UT President Randy Boyd recently visited TREEDC President Dwain Land and UT MTAS Executive Director Margaret Norris in Dunlap, Tennessee. The purpose of the visit was to tour Dunlap’s impressive solar facilities, LED lighting upgrades and newly installed battery operated generator at city hall. TREEDC Member Bronco Power Boost President Billy Whittaker demonstrated the state-of–art power booster which provided emergency power to the city’s financial computers and wi-fi during power outage. Mayor Land gave President Boyd an overview of the mission of TREEDC and its origins in 2008. President Boyd met Dunlap’s city employees and heard about the technical assistance that MTAS provides to cities across the state. President Boyd expressed his admiration to President Land and MTAS Executive Director Norris for their vision and attention to detail for communities across the state.
From left to right President Boyd, Nevad, Billy Whittaker, Bronco Power Boost and TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Land

The University of Tennessee MTAS Executive Director Margaret Norris and UT President Boyd
The Knoxville Utilities Board (KUB) has signed a long-term power supply agreement with TVA and will build a 212-megawatt solar facility in Knoxville, which will be the largest solar facility of its kind in Tennessee. As part of the agreement, TVA will provide a 3.1 percent rebate to KUB, saving the city-owned utility $9.5 million a year, and will help support Knoxville's plan to build its own 212-megawatt solar farm projected to supply about 8 percent of KUB's annual electric load. KUB will build its own solar generating facility under TVA's Green Invest program to help meet the renewable goals of private companies wanting to buy only renewable power.

A coalition of Chattanooga government, university, business, and nonprofit agencies have secured $110 million in federal funding to execute the Chattanooga Smart Community Collaborative, which comprises a series of projects focused on applying new, connected, and interactive technologies that can track and positively influence the city’s energy consumption, public and environmental health, and transportation footprint. Many of these projects are enabled by the city-wide fiber network that was installed by Chattanooga’s local power company, EPB, in 2009; this network made Chattanooga the first “Gig City” in the Western hemisphere (the first city to roll out a city-wide gigabit network) and, within its first four years, added at least 2,800 jobs and spurred more than $865 million in investment into the local economy connections, lowering power bills, and attracting businesses to the area.
The 65 mayors of the Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC) declared 2020 to be the Year of Transportation, calling upon fellow policymakers as well as the public to address traffic congestion and infrastructure challenges in Middle Tennessee. For context, Middle Tennessee is currently home to about 2 million people who each travel, on average, 33 miles and 48 minutes per day over a collective 1,600 bridges and 13,000 miles of roadway. Between 2010 and 2040, the GNRC expects the region to experience a 76% increase in population, 86% more volume on area roadways, 26% slower travel speeds, and a 162% increase in the amount of miles traveled in congested conditions. To address these imminent mobility concerns, the GNRC is gathering local and State leaders to develop a new Unified Transportation Plan that will identify and prioritize transportation solutions eligible for federal funding across the region.

The Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council (TAEBC) held its annual meeting in Franklin on March 5, 2020. Speakers included TDEC Commissioner David Salyers and Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe as well as representatives from TDEC, OEP, TVA, Shell and Weiss Associates. Presenters discussed a variety of advanced energy topics, including sustainable energy, transportation electrification, net-zero emissions, and more.
Morgan County Designates Just Be Green Villages as Economic Development Area

Morgan County Executive Brian Langley and the County Commissioners of Morgan County, approved a Resolution on March 10, 2020, designating Just Be Green Villages as an economic development area pursuant to state legislation established in 2018. Being designated an economic development area affords more opportunities for private investments and grants for this future community development. The economic development area will include a mixed use development village that includes global green labs, environmentally sensitive housing, green academy and Veterans’ health services. Just Be Green will introduce the first smart tech, agro community development built from the ground up. The project will allow for employment, active retirement and leisure vacations within the Deer Lodge area.

Vanderbilt Partners with TVA, NES on Renewable Energy Initiatives

Vanderbilt University will partner with TVA and Nashville Electric Service on a renewable energy procurement project to help achieve the campus’s sustainability and emissions goals. Under this project, Vanderbilt will draw power from a planned solar farm to be built in Bedford County. The 35 MW farm is expected to become fully operational in 2022 and will offset around 70% of Vanderbilt’s annual, indirect greenhouse gas emissions from purchased electricity.

The partnership is the first of its kind under TVA’s new Green Invest program, which matches demand for green power from large businesses and industrial customers with cost-effective renewable projects. Modeled off of TVA’s previous work with Facebook and Google to identify renewable energy sources for some of the power generator’s largest electricity customers, the program leverages long-term agreements to build new, large-scale renewable energy installations in the Valley through competitive bid processes.
TVA Launches Initiative to Strengthen Public Power COVID-19 Response

TVA recently announced an initiative to support increased flexibility for local power companies who are responding to urgent community and customer needs during the ongoing response to the COVID-19 outbreak. TVA will make up to a total of $1 billion of credit support available as an option to local power companies through the deferral of wholesale power payments based on the needs of individual local power companies. Detailed plans will be customized for each participating local power company based on individual needs and financial impacts. A portion of the local power company’s monthly TVA wholesale power payments would be deferred for a period during the ongoing COVID-19 response and an appropriate repayment plan will be put in place.

U.S. Utility Scoreboard Reveals a Dramatic Increase in Energy Savings

The 52 largest U.S. electric utilities dramatically increased their overall energy savings as they adopted innovative ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, according to the 2020 Utility Energy Efficiency Scorecard. Leading the way are Eversource Massachusetts and National Grid Massachusetts, which tied for first place for the second time, followed by San Diego Gas & Electric (#3), Commonwealth Edison in Illinois (#4), Baltimore Gas and Electric (#5), and Pacific Gas & Electric (also #5).

This year’s scorecard, released by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), comes at a time of rapid transformation in the utility sector and highlights notable changes since ACEEE’s first such ranking in 2017. It finds that, as a group, the utilities boosted their annual energy savings by 20% since 2015, saving almost 20TWh of electricity in 2018 from programs administered that year—enough to power 1.8 million homes. Notably, utilities are increasing efficiency investments in low-income communities and speeding the adoption of electric vehicles.

This year’s report highlighted the ways in which the utility landscape has transformed since 2015, the baseline for our 2017 scorecard. New technologies are emerging; states, utilities, and other stakeholders are increasingly focused on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the important role of efficiency in supporting emissions reductions; and distributed energy resources (DERs) are continuing to come online.
Recently, the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) partnered with Bronco Power Boost, a new Tennessee Clean Energy Startup Company based in Nashville, Tennessee. One of TREEDC’s planning objectives since 2008 is to create more awareness regarding the vast potential of Tennessee startup green companies who are creating jobs and environmental benefits. Bronco Power Boost provides local governmental offices, businesses, private homes and condos with a supplemental electrical power source that takes over automatically when power goes out due to storms and other uncontrollable factors. This eco-friendly back up power source is unique in that it can be installed indoors, is noise free, and will power up to six essential circuits automatically for 20+ hours. Unlike a traditional gas-powered generator, there’s no gas need, no dangerous carbon monoxide emissions, and no cumbersome and unsightly extension cords. TREEDC applauds Owner Billy Whittaker for his vision and fortitude to invent a product that is environmentally safe, energy independent, scalable and sustainable. His work will revolutionize how backup power is provided for during a power outage, as well as provide protection of valuable data for local governments and businesses worldwide.
The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) announced that the following three entities will receive $5,690,845.53 in grant funding to support transit bus replacement projects across Tennessee:

- Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority
- City of Knoxville (Knoxville Area Transit)
- Memphis Area Transit Authority

These projects will be funded under TDEC’s Transit and Shuttle Bus Grant Program, which is the state’s second grant program to be funded by the Volkswagen Diesel Settlement Environmental Mitigation Trust (VW Settlement EMT). The purpose of the trust is to execute environmental mitigation projects that reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx).

“These grants will allow us to provide energy-efficient buses for transit systems in three of our largest communities, where mass transit is a key service,” Gov. Bill Lee said. “These grants meet a need and meet the spirit of the settlement.”

“These grants will support the adoption of all-electric and diesel-hybrid buses, so they will have a significant environmental impact,” TDEC Commissioner David Salyers said. “This will help reduce emissions and enhance quality of life in these communities.”

The grants include:

- Chattanooga Area Regional Transit Authority – Will be awarded $1,882,203.00 in funding to support the replacement of three diesel transit buses with three all-electric transit buses as well as the acquisition and installation of associated charging infrastructure.

- City of Knoxville/Knoxville Area Transit – Will be awarded $1,695,907.53 in funding to support the replacement of three diesel transit buses with three diesel-hybrid transit buses.

- Memphis Area Transit Authority – Will be awarded $2,112,750.00 in funding to support the replacement of three diesel transit buses with three all-electric transit buses as well as the acquisition and installation of associated charging infrastructure.
The grantees will thus replace a total of nine engine model year 2009 or older diesel transit buses with six all-electric and three diesel-hybrid transit buses. These projects are expected to yield NOx emissions reductions of an estimated 17,027.46 pounds, or 8.51 tons, over the lifetime of the new vehicles. All nine transit buses funded will operate 70 percent or more of the time in former nonattainment areas for ozone and/or fine particulate matter (PM$_{2.5}$) National Ambient Air Quality Standards and will collectively travel more than 400,000 miles each year.

In 2019, TDEC awarded over $8,380,826.94 in VW Settlement EMT funding to 37 grantees to support school bus replacement projects across Tennessee. TDEC is the lead agency for administering the state’s VW Settlement EMT allocation. Announcements on future funding programs under the trust will be shared by the department.

**UT CIS Offers No-Cost Customized COVID-19 Plans for Manufacturers**

In response to the current COVID-19 outbreak, the UT CIS Health, Safety, and Emergency Preparedness team is available to provide no cost, virtual consultations with manufacturers to discuss strategies and plans for creating and implementing a customized COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan.

The UT CIS Health, Safety, and Emergency Preparedness Consulting team is staffed with safety and health professionals with training in emergency preparedness and backgrounds in plant safety and health. Feel free to contact UT CIS Safety and Preparedness Manager Walter Idol or UT CIS OSHA Consultant Bryan Lane.

UT CIS has also developed a reference guide to assist you as you maintain, resume or restart operations. You can download the free guidebook from our COVID-19 Resource Dashboard. Get the Guidebook.
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy Publishes Mayoral Toolkit for Energy Savings

As city leaders focus on mitigating the hardships wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic, a toolkit release by the American Council for an Energy–Efficient Economy (ACEEE) offers seven energy-saving strategies to help revive and strengthen urban economies. Cities all over the country, from Seattle to Cincinnati, provide examples of how these strategies are getting results.

TREEDC Member Warren County Saves Significant Energy Dollars

Energy savings are accumulating for Warren County Schools. According to Warren County Mayor Jimmy Haley, the goal is to save $450,000 in 2020 and the school system is on track to exceed that projection.

In the first three months of 2020, the project saved $10,964 in January, $8,312 in February and $32,297 in March when schools closed in the middle of the month.

April 2019  - $17,948  
May 2019   - $18,027  
June 2019  - $11,780  
July 2019  - $13,445  
August 2019- $9,403  
September 2019 - $3,356  
October 2019 - $17,981  
November 2019 - $14,888  
December 2019 - $13,540

Congratulations to Warren County for taking the initiative to plan and implement comprehensive energy efficiency upgrades to their school system.
NASEO Energy Security Committee COVID-19 Response and Resources

Staff from the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) and its associated Energy Security Committee are working with State Energy Offices; DOE’s Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER); and private sector partners to share information and best practices related to the COVID-19 outbreak and its impact on critical energy infrastructure, the energy sector workforce, and energy supply chains. As part of this effort, NASEO has compiled a consolidated list of verified resources and articles related to COVID-19 and the energy sector’s response. NASEO will continue to provide updates, resources, and forums for communication throughout the duration of the pandemic.

NASEO’s Energy Security Committee Co-Chairs (Ben Bolton, Energy Programs Administrator, TDEC OEP and Megan Levy, Local Energy Programs, Wisconsin) have been hosting a series of weekly calls related to the COVID-19 pandemic response. These informative calls feature briefings from federal agencies like CESER as well as State-level energy security staff. NASEO and DOE also utilize the Energy Emergency Assurance Coordinators (EEAC) network to identify energy security points of contact in each state. EEAC allows such energy security personnel to readily exchange information on plans and response to energy emergencies.

EIA Releases Its Annual Energy Outlook 2020

The United States Energy Information Administration (EIA’s) Annual Energy Outlook 2020 provides modeled projections of domestic energy markets through 2050, considering several detailed energy impact scenarios that take into account potential macroeconomic growth, global oil prices, future costs of renewable power generation technologies, and technological progress.

The 2020 report summarizes the following energy trends:

- U.S. energy consumption grows more slowly than gross domestic product throughout the projection period as U.S. energy efficiency continues to increase. This decline in the energy intensity of the U.S. economy continues through 2050.
• The electricity generation mix continues to experience a rapid rate of change, with renewables projected as the fastest-growing source of electricity generation through 2050 due to the continued decline in capital costs for solar and wind projects that are supported by federal tax credits and higher state-level renewables targets. With slow load growth and increasing electricity production from renewables, U.S. coal-fired and nuclear electricity generation declines; most of this decline occurs by the mid-2020s.
• The United States continues to produce historically high levels of crude oil and natural gas. Slow growth in domestic consumption of these fuels leads to increasing exports of crude oil, petroleum products, and liquefied natural gas.
• After falling during the first half of the projection period, total U.S. energy-related carbon dioxide emissions resume modest growth in the 2030s, driven largely by increases in energy demand in the transportation and industrial sectors. However, by 2050, emissions remain 4% lower than 2019 levels.

TVA Turns to the Sun for More Power, Shifting Focus from Rooftop Solar to Large-Scale Projects

Distributed Solar Solutions is a TVA program designed to encourage solar energy projects that are directed by its local power company (LPC) partners. The idea is to encourage more solar development across the Valley by seeding LPC partnerships with business and community interests. Because it is working at the local level, this program moves renewable energy closer to the customers.

Only solar photovoltaic systems qualify for Distributed Solar Solutions, and they must generate between 50 kW and 2 MW of electricity. With such large-scale solar projects planned throughout the Valley, TVA plans to increase its solar energy capacity by 44% from 2019.
Ann Arbor, Michigan Unveils Plans for City’s First Solar-Powered, Climate Resilience Hub

Ann Arbor’s new A2Zero plan to confront climate change calls for creating five “resilience hubs” around the city in the coming years. “Resilience hubs are community-serving facilities augmented to support residents and coordinate resource distribution and services before, during or after a natural hazard event,” the plan states. “At their core, resilience hubs empower communities to take action around preparedness and increase community and neighborhood capacity.”

The city’s vision is to have a robust network of such hubs to empower residents to care for one another during a disaster for up to five days before government assistance may be needed.

“Many lower-income residents do not have access to a variety of resources in case of an emergency,” the plan states, suggesting the hubs can be a place to access those resources.

City officials on Friday, June 26, announced plans to install a 23.53-kilowatt solar array and two Lithium-ion storage batteries at the Northside Community Center off Pontiac Trail this summer, laying the foundation for it to become the city’s first resilience hub — or what the city now calls a “resilience center.”

The city’s goal is that every city ward has a functioning, community-designed and community-operated resilience hub that helps improve sustainability, resilience and social cohesion by 2030. Kudos to Ann Arbor, Michigan for its visionary work in renewable energy.
Christy Haddad a graduate student in the University Of Tennessee Masters Of Public Administration began her internship on September 8, 2020. Christy will be assisting Harriman City Manager Kevin Helms with personnel research and the development of job descriptions. She will also conduct research in best practices for municipal renewable energy programs. Christy earned her undergraduate degree from Political Science at UT. Throughout her undergraduate career, Christy has managed and maintained skills such as community outreach, polling and statistics data, field organizing, and public service. Christy proudly hails from New Jersey. Good Luck, Christy!
Recently, West Nashville welcomed Turnip Truck (http://theturniptruck.com/) to the neighborhood. The locally owned full-service natural grocer opened its third store on Charlotte Avenue. Turnip Truck opened its first store in East Nashville in 2001 and its second store in the Gulch in 2010. Founder John Dyke and the team had always wanted to add solar to their business, and they decided to make it happen with the new project. TREEDC member Lightwave Solar assisted the new store’s goal of reducing energy by at least 15 percent with the installation of 214 high efficiency solar panels strategically placed to avoid shading from walls and equipment. As a result of this installation, Turnip Truck expects to see an annual savings of $6,000 to its electric bills.

TREEDC Member Entegrity will install a 375-kW solar system in Carroll County, Arkansas, for the City of Eureka Springs. In addition to the solar array, the energy services project also includes LED lighting upgrades for the police and fire stations, public works office, auditorium, wastewater treatment plant, and Lake Leatherwood Ballfield, as well as HVAC upgrades and water-saving measures.

Under the terms of the agreement with Entegrity, Eureka Springs will purchase solar energy at a known rate for the next 25 years, resulting in a lifetime savings of more than $750,000.
Department of Energy Announces New Funding Opportunity

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently announced the Buildings Energy Efficiency Frontiers & Innovation Technologies (BENEFIT) 2020 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). This funding opportunity will provide up to $80 million for projects that enhance energy demand flexibility across buildings and the electric power grid.

Residential and commercial buildings account for nearly 40% of the nation’s total energy demand—more than America’s industrial (32%) or transportation (28%) sectors. Buildings also account for roughly 74% of all electricity use in the United States and an even greater share of peak power demand in some regions.

The DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy’s (EERE) overall goal is to use energy more productively and efficiently. These projects will help improve the energy efficiency of America’s building stock, which consists of over 119 million homes and 5.6 million commercial buildings—more than half of which were constructed before 1980.

Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success

The U.S. Department of Transportation has developed an Applicant Toolkit to provide grant funding guidance under its Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success ( ROUTES) initiative. This toolkit supports rural transportation providers in identifying and navigating U.S. DOT discretionary grant funding opportunities and provides user-friendly information and resources to support rural applicants’ understanding of U.S. DOT discretionary grant programs, planning opportunities, programs, and funding processes. The ROUTES initiative is coordinated across key modal administrations, including the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Rail Administration, and the Federal Aviation Administration.
New Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Instant Refueling Unit Will Reduce Infrastructure Barriers in U.S.

Onboard Dynamics announced the launch of their new GoFill™ refueling system. It is an instant and nimble drying and dispensing unit for refueling CNG vehicles. The new product eliminates infrastructure barriers for fleet operators who immediately need an easy CNG station setup to refuel their commercial trucks.

The first unit rolled out in Oregon, as part of the NW Natural’s free truck loan program. The GoFill will be providing natural gas for refueling CNG into a Hyliion low-emission Class 8 truck for long and heavy hauls. The program provides fleet operators a short-term, no-cost demo period to experience the vehicle. The on-site, easy station set-up makes fueling convenient during the demo period.

The versatile design makes the GoFill a temporary or permanent installation. When paired with Onboard Dynamics’ natural gas compressor, the GoFlo®, an instant fueling station can be set up that doesn’t require electricity to operate. This makes rapid deployment possible in locations where infrastructure is challenging. The new GoFill, when packaged with the GoFlo, gives operators everything they need to begin converting their fleet to natural or renewable natural gas. It offers an easy-to-setup and take-down CNG fueling station that will create new opportunities for expanding NGV fleets or a quick fueling solution for ad hoc projects.
Washington County Cuts Ribbon on Five New Propane School Buses, Alternative Fuels Program

On August 26, 2020, Washington County Schools (WCS) celebrated the addition of five new propane-powered school buses to their fleet through a ribbon-cutting and “big check” presentation event. In late 2019, WCS applied for and won $102,500 towards their efforts to replace older diesel buses through the Tennessee’s “Reducing Diesel Emissions for a Healthier Tennessee” (RDE4HT) Rebate Program. The five new propane buses were received in June and July, checked and tested by WCS transportation staff and started use in recent weeks. Jonathan Overly of the East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition served as the event emcee.

In addition to the five propane school buses, the school system has won funding to replace another older diesel bus with a new all-electric one that should be received in September 2020. WCS is interested in trying several new bus technologies to assess their operability, potential cost savings and emissions reductions.
The RDE4HT Rebate Program is state EPA funding that the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) manages and contracts with the East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition to operate and oversee. The Rebate Program releases a Request for Proposals in October each year prioritizing school districts for bus replacements, with an emphasis on alternative fuel buses over new diesel buses (although districts can also pursue new diesel buses).

TREEDC Member Tennessee Tech Unveils New DCFC Unit in Cookeville as Part of “EV Testbed” Project

Recently, TREEDC Member Tennessee Technological University (Tennessee Tech, or TTU) unveiled a new Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) station that will serve a U.S. Department of Energy-funded project started in 2019, as well as the greater Cookeville area. The unit was installed in a TTU parking lot along a busy corridor in Cookeville and will be the primary refueling site for an all-electric E450 shuttle bus that is part of the same DOE project. Lead project infrastructure partner Seven States Power Corporation managed the installation.

TTU was awarded and started that three-year DOE project last year, towards “developing an Electrical Vehicle (EV) Testbed in the 14-county ‘Upper Cumberland’ region of Tennessee.” The region is a largely rural area and includes a number of economically distressed counties. The grant’s Principal Investigator, Dr. Pingen Chen, is an Assistant Professor in TTU’s Department of Mechanical Engineering and has brought a diverse group of about 10 partners into the project. Congratulations, Tennessee Tech.
The Tennessee Valley Authority will be installing its first owned and operated energy storage system near an industrial complex in Vonore, Tennessee, about 35 miles southwest of Knoxville.

Known as the Vonore Battery Energy Storage System, the project will use 40 MWh of lithium-ion batteries. When the facility is operational in 2022, the batteries will provide high-quality power to local industrial customers served by Loudoun Utilities Board. The Vonore BESS will improve the quality of electrical service provided to local manufacturing facilities without building additional transmission lines.

The Vonore BESS will also serve as a test bed as TVA prepares to meet future energy needs. The Vonore BESS will be TVA’s first battery to go online, but not the only grid-scale storage system that TVA will use. In February, TVA announced a solar project in Lowndes County, Mississippi, for its Green Invest programs that will include 200 MWh of battery energy storage.

Both battery storage projects are part of the 2019 TVA Integrated Resource Plan, a comprehensive study that shapes how TVA will provide low-cost, reliable and clean energy for the next 20 years.
Lincoln County Starts Solar Project

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has entered into a 20-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with Elora Solar LLC (Elora Solar), an affiliate of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, to purchase the electric power generated by a proposed solar photovoltaic (PV) facility in Lincoln County, Tennessee. The proposed Elora Solar Energy Center would be constructed and operated by Elora Solar and would have alternating current (AC) generating capacity of up to 150 megawatts (MW). To interconnect to TVA’s existing electrical grid, Elora Solar would build the new Elora Solar 161-kV transmission line (TL) that would connect the proposed on-site Elora Solar 161-kV Substation to TVA’s proposed Mann Road 161-kV Switching Station at the northern extent of the new TL. TVA would connect the new Mann Road 161-kV Switching Station to TVA’s existing Winchester-Fayetteville 161-kV TL and install fiber-optic overhead groundwire on this existing TL. Under the terms of the conditional PPA, TVA would purchase the electric output from the solar facility for an initial term of 20 years, subject to satisfactory completion of all applicable environmental reviews.

Elora would acquire approximately 1,702 acres of land in Lincoln County, Tenn., and construct, operate, and maintain a single-axis tracking photovoltaic solar power facility of up to 150 megawatts alternating current generating capacity. TVA would purchase the power generated as agreed under this option.

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has signed off on an agreement with a pair of PV developers to develop the largest solar installations in Tennessee and Alabama at 150MW and 227MW, respectively. The energy output from these installations will be used to help support Facebook’s data center in Huntsville, Alabama with 100% renewable energy sources.

John Bradley, TVA's senior vice president of economic development, said: "TVA's commitment to the environment and our diverse portfolio are among the top reasons why businesses choose to relocate to the Valley. TVA's ability to deliver large amounts of renewable, reliable energy at competitive rates makes the Valley an attractive place to do business and recruit quality jobs."

Back in 2017, the TVA issued a Request for Proposals in conjunction with Facebook in order to land a large source of PV energy.
As part of the agreement, First Solar will develop the 227MW installation in Colbert County, Alabama, while NextEra Energy Resources will develop a 150MW project in Lincoln County, Tennessee. TVA is planning to invest US$8 billion in renewable energy over the next 20 years.

Doug Perry, TVA vice president of commercial energy solutions, said: "This announcement demonstrates TVA's commitment to invest in renewable energy that attracts high-paying jobs to benefit the communities we serve. This partnership aligns the core values of TVA's public power model with Facebook's mission to bring the world closer together – powered by renewable energy."

Perry added: “Solar power has a bright future for families in the Tennessee Valley if we can continue to attract top-tier companies like Facebook.”

TREEDC Partners with AARP

TREEDC is pleased and honored to announce that AARP has joined the TREEDC network. AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. AARP has more than 38 million members. TREEDC is looking forward to working with AARP’s Livable Communities in 2021.

TREEDC Member Roane State Named Community College of the Year

Roane State was recently named Community College of the Year as part of the College System of Tennessee’s second annual Statewide Outstanding Achievement Recognition (SOAR) Awards.

Roane State was recognized for using success coaches to guide incoming freshmen as well as experienced students through their college venture.

The college was also applauded for its faculty’s efforts in integrating active and collaborative learning to help students engage more deeply with their coursework and generate a sense of belonging with each other.
Roane State President Chris Whaley is especially happy that the college was able to win this award during the COVID-19 pandemic. “We have transformed our practices in many ways – first with our processes to on-board students and now in the classroom through our Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges quality enhancement plan,” added President Whaley. “Change isn’t easy – to lead or to follow – but I am so grateful to the faculty and staff at Roane State for their willingness to lead and to be a part of all that we have done and that we’re going to do.”

The SOAR Awards, launched last year by the Tennessee Board of Regents, recognizes two Colleges of the Year – a community college and a college of applied technology. The Board also recognizes the outstanding students, faculty and staff members at its colleges with individual awards. For a full list of 2020 award winners, visit tbr.edu/soar.

MTAS/ TREEDC Holds Lunch & Learn Event with Overton County Chamber of Commerce

On October 22nd, MTAS and TREEDC conducted an in-person Lunch and Learn about renewable energy with TREEDC Board Member/Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes and members of the Overton County Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Hayes and Nevad discussed the origins of TREEDC which was created by MTAS to link local governments in Tennessee with economic development and renewable energy. Mayor Hayes also discussed the progress of renewable energy since 2008 and outlined future objectives. Contact MTAS if your community is interested in a Chamber of Commerce Lunch and Learn Event with TREEDC.
The Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council hosted its annual Opportunities in Energy event virtually recently. The event featured TNECD Commissioner Bob Rolfe, a panel discussion about making Tennessee the destination for the electric vehicle supply chain, and preview of the upcoming Advanced Energy Economic Impact Report.

TAEBC Executive Director Cortney Piper kicked off the festivities by providing an overview of TAEBC’s mission and accomplishments in 2020. She spoke about challenges the state faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic and how Tennessee is uniquely positioned to capitalize on transportation electrification to help with economic recovery efforts.

Commissioner Rolfe spoke about the importance of recruiting original equipment manufacturers to the Tennessee region, Tennessee’s automotive accomplishments, and the Drive Electric Tennessee initiative. He emphasized that the state is committed to becoming an electric vehicle transportation leader in the southeast. This year’s event included a panel session called, “Tennessee’s EVolution: Making the state a destination for the electric vehicle supply chain.” Panelists discussed the importance of transportation electrification efforts, areas of opportunity, and steps Tennessee can take to accelerate its goal to become the top state for EV manufacturing.
ACEEE Analysis Finds Small Cities Can Lead on Clean Energy, Too

Washington, DC—An analysis of clean energy efforts by 30 small cities finds several leaders taking significant steps to cut energy waste and embrace clean energy—pointing the way for other small municipalities across the country to do the same. The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) examined the cities’ efforts to make homes and buildings more energy efficient, to scale up the use of renewable energy, and to ensure community involvement in developing equitable clean-energy policies. The cities analyzed, with populations generally between 16,000 and 100,000, are in California, Connecticut, Maryland, Minnesota, and New Jersey.

San Luis Obispo (California) received the top score of the group, earning points for its policy incentivizing all-electric equipment and appliances in new buildings and for participating in a program that offers carbon-free electricity to residents. Second place went to Goleta (California), followed by St. Louis Park (Minnesota), Manhattan Beach (California), West Hollywood (California), West Hartford (Connecticut), Rockville (Maryland), Dublin (California) and Red Wing (Minnesota) (tied), and Rochester (Minnesota).

ACEEE evaluated each of the communities on policy metrics assessing government operations, community initiatives, buildings policies, and energy and water utilities. The combined scores allowed ACEEE to rank the municipalities. The analysis assessed policies and programs to make energy efficiency upgrades in homes and businesses, accelerate the adoption of renewable energy, set long-term commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and establish and enforce building codes.

ACEEE scored the cities’ energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies using the metrics from its annual City Clean Energy Scorecard, employing a modified version of its Local Clean Energy Self-Scoring Tool, Version 4.0 released in 2019. The leading small cities outperformed a significant portion of the larger cities scored each year (excepting transportation policies, which were not evaluated for the small cities). Contact Ben Somberg at 202-658-8129, bsomberg@aceee.org for more information.
Two Recent Developments Put Nashville on Track for a More Sustainable Future

Mayor John Cooper’s office has made two announcements that bring Nashville closer to a more sustainable future. The first is the mayor’s signature of legislation updating Metro’s building codes and energy standards. The second is a partnership with Nashville Electric Service, TVA and Vanderbilt University to construct 100 megawatts of utility-scale solar power. That project will put Metro more than one-third of the way toward being sourced with 100 percent renewable energy, according to the mayor’s office.

Nominations: 2021 Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Award

Each year, the Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards honor 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 2021 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

Any individual, business, organization, educational institution, or agency is eligible, provided it is located in Tennessee and the project was completed during the 2020 calendar year. All nominees must have a minimum of three consecutive years of overall environmental compliance with the Department of Environment and Conservation. Self-nominations are encouraged. A panel of judges representing agricultural, conservation, forestry, environmental, and academic professionals will select award recipients based on criteria including level of project or program completion, innovation, and public education. Award recipients will be announced in June 2021.
TREEDC Conference Moved to June 10, 2021

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, the TREEDC board of directors postponed the 7th annual conference originally slated for December 10 – 11 2020, at Tennessee Tech University. Our new conference date will be June 10 – 11, 2021, at Tennessee Tech. Here is a link to the conference: Microsoft Word - TREEDC-2021 Conference Agenda and TREEDC (tnTech.edu).

We will include an optional golf outing as well as our customary annual awards program and reception. More details to follow in the upcoming months. Hopefully, by this time it will be safe for TREEDC supporters to network and facilitate fruitful discussions as we move forward to leverage our 12 years of renewable energy leadership in Tennessee. TREEDC thrives on person to person interaction and a virtual conference would not be conducive to the spirit of our camaraderie among our mayors, schools, and business members.

TREEDC Mayors Discuss 2021 Initiatives

Recently, TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land, Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic and Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes met to discuss TREEDC’s workplan for 2021. Some of these initiatives include our statewide community partnership with AARP, career days with TREEDC member community colleges, June 10th Annual Conference and outreach of new energy related products such as the Bronco Power Boost and safety window film.

The TREEDC mayors look forward to working with new Tennessee Senator Bill Hagerty and all new recently elected mayors in Tennessee.

From left to right: Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic, Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes and MTAS Municipal Management Consultant Warren Nevad
TREEDC Launches 2021 Membership Campaign

TREEDC Chairman/University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver and TREEDC President/Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land have officially launched our 2021 membership campaign. The TREEDC board has kept the 2021 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 and developmental opportunities, sponsorships of various events and participation in our International exchange program. TREEDC is a 501 C 3 charitable organization. For more information regarding 2021 membership opportunities, go to [http://treedc.us/membership/index.html](http://treedc.us/membership/index.html).

University of Tennessee Earns Prestigious Design for Creating Economic Growth

The University of Tennessee at Knoxville has earned a prestigious designation for its role in creating community engagement, economic growth and workforce development in Tennessee and beyond. UT is one of only three universities designated this year as an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

Among the accomplishments that helped UT achieve the designation are:

- UT Extension offices that provide resources and educational opportunities in every Tennessee county;
- More than 80 research centers and institutes throughout the university;
- Partnerships like the one with Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Volkswagen that created Volkswagen's [first "innovation hub" in North America](http://treedc.us/membership/index.html);
- UT programs dedicated to addressing workforce needs of the future.