



TREEDC Newsletter October 2022



MTAS and TREEDC Hosts Community Resilience Roundtable in East Tennessee



From left to right: TREEDC President Dwain Land, UT-MTAS Director Margaret Norris, State Senator Richard Briggs and Lt. Governor Randy McNally

The Flood Ready Tennessee Coalition Briefing hosted a successful roundtable joined by Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally, Senator Richard Briggs, Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon, TREEDC President Dwain Land, The University of Tennessee CTAS Environmental Consultant Kim Raia, MTAS Executive Director Margaret Norris, and local officials from Anderson and Knox Counties to discuss why regional flood preparedness is essential for community development. During the roundtable, attendees discussed how more intense and frequent rainfalls are straining infrastructure. Discussion also involved how we must target specific mitigation projects, secure funding, and then put those projects in place to provide additional resources to communities before disasters strike. MTAS Executive Director Margaret Norris facilitated the conversation among 21 stakeholders involved in the roundtable discussion. The major takeaways from the roundtable are provided on page 2.

Major Takeaways

- More intense and frequent rainfalls are straining infrastructure, washing out roads, and prompting emergency rescues in both Anderson and Knox Counties.
- We need to view mitigation and resilience projects like we do rescue and recovery efforts - they are urgent and necessary.
- Once we identify resilience and mitigation projects, funding becomes the next question – dedicating funding sources need to be available for communities to successfully mitigate.
- Better maps and information that accounts for new development and changes in flood plains will help identify high risk areas and prioritize projects.
- The focus of our planning at the local, regional, and state levels should be: How do we get ahead of the next flood?
- A statewide plan and supportive infrastructure would facilitate collaboration between municipalities and counties and help draw down additional resources to communities before disasters.

Future similar roundtables will be held in Hamilton and Putnam counties later this year. Click [Plan. Prepare. Protect. \(floodreadytn.com\)](https://floodreadytn.com) for more information.



From left to right: TREEDC President Land and Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon

TREEDC Member Woodland Mills Wins Statewide Green Leadership Award



From left to right: Tennessee Municipal League President Franklin Mayor Ken Moore, Woodland Mills Mayor Joseph Lewis and Woodland Mills City Recorder Norma Fowler

Congratulations to TREEDC Member Mayor Joseph Lewis of Woodland Mills for being awarded a statewide Excellence in Green Leadership by the Tennessee Municipal League. The town installed 3 Bronco Power Boost Eco Solar Generators for the William R. Nanney Civic Center. Woodland Mills Mayor/TREEDC Member Joseph Lewis and the Board of Alderman recently converted the civic center to serve also as the designated community emergency shelter during natural disasters. The city used American Rescue Funds to install state – of- the-art generators at the Civic Center. These battery-operated generators will provide automatic backup power for the emergency shelter’s refrigerator, lighting, receptacles for cellphones and laptops and heat for citizens staying in the shelter.

Earlier in January 2022, Woodland Mills became the first local government in Tennessee to adopt by resolution a TREEDC/MTAS Community Resiliency Program. This innovative pilot program consists of a three-tier approach for the city to prepare for natural disasters. The resolution calls for 100 percent of electricity are derived from renewable energy sources by the year 2035, calls for preparation of a climate action plan and sets a goal to equip all municipal, commercial and residential structures with a Bronco Power Boost Eco battery generation that does not emit emissions and works automatically during power outages.

Click here to see the award video created by the Tennessee Municipal League: [2022 TML Achievement Award -- Woodland Mills: Excellence in Green Leadership - YouTube](#)

TREEDC Member Cities McKenzie, McMinnville, and Sparta Wins Tennessee Municipal League Statewide Awards



From left to right: TML President Moore and McMinnville City Administrator Nolan Ming

Congratulations to TREEDC member cities McKenzie, McMinnville, and Sparta for winning TML Awards at the TML Annual Conference held in Chattanooga. McKenzie won a small city progress award for its work on parks and recreation and its renovation of a farmer's market. McMinnville was recognized for its innovative stormwater wetlands developmental project. Sparta was recognized for excellence in public works and utility infrastructure improvements.

UT Martin Program Receives Statewide Agricultural Education Award

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources received the Tennessee Association of Agricultural Educators' award for the Outstanding Postsecondary Agriculture Program at the organization's annual conference July 10-12 in Murfreesboro. This is the third time that UT Martin has received the award.

The award recognizes a post-secondary institution or program in which staff and faculty members devote at least 50% of their teaching time to providing exemplary agricultural education training. Recipients are chosen by a committee of agriculture teachers from across the state based on each program's curriculum, experiential learning and leadership-development opportunities, professional growth of faculty members, and program marketing.

By receiving the award on the state level, UT Martin is now eligible for the national award, which will be given at the National Association of Agricultural Educators conference in December in Las Vegas. The selection process will be based on the same criteria, but the deciding committee will be made up of agriculture teachers from across the United States.



TenneSEIA Hosts Upcoming Annual Solar and Energy Storage Conference



TREEDC is a proud partner of the upcoming TenneSEIA Tennessee Valley Solar and Energy Storage Conference on October 26-27th at the Downtown Knoxville Hilton. The focus of the Tennessee Valley Solar Conference is to bring together people who are interested in growing solar business opportunities in the Tennessee Valley to discuss strategies, market trends, and policies that impact the solar industry. Attendees will participate in in-depth and forward-looking discussions on TVA policy and processes and evolving technical opportunities facing the industry in the Tennessee Valley region. Registration may be accessed here; [Conference – TenneSEIA Solar Association](#)

Mark Your Calendars for TREEDC Conference on December 1, 2022



TREEDC will hold its annual conference and awards reception on December 1, 2022, at 37 Cedar Restaurant in Cookeville. The conference will start at 2pm with an Upper Cumberland round table on flood mitigation with Pew Charitable Trusts and Cooley Public Strategies. Presentations will be given regarding local government opportunities in clean energy resulting from the Inflation Reduction Act, update on TVA's economic development activities and sponsor presentation. The awards reception will begin at 5 pm. For more information click: [2022 TREEDC Renewable Energy Summit \(tntech.edu\)](#)

TAEBC to Host Opportunities in Energy Event



To showcase some of this year's innovations and developments, the Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council is hosting the annual Opportunities in Energy event at The Square Room in downtown Knoxville on **November 16, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. ET**. The event will include several panels on topics ranging from battery partnerships to corporate sustainability. During the event, the 2022 winner of the Thomas B. Ballard Advanced Energy Leadership Award, which honors exemplary leadership and success in championing, connecting, and strengthening Tennessee's advanced energy economy, will be announced. Applications for the award open on **September 30**. Additional information and tickets are available [here](#).

TREEDC Member AARP Host Livable Communities Housing Roundtable with TREEDC Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon

TREEDC Members Knoxville and American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) hosted a round table discussion regarding how senior adults face homelessness because of the lack of affordable housing, increasing energy costs and other rising costs. A total of 25 area stakeholders listened to a presentation about housing costs and shortages by AARP Government Relations Director Samar Jha. This program was a part of AARP's Livable Communities Project.

"Helping to reduce folks energy bill, helping folks with insurance payments. Those are major



chunks of people's checks every month," said Martin Penny, a Tennessee State director for AARP. The organization has held similar workshops in Nashville and Memphis. For more information about AARP's Livable Communities click [AARP Livable Communities - Information and Inspiration for Local Leaders - AARP.org/Livable](https://www.aarp.org/Livable)

TREEDC Member Maryville, TVA, Silicon Ranch, and DENSO to Partner on Solar Project Portfolio

DENSO, a leading mobility supplier, will participate in a portfolio of solar projects that will help power operations at its Maryville facility. Through a collaboration with local utility City of Maryville Electric Department, TVA, and Nashville-based Silicon Ranch Corporation, DENSO will receive a portion of the renewable energy generated by four solar power plants, starting with one located on DENSO's Maryville campus.

The Maryville City Council approved three contracts between the City of Maryville Electric Department and independent power producer Silicon Ranch for a total of 10.5 MW of solar energy under TVA's Generation Flexibility program, a portion of which will serve DENSO's local operations. The program enables participating local power companies to generate up to 5% of their total energy load to meet the renewable energy goals of their customers, attract sustainability-focused businesses to their communities, and solve individual challenges for their distribution systems. In addition to its role in the three solar projects under TVA's Generation Flexibility program, DENSO will also participate in TVA's Green Invest program through a fourth Silicon Ranch facility.'



New Inflation Reduction Act Website and Updated Homeowner's Guide to Federal Tax Credit for Solar PV

The White House created a website on the Inflation Reduction Act where consumers can find out more information on key provisions, including tax credits and rebates. Sign up here for updates as more programs come online. Additionally, U.S. DOE has updated the Homeowner's Guide to the Federal Tax Credit for Solar PV to reflect changes from the Inflation Reduction Act. The Act expands the federal tax credit for solar energy, also known as the Investment Tax Credit (ITC), to 30% of the solar energy system's value through 2033. Learn more here.

The State of Clean Energy- 2022

The Clean Energy Business Network recently released the 2022 State of Clean Energy report. The website provides an interactive map depicting state CO2 emission rates for the electricity sector. Explore the map to view state-level data on power sector emissions and key statistics for clean energy deployment, efficiency, and jobs. Also available are top 10 lists for states in various clean energy categories. Read more from the report on Tennessee here.