS, TTU and Lightwave Solar.

Presentations were given regarding local future opportunities in infrastructure & economic development/energy by Upper Cumberland Development Director Mark Farley, Greater Nashville Regional Council Director Michael Skipper, and Dr. Janis Kyser, Sequatchie County/Dunlap Chamber of Commerce Director. The afternoon session consisted of presentations regarding best practices in community resiliency from Dr. Satish Mahajan, TTU Director for Energy Systems, Ripley Mayor Craig Fitzhugh and Dr. Kendra Abkowitz, Nashville Director of Sustainability and Resilience. Solar Alliance President Jon Hamilton

and Dr. Bruce Guillaume gave an overview of the Maryville College Solar Plus Demonstration Project.

During the conference, President Dwain Land presented the following annual awards:

- 1) TREEDC Environmental Legacy Award: Gil Hough, TenneSEIA Director
- 2) TREEDC Environmental Legacy Award: Jeff Barrie, Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) Executive Director
- 3) TREEDC Champion Award: Maris Masellis, TEC Communications Director
- 4) TREEDC Champion Award: Omar Watkins, Tennessee Tech University Student
- 5) TREEDC Champion Award: Jennifer Ponder, Tennessee American Business Development
- 6) TREEDC Excellence in Rural Economic Development: Dr. Janis Kyser, Sequatchie County/Dunlap Chamber of Commerce Director
- 7) TREEDC Excellence in Community Resiliency: Dr. Michael Aikens, Tennessee Tech University
- 8) Dr. Joe Johnson Legacy Award: Warren Nevad, MTAS Consultant



From left to right: TREEDC President Dwain Land, Gil Hough, TenneSEIA and Warren Nevad, MTAS

TREEDC Launches 2026 Membership Campaign



Dr. Hannah Wright-Smith, UT Institute of Agriculture Director of Stakeholder Engagement and TREEDC President Land

TREEDC Chairman/Senior Vice Chancellor and Senior Vice President of the UT Institute of Agriculture Dr. Keith Carver and TREEDC President Dwain Land have officially launched our 2026 membership campaign. The TREEDC board has kept the 2026 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, business matchmaking and developmental opportunities, sponsorships of various events and participation in our international exchange program.

During 2025, TREEDC hosted an annual conference and awards program with Tennessee Tech University. We also worked with various local governments on determining the feasibility of streetlight conversions to LED. Spring City started an LED conversion program and Livingston commenced its Energy Infrastructure Project. TREEDC also partnered with the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) with its Rural Community Development Initiative Program to strengthen rural economies through outreach and resiliency. TREEDC West Tennessee Coordinator Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic became President of the Tennessee Municipal League (TML). We also assisted TML and MTAS with informational workshops for its members and creation of the Middle Tennessee Mayors Association.

2026 promises to be another exciting year. Thanks to our 17 years of cultivating and building relationships among our clean energy stakeholders, we will continue working closely with our members to promote renewable energy with economic development. Please consider becoming a member or renewing your annual membership today.

TREEDC is a 501 C 3 charitable organization. For more information regarding 2026 membership opportunities click <http://treedc.us/membership/index.html>

EV Charging Stations Opened in Sequatchie County



Sequatchie County Executive Keith Cartwright

Two fast EV charging stations were recently installed at Sequatchie County/Dunlap Chamber of Commerce. These chargers are part of the East Charge TN Network, a statewide initiative in partnership with Tennessee Valley Authority, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and Seven States Power Corporation. These partnerships work to make long-distance EV travel easier across Tennessee and beyond.

TREEDC Member Sequatchie County Executive Keith Cartwright and TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land agreed the chargers not only benefit locals and visitors with electric vehicles but will give travelers the opportunity to shop while charging their vehicles and supporting downtown Dunlap.

Sequatchie County 's Propane School Buses Have Arrived

Two new propane school buses will be used during morning and afternoon routes. Each Bluebird bus cost \$159,974 plus an additional \$10,800 for air conditioning, Grant funding for the buses totaled \$ 62,000. Propane gas buses have fewer emissions and are much quieter. According to Scotty Holland, Sequatchie County School's facilities and transportation supervisor, propane is less expensive than diesel fuel. Congratulations to Sequatchie County!

TREEDC Member Lightwave Solar Announces Solar Tax Credit Opportunities for Businesses and Non-Profits



While the 30% residential solar tax credit has ended for homeowners, the 30% federal commercial solar tax credit is still available – but only for a limited time. This remaining incentive represents a significant opportunity for businesses and non-profits to reduce energy costs and invest in long-term sustainability.

For more information about commercial solar opportunities click here: [The Clock Is Ticking on Commercial Solar Incentives](#)

Mark Your Calendar: March 31, 2026



Mark your calendar for TAEBC's Annual Meeting on March 31. This virtual meeting will gather TAEBC members and stakeholders across the state to celebrate our growing advanced energy economy. For more information click here: [Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council — Championing Tennessee's advanced energy economy](#)

Mark Your Calendar: September 2-3, 2026



The 2026 conference will be held at the Chattanooga Hotel, 1201 Broad Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402. The focus of the Tennessee Valley Solar Conference is to bring together people who are interested in growing the solar and storage market in the Tennessee Valley to discuss strategies, market trends and policies that impact solar and industry. Attendees will participate in in-depth and forward-looking discussions on TVA policy and process and evolving technical opportunities facing the industry in the Tennessee Valley region. For more information click : [Conference – TenneSEIA Solar Association](#).

Mark Your Calendar: May 13-15, 2026



The [Tennessee Environmental Network Show of the South](#) (TENSOS) will be held in Chattanooga, **May 13-15, 2026**. The three-day event will host environmental professionals seeking to exchange knowledge and share ideas. The educational program

offers over seventy unique courses in nine educational breakout sessions, allowing attendees to design their own personalized curriculum.

Save the Date: TDEC OEP K-12 Energy Camps for Educators



OEP's K-12 Energy Education Program is excited to announce that [Energy Camps for Educators](#) will return in Summer 2026. These immersive, hands-on professional development experiences are designed to equip teachers with tools, resources, and inspiration to bring energy education into the classroom. Whether new to energy topics or looking to deepen your expertise, these camps offer engaging content, expert-led sessions, and practical classroom applications.

Camp Locations & Dates:

- [Montgomery Bell State Park](#): **June 9-11, 2026**
- [Fall Creek Falls State Park](#): **June 16-18, 2026**
- [Paris Landing State Park](#): **July 14-16, 2026**

To apply for Energy Camp, complete the K-12 Energy Education Camp Application [available here](#) and email the finished application to Angela.McGee@tn.gov and Alisha.Brewer@tn.gov. Applications are due **April 3, 2026**.

Save the Date for the Tennessee Smart Mobility Expo

The [Tennessee Smart Mobility Expo](#), presented by [TennSMART](#) in partnership with the State (TDEC, TDOT, and TNECD) and [Tennessee Clean Fuels](#), will take place at GEODIS Park in Nashville on **May 12**. The Expo is a celebration of the latest transportation technologies, innovations, and research that make Tennessee an emerging leader in mobility solutions. With thought-provoking sessions, tech demonstrations, and networking, the expo celebrates the state's position in automotive manufacturing and as a generator of smart mobility solutions.

Starting in 2023, the Smart Mobility Expo 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 attended by leaders from vehicle manufacturers and suppliers, Tennessee-based research institutions and universities, fleet operators, utilities, municipalities, state agencies, and the advanced transportation ecosystem, fostering valuable connections.

Sign up for the [email list here](#) to stay up to date. Registration and a detailed agenda will be released soon.

U.S. DOE Announces Reorganization



U.S. DOE [recently announced](#) an organizational realignment, reflecting federal administrative priorities. An updated organizational chart is [available here](#). Additionally, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory has been renamed the [National Laboratory of the Rockies](#) (NLR) to reflect the broader vision for the lab's applied energy research and to honor its location in Colorado.

Energy Storage Innovations Prize



The U.S. DOE Office of Electricity [recently announced](#) that it has reopened the [Energy Storage Innovations Prize Round 2](#). The one-phase competition is a call for new, innovative, and promising energy storage solutions to address niche markets and to grow a community of energy storage innovators. The competition offers a total of \$300,000 in prizes.

Round 2 focuses on less conventional use cases (e.g., remote communities, extreme operating conditions) and innovative energy storage technology solutions, across all duration scales, to advance the market landscape. Individuals, academia, non-federal government entities, small businesses, start-ups, entrepreneurs, and other inventors in the U.S. working on nascent or emerging energy storage innovations that address less conventional use cases are eligible to apply. [Applications](#) are due by **March 13, 2026**.

TVA EnergyRight Launches Resilience 360 Program for Dispatchable On-site Power for Businesses



TVA EnergyRight recently launched [Resilience 360](#), a program that utilizes vetted, third-party developers to install, operate, and maintain backup generators on-site for businesses. Backup generators support business operations during outages and during grid peak demand. Participants will work out an agreement with the generator installer and operator, as well as TVA, to cover project costs. Whenever a qualified resiliency event occurs, the system automatically activates backup power, allowing the business to continue operations. [Learn more about Resilience 360](#).

TDEC Seeks Nominations for 2026 Governor's Environmental Awards



The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation recently announced the 2026 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards Program. This process honors

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 2026 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

For more information, click here: [website](#).