

## TREEDC Partners with Pew Charitable Trusts at Kingsport Forum



From left to right: Phyllis Shelton, Rhoades Car International, Warren Nevad, MTAS/TREEDC, Erwin Mayor Doris Hensley, Jennifer Alldredge, Alliance to Save Energy, Max Shilstone, Clean Line Energy Partners and Emily Bryan, Pew Charitable Trusts

The Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) held its first educational luncheon forum at the Kingsport Higher Education Center on October 29, 2013. TREEDC partnered with Founding Member Pew Charitable Trusts and the City of Kingsport to showcase area renewable energy initiatives to area stakeholders. Representatives from the University of Tennessee Center for Industrial Services, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Eastman, Erwin, Johnson City, Bristol Congressman Phil Roe's staff and area local officials attended the first TREEDC- Tri-Cities forum. Emily Bryan,

Martin Penny and MTAS Management Consultant/TREEDC Director Warren Nevad crafted the agenda. Max Shilstone, Director of Business Development for TREEDC Gold Member Clean Line Energy Partners was the keynote speaker.

Kingsport Vice-Mayor Tom Parham welcomed the audience and expressed his appreciation to TREEDC's 92 mayors for helping to advance renewable energy awareness to the Tri-Cities. Emily Bryan with Cooley Public Strategies urged the audience to look into Combined Heating and Power because it captures waste heat and puts it to efficient use while providing significant economic and energy security benefits. She added that job growth in the clean energy economy outperformed overall job growth in 38 states and the District of Columbia between 1998 and 2007. Jobs include engineers, plumbers, construction workers, machine setters, teachers and others with annual incomes ranging from \$21,000 to \$110,000

Jennifer Alldrege of the Alliance to Save Energy gave an overview of the organization's mission and goals. The Alliance's PowerSave Schools Program educates students about energy and the link between energy efficiency and the environment, providing hands-on, real-world learning opportunities that empower them to make a real difference. They are currently working with schools in California, Tennessee, Maryland/DC, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey. From 2011-12, California and TVA Green Schools reduced energy use by an average of 12%. She also illustrated successful case studies of the Alliance's PowerSave Campus Programs. The University of the South and Western Kentucky University demonstrated significant energy reduction costs under this program. Nick Safay, Vice-President of Eco Logical Systems gave an overview of the 200 kilowatt solar landfill project in Bristol, Tennessee. Eco Logical Energy Systems has also developed solar projects in Watauga, Tennessee and Dante, Virginia. He also explained how his organization was successful in developing a 50 kilowatt solar array in Bristol, Tennessee which is used in part to educate area students. He also gave an overview of TVA's Green Power Providers Program and urged for more solar opportunities in the region.

Warren Nevad gave an overview of the PHG Energy Covington project. This downdraft gasification system was designed to convert wood trimmings and sewer sludge to electricity to offset energy use by the city's waste water treatment plant. Construction began in April 2013 and the plant's grand opening was set for October 30, 2013. The system utilizes PHGE's proprietary 12 ton-per-day capacity downdraft gasifier to supply some 6 million Btu's of producer gas per hour as the central technology. The gasifier allows the city to dispose of approximately 10 tons of urban wood waste each day, along with two tons of sewer sludge. Both of these waste streams were previously landfilled, costing the city about \$30 per ton in both tipping fees and transportation expense. The City of Covington has earmarked these savings for development of their parks. Nevad concluded his remarks by stating that the TREEDC mayors were proud of the work of PHG Energy and will continue to promote their technology all over.

Phyllis Shelton, Vice-President of TREEDC Founding Member Rhoades Car International gave a progress report of their manufacturing initiatives. The Rhoades Omni-Bike Cross Trainer provides upper and lower body workout for health benefits. This bike is made up of carbon fiber and aluminum and was designed by Vanderbilt mechanical engineering Department and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. She also brought a Solar Monocrystalline bicycle for demonstration. The monocrystalline lasts for 25 years and there are 190 watts 2 seater and 110 watts one seater models. She concluded her remarks by thanking TREEDC for their assistance with business development activities in the Philippines.

Max Shilstone, Director of Business Development for TREEDC Gold member Clean Line Energy Partners provided a video to describe the Plains & Eastern Clean Line Project which will connect Tennessee to superb wind resources of Great Plains with a High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission line. This HVDC line focuses on connecting renewable resources to load centers. The transmission line uses narrower right-of-ways than equivalent Alternating Current and has lower line losses. This line which begins in Guymon, Oklahoma and ends in Tipton County, Tennessee will bring hundreds of direct jobs during construction. The \$300 million investment in transmission facilities in western Tennessee will provide significant tax revenues to Tennessee. He concluded his remarks by expressing

his appreciation to TREEDC and TVA for helping him engage with community officials, business leaders, landowners, and other stakeholders in the project area.

The forum ended at 1:30pm. Please contact TREEDC at [www.treedc.us](http://www.treedc.us) if you are interested in hosting a future event. The TREEDC 2014 membership drive will begin soon.