

# TREEDC April 2017 Newsletter

## TREEDC Partners with MTAS and the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga to Discuss Statewide Conservation of Energy and Water

On February 22, 2017, the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) conducted an educational forum regarding the optimal measures to conserve energy and water resources. Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill and Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke were the keynote speakers to an audience of 60 local, state and university officials at the campus of the University of Tennessee Chattanooga.

Mayor Berke highlighted Chattanooga's recent strides in becoming a premier sustainable city in the world. Mayor Berke saluted Chattanooga area businesses such as Volkswagen and Electric Power Board of Chattanooga as being great stewards and role models in sustainability. Mayor Berke also discussed the Chattanooga Solar Community Garden Program. Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill presented an outline of necessary steps needed to address the recent droughts that affected Tennessee communities last year. The State is planning on several major water enhancement projects to protect citizens from future impacts from droughts.

Attendees also heard presentations relating to energy.



Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke addresses  
TREEDC Forum

---

## Chattanooga Breaks Ground on Solar Share Community Solar Project

On February 17, 2017, TREEDC Member TVAEnergy (TVAE) started construction on Solar Share, Chattanooga's first community solar installation through a partnership with TREEDC Members Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the City of Chattanooga. The renewable power generating facility will be located along Holtzclaw Avenue at the Electric Power Board's (EPB) Distribution Center. Solar Share is expected to begin generating 1.35 megawatts of solar power, which is enough to meet the needs of about 200 households that consume an average amount of power.

Through Solar Share, customers will be able to participate in the community solar project in three ways:

- For a one-time payment, customers may buy a 20-year license that entitles them to a monthly bill credit equal to the generation value of one or more panels. The amount of power generated by the number of panels selected by a customer will be credited to the customer's electric account on a monthly basis. This option is designed to provide the generation benefits of installing solar panels on your roof, but without the construction project.
- Customers may also buy a license by making a monthly payment that entitles them to a monthly bill credit equal to the generation value of the number of solar panels selected by a customer. As with the first option, the amount of power generated will be credited to their electric bill on a monthly basis.
- In addition, customers may purchase "Renewable Energy Credits" which will allow them to offset the environmental impact of activities like cooling their home or commuting to work.

"Through partnerships that create forward-thinking initiatives like our city's first community solar installation, we can clearly see the power of our Innovation District," said Chattanooga-TREEDC Mayor Andy Berke. "As cornerstones of our Innovation District, EPB and TVA understand the importance of employing creativity, innovation, and next-generation technology to solve problems and improve the lives of our citizens. Solar Share is a perfect example of those values in action."

Citizens who are interested in learning more about Solar Share are invited to go to [www.epb.com/solarshare](http://www.epb.com/solarshare) to sign up for updates including the initial invitation to be among the first to participate in Chattanooga's first community solar project.



Joe Salmone and TREEDC President/  
Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land

**TREEDC Releases 2016 Annual Report**

The Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) has released its annual 2016 report, detailing several important announcements. Read the full report [here](#).

**Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council Develops Social Media Toolkit**

TREEDC Member Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council TAEBC's three-part video series was recently released on how Tennessee is becoming a leader in the advanced energy sector. TAEBC unveiled these videos at TAEBC's annual, year-end "Opportunities in Energy" event in December which was a huge success.

These videos mention some of TREEDC's and TAEBC'S partners in both the academic & commercial/utilities sector including Maryville College and Genera Energy.

Click the videos. Here's the three videos with descriptions:

1. [This is Advanced Energy](#) - What is advanced energy and what does it mean to Tennessee's economy?
2. [Inside Advanced Energy](#) - Meet the people and companies that employ nearly 325,000 people and contribute \$33.4 billion to Tennessee's GDP.
3. [Innovations in Advanced Energy](#) - Discover how innovation gives Tennessee an edge in the \$1.3 trillion global advanced energy marketplace.

Tennessee's advanced energy sector has a major influence in the state's economy. It employs nearly 325,000 people, contributes \$33.4 billion to our state's GDP, and generates more than \$850 million in sales tax revenue. Congratulations to TAEBC for helping foster the growth of our state's advanced energy technologies, companies, and jobs.



Tennessee  
Advanced Energy  
Business Council

**TREEDC Ambassador to Legazpi, Philippines Visits Tennessee**

From January 26, 2017 to February 14, 2017, TREEDC Ambassador to Legazpi, Phillipines Dr. Honelet Bertis of Southern Luzon Technological College Foundation (SLTCFI) visited our TREEDC member cities and universities. Dr. Bertis assisted with the organization and planning of the TREEDC-University of Tennessee Chattanooga forum and shared best practices in renewable energy with member cities Cookeville, Ducktown, Graysville and McMinnville.

SLTCFI is a self-sustaining and socially responsible institution with excellence in the fields of Computer Technology, Arts & Sciences, technical courses and livelihood programs with state-of-the art facilities and modern approaches in global education to produce globally competitive future leaders.



MTAS Consultant Warren Nevad, TREEDC Ambassador Honelet Bertis and Graysville Mayor Ted Doss

## TREEDC Member Energy3 Owner Dan LeVan Wins National Award



TREEDC Member Dan LeVan of Energy3

The owner of a Chattanooga company and TREEDC member has been named the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2017 Tennessee Small Business Person of the Year. Dan LeVan, chief executive of Energy3 (Energy, Efficiency and Sustainability Consulting), was cited by the SBA for "hard work, innovative ideas and dedication to your employees and community."

LeVan and other state winners around the nation will be recognized on April 1 and May 30 at a special ceremony in Washington, D.C. Energy3 provides technology solutions to reduce energy loads, production of on-site energy and sustainable management for primarily commercial and industrial businesses.

LeVan, whose business is located in Chattanooga's small business incubator, was president or financial head of four global companies before he took over Energy3 in 2014. "Without the INCubator and support from the Tennessee Small Business Development Center as a start-up, we wouldn't have the level of success that we do today," he said recently. Congratulations, Dan!

## TREEDC Member PHG Energy Launches New Marketing Efforts

TREEDC Member PHG Energy recently launched its new name: **Aries Clean Energy** to introduce an expanding future for an experienced gasification company that has already installed multiple commercial energy projects.

"The old name, PHG Energy, worked well for us when we basically offered industrial fuel gas conversion equipment," said CEO Greg Bafalis. "By design, we have evolved into a clean energy and sustainable waste disposal company."

"Aries Clean Energy is a brand that much better represents what we do today, as well as our product line and focus going forward," he added. "And we are quickly taking on a greater innovation role in the clean-tech energy segment."

The company holds 8 patents in the biomass and biosolids gasification field, and has deployed those for both industry and city governments. Aries Clean Energy's most recent installation was commissioned in late 2016 and cleanly converts a mixture of commercial wood waste, municipal biosolids and scrap tires to electricity. The company deployed the world's largest downdraft gasification unit in that project.

"Our downdraft and fluidized bed gasification projects have proven themselves viable with over 50,000 hours of commercial production," Bafalis said. "Putting these clean and sustainable energy innovations to work in more locations, and bringing some of our latest research and development efforts to the marketplace this year, are going to be exciting for our company. We believe the name Aries Clean Energy and the new pulsar icon logo clearly say energy, innovation and commitment to sustainability."

In addition, the company operates a solar design and installation division focusing on commercial and community scale projects. Formerly ARiES Energy, that group also is renamed now as a part of the Aries Clean Energy brand.