

## Columbia and Maury County Get a Visit From TREEDC

On March 9, 2012, TREEDC held a Community Energy Forum at Columbia State Community College. The forum was organized by TREEDC members Columbia Mayor Dean Dickey and Columbia State Community College President Dr. Janet Smith. TREEDC 2012 founding members First Farmers and Merchants National Bank, Columbia Power and Water Systems, Mount Pleasant Power System, the University of Tennessee, USDA Rural Development, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Tennessee Gas Association were sponsors. A diverse crowd of 76 at-

tendees heard various presentations ranging from anaerobic digestion to solar financing along with the positive developments from the TVA Green Power Switch and State Economic and Community Development (ECD) Energy Efficiency Block Grant Initiatives. To view speaker's powerpoints, visit <http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/public/web.nsf/Web/Economic+Development>. An upcoming forum will be held at Tennessee Tech University on 7/27. Visit [www.treedc.us](http://www.treedc.us) for more information.

## TREEDC Names New Board Members for 2012-2014

The TREEDC Board of Directors named Ducktown Mayor James Talley as the new TREEDC President on February 28, 2012 replacing Pikeville Mayor Greg Johnson who rotated off the board in January 2012. The Board of Directors also named Monroe County Economic Development Director Shan Harris as Membership Director. Below is a list of the 2012 TREEDC Board of Directors and Coordinators for 2012-2014.

1. Chairman- The University of Tennessee President Emeritus Dr. Joseph Johnson
2. President- Ducktown Mayor James Talley
3. Vice-President- Gainesboro Mayor John Fox
4. 2nd Vice-President- Graysville Commissioner Andy Beene
5. Treasurer Emanuel Bailey-McBee Bailey and Associates
6. Secretary- Crossville Mayor JH Graham, III
7. Membership Director- Shan Harris, Monroe County Economic Development Coordinator
8. East Tennessee Coordinator- Kingston Mayor Troy Beets
9. Middle Tennessee Coordinator- Franklin Mayor Ken Moore
10. West Tennessee Coordinator Covington Mayor David Gordon
11. TREEDC Director Warren Nevad



## TREEDC Leaders Visit Congressional Members

TREEDC leaders from Memphis, Jackson, Ducktown, Knoxville, and Tennessee Tech University met with the U.S. Tennessee congressional delegation on February 2 and 3. The objectives of the trip were to provide an informational update about the 2011 activities of the Council and to express appreciation for the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) support of TREEDC.

Memphis City Councilman Edmund Ford, Jr. met with Congressman Steve Cohen to share the TREEDC work of assisting the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) with the Green Power Switch Pilot Program. Jackson Councilman and TREEDC Legal Affairs Director Ernest Brooks, II discussed clean energy initiatives in his community with Congressman Stephen Fincher and an update on the success of the recently installed 1 MW Solar System at the Jackson American Business Center.

Dennis Tennant, Tennessee Tech University associate director of external relations, shared the success of the Tennessee Tech REDI Economic Development Program with Congressman Diane Black's office.

Additionally, Ducktown Mayor and TREEDC President James Talley discussed Ducktown's solar initiatives with Congressman Chuck Fleischmann. Mayor Talley recommended new statewide incentives for solar energy development, cellulosic ethanol production, biomass gasification and waste to energy.



Memphis Councilman Edmund Ford, Jr., Dennis Tennant TTU, Bill Owen, TREEDC, TREEDC President James Talley, TREEDC Director Warren Nevad. Next Photo: District 1 Congressman Phil Roe signs up for Green Power. Next Photo: Ford, Nevad

## TREEDC Visits Hiwassee

The TREEDC Forum was held at Hiwassee College on February 24 and contained speakers who discussed information pertaining to TVA's Green Power Switch, UT's Solar Decathlon, Cleveland State Community College's Green Incubator and much more. 74 people were in attendance at the forum in which TREEDC Consultant Bill Owen urged participants to sign up for the TVA Green Power Switch program for only 14 cents per day. Harvey Abouelata, president of ARiES Energy discussed a process to convert cellulosic biomass to hydrogen power for energy. This system, which uses a thermal gasification process, can provide power to 55 homes while consuming 1.6 tons of biomass and municipal wastes per day. Genera Energy President Dr. Kelly Tiller gave an update on the progress of the statewide Cellulosic Biofuels Initiative, which has the goal of developing 10 commercial biorefineries across the state, which would create 6,000 direct jobs. There was also a student break out session in which students discussed ways to stay green on campus. Check out their ideas on the next page.

## TREEDC Columbia Forum

TREEDC members Columbia Mayor Dean Dickey and Columbia State Community College President Dr. Janet Smith organized a Community Energy Forum on March 9, 2012. TREEDC 2012 Founding members First Farmers and Merchants National Bank, Columbia Power and Water Systems, Mount Pleasant Power System, the University of Tennessee, USDA Rural Development, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Tennessee Gas Association sponsored this free community outreach forum for Columbia State's students, staff and Maury County area clean energy stakeholders. A diverse crowd of 76 attendees heard various presentations ranging from anaerobic digestions to solar financing along with the positive developments from the TVA Green Power Switch and State Economic and Community Development (ECD) Energy Efficiency Block Grant Initiatives. This was the 13th statewide forum since 2009 organized by TREEDC. Listeners heard from speakers such as Columbia State President Dr. Janet Smith, Tim Hayes and Carlos Mayer from Vis Solis, Tennessee Solar Energy Association President Steve Levy, local businessman Rick Alexander, Dr. Abhijeet Borole, Henning Bollerslev of 49 Green, ECD Energy Director Molly Cripps, Jackson Energy Authority Senior Business Analyst Scott Dahlstrom and TVA Green Power Switch Product Manager Jenny Wright.



Talley, Nevad. Next Photo: Left to Right: TREEDC President Talley; UT MTAS Executive Director Steve Thompson; TREEDC Chairman/UT President Emeritus Dr. Joe Johnson; Hiwassee College President Dr. Robin Tricoli; TVA Green Power Switch Product Manager Jenny Wright; TREEDC East Tennessee Coordinator/Kingston Mayor Troy Beets; Nevad; and Wayne County Economic Development Director Tom Cauley. Next Photo: Nikki Cain; Todd Littleton, Hiwassee College; Lauren Steier, ARiES Energy

## Students Brainstorm at Hiwassee

During the student brainstorming session at the Hiwassee TREEDC forum, UT and Hiwassee students discussed some of the great things Hiwassee College is working on to become more sustainable and energy efficient. Initiatives are already in place at Hiwassee, and students spoke about some of the things UT does through their Make Orange Green initiative. These are things Hiwassee could implement as well. Here is a recap of what was discussed...

- **Turn off the lights when not in use.** Here at UT, we have stickers on every light switch in the dorms, reminding students to turn off the light when they leave a room. This is a simple and quick thing to do, and it can have a big impact.
- **Recycling bins all throughout campus and in each dorm room.** UT hosts a friendly competition between dorms to see who can recycle the most materials over a month. This would be a neat idea to do at Hiwassee, and each dorm floor could compete to see who could save up the most over a month.
- **Trade in old light bulbs for newer, more efficient ones at the light bulb exchange.** This is hosted in the lobby of the dorms twice a year, and students can trade their old bulbs for new, efficient ones.
- **Come up with a unique idea!** Hiwassee could host a competition to see which student could come up with the best idea on ways to be energy efficient, ways to get students involved, and how to get the word out about being energy efficient.
- **Gain involvement, awareness, and brainstorming groups.** Get a club or group together to meet frequently, even if it's just to discuss ideas over lunch. Being a part of an energy efficiency group would look great on a resume, and you could potentially make a big impact on campus! Get the word out by the school newspaper and the newspaper's Facebook or Twitter site.
- **Tons of other project ideas.** – other things UT does with the Make Orange Green initiative can be found here <http://environment.utk.edu/activities.html>



*Tim Watts, Hiwassee College discussed green issues with Candice Graham, University of Tennessee*

## Upcoming Events

- Ducktown Solar Grand Opening – April 19, 2012
- ORNL Sustainability Campus Initiative – May 1, 2012
- TML-TREEDC Reception – Knoxville – June 10, 2012



## TREEDC on the Web!

TREEDC recently released their brand new website. The site can be viewed at [www.TREEDC.us](http://www.TREEDC.us). Also, follow us on Twitter @treedc08.

# TREEDC Legal Affairs Director Brooks Presents 2011 Annual Report to State Legislature

TREEDC Legal Affairs/Jackson Councilman Ernest Brooks, II recently presented the TREEDC annual report to the State Agriculture Committee on February 28, 2012. Brooks highlighted the following key activities during 2011:

- 75 cities and counties joined as 2011 members
- 6 forums were held statewide which attracted 535 guests
- Jackson, Ducktown and Sunbright Solar Projects
- Tennessee Valley Authority Green Power Switch program
- USDA Rural Development Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program
- Tennessee Economic and Community Development Energy Efficiency Block grant Program
- ECOtality electric vehicle charging stations



Brooks also stated that a key goal for in 2012 is to enroll 100 cities and counties as members for 2012. Chairman Frank Niceley thanked Brooks and invited TREEDC to present another update next year.

## TVA Partners with TREEDC

Wouldn't it be great if there was a way to harness the natural power of the wind, sun and earth to create an energy source that is useable in our everyday lives? The Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TREEDC) has partnered with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to do just that.

Through the launch of the Green Power Switch Pilot Program in Memphis on November 18, 2011, TREEDC has garnered support from thousands of organizations and individuals around the state. Participation in this program will help to bring clean, green power to the Tennessee Valley, but involvement of others is crucial to the program's success!

TREEDC has recently been educating others on the Green Power Switch program and has hosted several sign-up events. In February, TREEDC representatives traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with U.S. Congressional delegation from Tennessee and urged them to become involved in Green Power Switch.



*Nevad & TVA Green Power Switch Product Manager Jenny Wright*

Additionally, TREEDC hosted a successful Green Power Switch sign-up at a recent Tennessee Tech basketball game.

TVA Green Power Switch Product Manager Jenny Wright has spoken at recent TREEDC forums about the positive effects of the program, and says purchasing two blocks of green power is the environmental equivalent of a 16 panel south facing solar system in Nashville.

TREEDC will continue to host sign-up events, but in the meantime contact us at [treedc08@yahoo.com](mailto:treedc08@yahoo.com) if your community is interested in hosting a sign-up day. Visit the website at [www.greenpowerswitch.com/treedc](http://www.greenpowerswitch.com/treedc) to learn more about how to become involved.

## TREEDC Updates Its Cyber Presence



TREEDC announced to the cyber world on February 14 that they have joined Twitter!

The Twitter account (@treedc08) provides updates on future TREEDC events, forums, projects and goals and offers snapshots of the work done by TREEDC members.

The mission of TREEDC is to promote and connect renewable energy with economic development and energy efficiency for all Tennessee communities. To hear about the ways TREEDC is doing this, follow them @treedc08 to get information on upcoming events.

## TREEDC Announces 2012 Membership Campaign

A membership drive for the Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TREEDC) has been launched with the goal of enlisting 100 new city and county mayors.

The dues for 2012 remain \$100 for any local government, public power/natural gas distributor and K-12 school in Tennessee. Other membership categories include non-profit individuals, universities, colleges, state agencies, and businesses.

Membership benefits include free access to all forums, subscription to the TREEDC annual report and quarterly newsletter, technical assistance, sponsorship and speaking opportunities. TREEDC also has a founding member category which contains provisions for special events, legislative outreach and project development.

Go to <http://www.treedc.us/membership/index.html> for more information.

## TREEDC Welcomes New Members



Vis-Solis, a German based solar firm located in TREEDC member city Franklin, officially joined TREEDC as a 2012 founding member at the Columbia State forum held on March 9, 2012. Vis-Solis will also be a sponsor for the TREEDC-Tennessee Municipal League reception in Knoxville on June 10, 2012.

During his presentation at the March forum, Vis-Solis Managing Partner Tim Hayes praised TREEDC member Lincoln County and Brown Construction for bringing clean energy to the grid and returning economic vitality to Lincoln County in 2011. 60 people were employed during project construction.

Also during the past quarter, the Tennessee Gas Association (TGA) joined the TREEDC family as a Gold 2012 Founding Member. TGA and TREEDC have been actively promoting and working to incentivize compressed natural stations for private and public fleets across the state. TGA members Pat Riley and Scott Dahlstrom have given presentations at earlier forums.

Other organizations and new local government members joining TREEDC for the first time in 2012 include Baker Donnelson, Clarksville, Fairview, Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce, Lewisburg, Montgomery County, Nashville Regional Council, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Knoxville Utilities Board, Columbia Power and Water Systems, Mt. Pleasant Power System and Ameresco. A list of 2012 members will be published in our next newsletter.

## TREEDC Member ECOtality Partners with Chevrolet Volt



TREEDC Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development announced earlier this year that Chevrolet Volt purchasers are now eligible for the state's \$2,500 electric vehicle (EV) rebate. The rebate requires that consumers qualify for and participate in The EV Project, a national study on EV use and charging infrastructure deployment.

The EV Project will provide participants with a free Blink® 240V networked charge station and a credit of up to \$1,200 toward its installation. To be eligible, Tennessee residents must sign an EV Project participant agreement, purchase the Volt, take delivery of the car, and have SPX Corporation install their Blink charge station by June 30, 2012. Volt owners who have already purchased and taken delivery of their vehicles are still eligible for the rebate if they are accepted into The EV Project. Consumers should contact the original selling dealer to inquire about retroactive rebates.

The primary goal of The EV Project is to collect, analyze and report on the use of electric vehicles and the infrastructure needed to support them. This information includes data regarding the energy used, along with time and duration of charger use. No personal information is shared or included in the analyzed data. Participants must maintain an in-home Internet connection to transmit the data until The EV Project concludes on April 30, 2013.

In September of 2010, the state of Tennessee announced that \$2.5 million had been budgeted for the electric vehicle rebate program, enabling the first 1,000 Tennessee residents who purchase either a Chevrolet Volt or Nissan LEAF SL, the opportunity to participate in The EV Project and receive a \$2,500 rebate. The state rebate is in addition to a federal tax rebate of up to \$7,500.

ECOtality is the project manager of The EV Project and will oversee the installation of commercial and residential charging stations in 18 major cities and metropolitan areas in six states and the District of Columbia. The project will provide an EV infrastructure to support the deployment of EVs in these key markets. The project is a public-private partnership, funded in part by the U.S. Department of Energy through a federal stimulus grant and made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

## President Talley Participates in the Capitol Bioenergy Day in Washington, D.C.

On March 21, 2012, TREEDC President James Talley joined representatives from more than 20 bioenergy stakeholder groups in Washington DC by participating in the 2012 Bioenergy Partners Capitol Hill Day. Leaders from the biofuels, biopower and bioproducts industries, as well as agriculture and other related industry interests, are encouraging lawmakers and key decision makers to adopt a diversified national energy strategy that includes bio-based renewables as a critical component.

An “all-of-the-above” approach to energy policies and investments was the primary topic of a Congressional staff briefing and panel program in the morning. Afternoon efforts included small groups making office visits with Congressional leaders and their staff, sharing with them the wide range of issues facing bioenergy, while detailing the opportunities that bio-based energy solutions provide.



*TREEDC President Talley and Robert Cheney, Waste Management*

## Economic and Community Development Energy Director Molly Cripps Gives EECDBG in Columbia



Tennessee Economic and Community Development (ECD) Energy Director Molly Cripps gave a thorough update of the 3 funding rounds of the Stimulus funded Energy Efficiency Community Development Block Grants (EECDBG) which have provided needed funding to 145 local government projects across the state. Cripps stated that TREEDC members East Ridge and Sunbright were successful in completing their programs which resulted in significant annual energy savings to these communities. Cripps also reviewed other successful projects that involved building retrofits, LED traffic lights and more efficient street lighting for local governments.