



TREEDC



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

**Mark Your Calendars for TREEDC Conference on November 13,
2025**



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

The 10th annual TREEDC (www.treedc.us) conference will be held at Tennessee Tech University (TTU) on Thursday November 13th at Cookeville-Putnam County Chamber of Commerce located in Leslie Town Center. Confirmed speakers include Tennessee State Senator Heidi Campbell, Tennessee USDA Rural Development Director Patrick Jaynes, Ripley Mayor Craig Fitzhugh, Electric Power Board of Chattanooga VP Evann Freeman, and Nashville Sustainability Director Dr. Kendra Abkowicz. We will also have a panel confirmation with Mark Farley, Michael Skipper and Chuck Hammonds representing Upper Cumberland Development, Greater Nashville Regional Council and Southeast Tennessee Development District, respectively. An afternoon networking/awards reception will follow. Reception will be held at 37 Cedar Restaurant. Please see attached agenda. The Tennessee Tech University registration site is located on the agenda or can be accessed here: [TREEDC 2025 Conference](#).

Conference sponsors include the University of Tennessee (UT) Municipal Technical Advisory Service, UT County Technical Assistance Service, PATH Lightwave Solar, Local Government Corporation, and Tennessee American Water.

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) RCDI

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.

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 MARYVILLE FLIPS 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 WILKINS 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

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 are due December 5.

SOUTHEAST RENEWABLE ENERGY SUMMIT

Infocast will host the Southeast Renewable Energy Summit on November 3-5 in Atlanta, GA. The event brings 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 TO HOST SOLID WASTE POLICY FORUM

TEC **TN Solid Waste Solutions**
NOVEMBER 7, 8:30AM-4PM

TEC's Annual Policy & Practice Forum at MTSU

EARLY BIRD TIX \$35

UNTIL 10/24

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
RECYCLE ENVIRONMENT

MTSU James College of Business
Center for Supply Chain Management and Sustainability

COOLEY PUBLIC STRATEGIES

FREEMAN WEBB COMPANY

Tennessee River Water Protection Association

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. To register click here: [TEC's 2025 Policy & Practice Forum: TN Solid Waste Solutions at MTSU!](#)

TAEBC EVENT: OPPORTUNITIES IN ENERGY



The Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council (TAEBC) will host its annual [Opportunities in Energy](#) event on November 19 in downtown Knoxville. The event will bring 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 ADVANCED FUEL TECHNOLOGIES EVENT IN NASHVILLE

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 will host an alternative fuels and advanced vehicle technologies event on November 14 in Nashville. The event will include 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. Registration closes November 7.

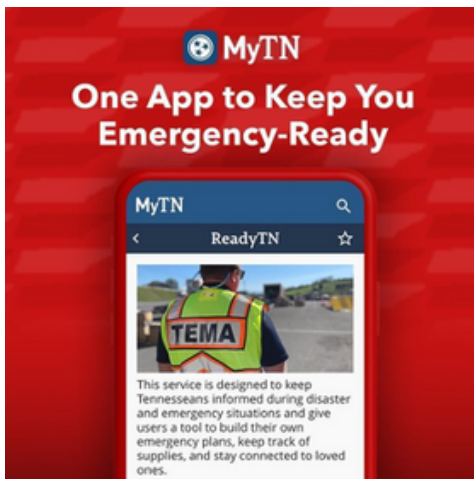
For more information click here: [NAFA Tennessee and Tennessee Clean Fuels Joint Event – November 14 – NAFA Fleet Management Association](#)

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: MY TN 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 the 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](#).