



TREEDC



JULY NEWSLETTER

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



Officials flip the switch in a ceremony to officially open the first of three new solar farms in the Maryville area. In addition to helping local companies keep their green pledges, the farms will have a positive impact on power bills for local residents. (Photo by DENSO)

By leveraging private and public investment, TREEDC Member City Maryville has worked with local energy companies and businesses to build a solar farm that will ensure clean energy generation from one of its leading manufacturers and renew commitments from area businesses to the community. The city of Maryville partnered with DENSO, Silicon Ranch, and TVA on a new solar farm that will align green energy technology priorities for the city, a major employer, and local utilities. (Photo by Maryville)

In recognition of its commitment to fostering development supported by green energy technologies—now and in the future—the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) is proud to honor Maryville for Excellence in Energy Efficiency and Conservation.

In August of last year, officials with the city of Maryville joined representatives from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Nashville-based solar company Silicon Ranch, and local manufacturer DENSO to ceremonially “flip the switch” on the first of three major solar energy farms in the area. For more information click [here](#): By leveraging private and public investment, the city of Maryville has worked with local energy companies and businesses to build a solar farm that will ensure clean energy generation from one of its leading manufacturers and renew commitments from area businesses to the community.

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A member of the Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council since 2008, Maryville has become a model city for showing how promoting renewable energy goes hand-in-hand with economic development. Congratulations, Maryville!

TREEDC Member City Algood Successfully Recruits Light Electric Vehicle Manufacturing Development

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee, Deputy Gov. and Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Stuart C. McWhorter and LEV (Light Electric Vehicles) Manufacturing officials announced today the company will establish its first Tennessee facility in Putnam County to serve as its primary U.S. assembly, logistics and fulfillment center.

LEV Manufacturing, part of the Life EV Group, will create 288 jobs and invest \$7 million in Algood, Tennessee, as the company acquires a 100,000 square-foot production and distribution facility at 2415 Burton Branch Road. The location will become a central hub for the distribution and new assembly of Rad Power Bikes products following Life EV Group’s recent acquisition of Rad Power Bikes’ assets.

The new facility is expected to play a key role in supporting the company’s multi-brand platform and a U.S.-based manufacturing strategy, including partnerships with Tennessee’s research institutions to better support product innovation, battery technology, advanced manufacturing processes and workforce development initiatives. Congratulations, Algood!



Algood Mayor Lisa Fowler and City Administrator Keith Morrison are joined by Putnam County officials in announcement of new manufacturing facility

TENASKA, TVA SIGN AGREEMENT FOR 225 MW BATTERY PROJECT IN HAWKINS COUNTY, TN

Recently, Bobwhite Energy Storage, an affiliate of Tenaska, signed a 20 year energy storage agreement with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for a 225 MW / 900 MWh project. Located in East Tennessee, the Bobwhite project is expected to begin construction in 2027 and reach commercial operation by late 2029.



The project is part of a broader effort by TVA to strengthen grid reliability and manage peak demand. With the addition of Bobwhite, TVA has now signed 425 MW of standalone energy storage system (BESS) capacity across its seven state service territory. The agency aims to use these resources to integrate more diverse energy sources while maintaining affordable power costs. This system provides TVA with flexible capacity by storing lower-cost energy during off-peak periods and delivering it when demand is high. It will also provide grid-forming capabilities—fast frequency response, regulation, and operating reserves—to support growth in advanced manufacturing, data centers, and industrial investment across the Valley. A similar energy storage project will be developed in Alabama.

Construction and operation are expected to provide a boost to the local economy in Hawkins County. The \$300 million investment will create approximately 75 jobs during peak construction. Tenaska and TVA indicated that the project will prioritize skilled workers from the surrounding communities and create opportunities for local businesses to provide goods and services.

Tenaska, an independent energy company based in Omaha, Nebraska, has a development portfolio that includes 7,000 MW of battery storage. The company has developed approximately 14,000 MW of natural gas and renewable power projects to date.

TVA RELEASES PRELIMINARY INTEGRATED RESOURCES PLAN



The Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) is a long-term study that provides strategic direction on how TVA could meet customer demand for electricity over the next 20+ years, continuing to provide low-cost, reliable, and resilient electricity to the residents and businesses across the Valley region.

Continued on next page...

TVA has refreshed IRP assumptions to align with the key changes in the electric utility industry. For example, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act and a number of executive orders and regulatory actions impact the costs, availability, and requirements related to certain resource types. In addition, the actual and forecasted electricity demand in the Tennessee Valley region continues to increase, primarily due to population growth and data center growth. The plan evaluates how TVA and its local power company partners, including many Tennessee municipal utilities—will meet rapidly growing electricity demand through 2050. TVA is examining a mix of new nuclear, natural gas, solar, battery storage, and other resources. Data-center growth is a major driver, with TVA estimating data centers could double their share of industrial load by 2030.

The Final IRP recommendations and EIS will be shared at the Board Meeting in August 2026 for the Board's consideration. For more information click here: [Integrated Resource Plan 2026 - Volume 1](#)

TVA OFFERINGS FOR BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY



[TVA EnergyRight](#) provides a range of support services for business and industry partners, including energy efficiency incentives, revitalization programs, and strategic energy management solutions. 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.

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 periods of peak grid 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](#).

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY TO LEAD RESILIENT ENERGY CONSORTIUM

The Resilient Energy Technology and Infrastructure (RETI) Consortium led by West Virginia University in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, and more than 60 regional partners — will receive up to \$160 million over the next decade from the National Science Foundation to develop innovative technologies to address the nation's energy needs.

RETI was selected as one of 12 U.S. National Science Foundation Regional Innovation Engines award recipients, the NSF announced on Tuesday. The funding is projected to generate 21,000 jobs, 150 startups, and more than \$1 billion in economic growth for the region. The NSF RETI Engine is located at the WVU Innovation Corp. site in Morgantown with a branch office at the Energy Innovation Center in Pittsburgh. For more information about RETI click here:[West Virginia University to Lead Resilient Energy Consortium](#)



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE SELECTED FOR ECOCAR INNOVATION CHALLENGE

The University of Tennessee (UT) has been selected to participate in the [EcoCAR Innovation Challenge](#) a four-year collegiate competition to develop next-generation, energy-efficient, and intelligent mobility solutions using emerging technologies. Administered by Argonne National Laboratory, the EcoCAR Innovation Challenge is the 15th installment of the Advanced Vehicle Technology Competition series. The challenge aspires to push innovation and develop the future automotive workforce. UT was one of 20 universities from across North America selected for the latest installment of the competition, which runs from the fall of 2026 through the spring of 2030

HOW TRAFFIC CAMS AIDED A UTAH CITY'S FLOOD EVACUATION

Traffic cameras installed in Beaver, Utah, just four days before a devastating flash flood provided emergency managers with real-time data, enabling them to track the debris flow as it developed. The strategically placed cameras allowed officials to monitor the flood's exact progress down Beaver Canyon, giving them about 75 minutes to evacuate a neighborhood. Local leaders credit the early warning system, funded by state disaster resources, with preventing potential loss of life during the sudden event.

For more information click here: [How cameras helped warn Beaver residents before Utah's devastating flash flood](#)

MILAN, ITALY DRAWS HEAT FROM EQUINIX DATA CENTERS



Equinix's ML5 data center forms part of the company's Settimo Milanese campus, where waste heat from servers is set to be recovered for Milan's district heating network

A data center in [Milan](#) might soon provide heat to some of the city's busiest [buildings](#). Equinix and A2A have created a system that collects waste heat from servers and sends it into Milan's district heating network.

Equinix and A2A are using waste heat from a Milan data center campus to heat 21,000 homes through one of Europe's largest heat recovery projects

The network already supplies heat to places like the Duomo and Palazzo Reale. The companies say that once the project is running it could be one of the [biggest data center heat export projects](#) in Europe outside the Nordic countries. For more information click here: [Milan Draws Heat From Equinix Data Centres | Sustainability Magazine](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR TREEDC CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 12, 2026



Jeff Barrie, CEO of Tennessee Environmental Council receives TREEDC Award at 2025 Conference

TREEDC will hold its annual conference and awards reception on November 12, 2026 at 37 Cedar Restaurant and Bar located at 37 N. Cedar Avenue, Cookeville TN 38501. We are excited to be partnering again with the Tennessee Tech University Center for Rural Innovation and School of Professional Studies along with the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service.

The conference will include presentations from municipal sustainability professionals, energy services providers, data centers' economic impacts, rural economic development initiatives and updates from TDEC Office of Energy Programs and USDA Rural Development funding opportunities. More information and registration details will be provided in early September.

For sponsorship and presentation opportunities, please call TREEDC President Dwain Land at 423-718-3436 or email at mayorland@gmail.com.

MARK : 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](#).

SAVE THE DATE: OPPORTUNITIES IN ENERGY

The Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council (TAEBC) will host several upcoming events in August along with the annual Opportunities in Energy event on November 17 in downtown Knoxville. The event will bring together TNEAC members and stakeholders to discuss all new and upcoming “opportunities” in the advanced energy sector, including trends, businesses, technologies, and other exciting developments. Click here for TAEBC’s event schedule: [Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council — TAEBC Event Calendar - Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council](#)



SOUTHEAST ENERGY POLICY FORUM

The Southeast Energy Policy Forum will take place August 5-6 in Knoxville. The Forum is 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 Forum will foster 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?



BAKER SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC POLICY
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TDEC ANNOUNCES ROUND 2 AWARDS FOR FAST CHARGE TN NETWORK

TDEC Office of Energy Programs recently awarded approximately \$2.7 million in total grant funding from the state's Volkswagen Diesel Settlement Environmental Mitigation Trust (VW Settlement EMT). The four grantees will use the funds to install direct current fast charging (DCFC) infrastructure for electric vehicles (EVs) along prioritized interstate or major highway corridors across the state.

The projects will involve the installation of 22 charging units at eight sites. The program is part of a partnership between TDEC and TVA to develop a statewide EV fast-charging network to power the growth of EVs across the state.

Selected grantees include:

- PowerUp America
- Shorepower Technologies
- Town of Thompson's Station
- Universal EV

Collectively, these four entities will complete projects to address each of highway segments 1 through 8 as shown by the interactive infrastructure gap map released along with the solicitation for proposals in 2025. This map sought to highlight prioritized stretches of Tennessee's highway network still in need of DCFC infrastructure projects that are not covered by current buildout plans under the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program.

Since the announcement of Round 1 awards in 2022, the Fast Charge TN Network Program partnership has facilitated the completion of DCFC sites at 45 locations across the state as of July 2026, with several additional Round 1 projects still in development.

The VW Settlement EMT allocation complements the state's use of its allocated funds under the NEVI Formula Program, which is funded by the federal infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO ACCELERATE EV DEPLOYMENT



Charging Smart supports local governments in setting and achieving impactful EV readiness goals. Funded by the U.S. DOE, Changing Smart offers free technical assistance to help local governments adopt policies, practices, and incentives that exemplify recognized best practices for enabling efficient EV charges expansion. The actions to achieve designation (also referred to as “criteria”) include tasks such as reviewing zoning requirements for EV charging installation, coordinating with utilities to launch or expand EV charging incentive programs, and installing public EV charging. [View the program guide here.](#)