



TREEDC Newsletter October 2024



TREEDC Conducts Training at the University of Tennessee MTAS Rural Community Development Institute



Students and instructors at the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) RCDI

On October 8, 2024, the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development (TREEDC) members Tennessee Department of Office of Energy Programs, Wilmot Inc., and Path Company presented informative updates at the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) Rural Community Development Institute (RCDI). A total of 26 municipal officials representing 8 cities learned more about how community resiliency and renewable energy interact with sound rural economic development projects. Congratulations to Dr. Chris Shults for organizing a very successful training institute for MTAS.



Front row: from left to right: Harriman Vice-Mayor Tim Johnson, City Manager Scott Mason, Parks Director Charlie Jones, MTAS Grants and Training Specialist Dr. Chris Shults, Back row: from left to right: Councilmember Johnny Brackett, MTAS Consultant Warren Nevad

TVA Releases Draft Integrated Resource Plan

TVA [recently released](#) the draft [2025 Integrated Resource Plan](#) (IRP), a comprehensive plan that will shape TVA's energy system through 2050. TVA is also preparing an accompanying draft [Environmental Impact Statement](#) (EIS). The drafts result from months of planning, analysis, and active engagement with stakeholders and the public to evaluate how TVA can continue to provide affordable, reliable, resilient, and increasingly cleaner energy for decades to come. The IRP considers resource needs as well as physical and operational constraints, risks, and proposed resource choices. The accompanying EIS analyzes potential environmental impacts to the Tennessee Valley that could result from the proposed actions in the IRP. TVA will [host virtual public webinars and in-person open house meetings](#) across the valley region, including multiple meetings in Tennessee, and will accept [comments](#) through **November 26**.

TVA is developing the IRP due to the region's sustained growth in population and power demand, as well as changes in the utility marketplace. Those changes include evolving policies and regulations, industrial electrification, emerging clean energy technologies, and an increased focus on energy efficiency and [carbon reduction](#) efforts.

Though the 2025 IRP is not final, this draft contains preliminary observations:

- **New capacity** is needed in all scenarios to replace retiring and expiring capacity, support economic growth, and enable further electrification of the economy.
- **Firm, dispatchable generation technologies** are needed to ensure system reliability throughout the year.
- **Solar expansion** plays an increasingly substantial role, providing economic, carbon-free energy.
- **Energy Efficiency deployment** reduces energy needs, particularly between now and 2035. **Demand Response programs** grow with the system and the use of smart technologies.
- **Storage expansion** accelerates, driven by evolving battery technologies and the potential for additional pumped storage.
- **Wind additions** have the potential to add more diversity and carbon-free energy to the resource mix.



TVA Wins Federal Grant

The U.S. Department of Energy awarded a \$250 million grant to the Tennessee Valley Authority and 10 of its local power companies that will fund 84 projects aimed at strengthening the electric grid and building renewable energy.

The grant, announced Oct. 18 through the department's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program, brings TVA's federal grant wins in recent years to more than half a billion dollars. It will help the utility add up to 2,400 megawatts of capacity to its grid, moving enough additional electricity to power 1.4 million homes, and speed development of solar and wind projects. For more information click here: [TVA wins \\$250M DOE grant with 10 local utilities for energy projects](#)

TREEDC Member Nashville Electric System Receives Clean Energy Grant



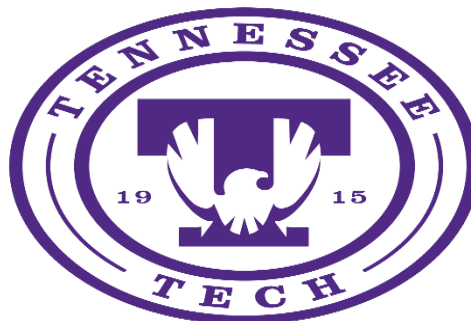
TREEDC member Nashville Electric System (NES) recently announced a partnership between NES, Metro Nashville, Middle-West Tennessee Clean Fuels and the Urban League of Middle Tennessee to create enhancements in clean energy. The upcoming enhancements will allow NES to upgrade technology to provide clean power to its customers. This project will be funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Energy to Communities program. The DOE is allocating \$500,000 to the partners of this project and up to \$3.5 million in technical assistance over 2-3 years.

2024 U.S. Energy and Employment Report

U.S. DOE recently released the 2024 U.S. Energy and Employment Report (USEER). USEER is a comprehensive study to track and understand employment within key energy sectors. The analysis shows that employment increased from 2023 across all five USEER energy technology categories, which include electric power generation, energy efficiency, fuels, motor vehicles, and transmission, distribution, and storage. In Tennessee, energy jobs increased 3.4% for a total of 7,144 jobs. The largest energy technology for Tennessee continued to be in motor vehicles, which employed 107,567 workers and increased by 1.5% over the past year. Additional information is available on the Tennessee pages of the USEER 2024 State Reports.

Mark Your Calendars for TREEDC Conference on November 14, 2024

Our annual conference will be held with Tennessee Tech University on Thursday November 14 at Cookeville-Putnam County Chamber of Commerce located in Leslie Town Center. Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs will be our keynote speaker. A late afternoon networking/awards reception will follow. Reception will be held at 37 Cedar Restaurant. Please click [here](#) to see agenda. The Tennessee Tech University registration site is located on the agenda or can be accessed here: [2024 TREEDC Renewable Energy Summit \(tntech.edu\)](https://2024.treeduc.renewableenergysummit.tntech.edu).



Mark Your Calendars for Tennessee Valley Solar Conference on November 20-21, 2024

TREEDC is a proud partner of the upcoming TenneSEIA Tennessee Valley Solar and Energy Storage Conference. Tennesseia will be organizing the Tennessee Valley Solar + Storage Conference. This event is the largest Solar and Storage Conference for the TVA market. Attendees participate in forward-looking discussions on TVA policy, programs, and opportunities. Highlights for this year will include regional Solar for All funding, results of the TVA IRP and updates on the LPC Generation Flexibility Program. For more information – click here; <https://tenneseiasolar.com/conference/>.



TAEBC Hosts Annual Opportunities Event on November 19, 2024



The Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council will host the [Opportunities in Energy](#) event on **November 19** in Knoxville. The event brings together members and stakeholders to discuss all new and upcoming “opportunities” in the advanced energy sector, including trends, businesses, technologies, and other exciting developments. During the event, a state or local leader will be presented with the annual Thomas B. Ballard Advanced Energy Leadership Award. The award honors exemplary leadership and success in championing, connecting, and strengthening Tennessee’s advanced energy economy. [Register for the event here.](#)

Connected Communities Webinars

TVA’s [Connected Communities](#) program hosts regular webinars on a variety of topics. Past webinars have addressed workforce development, resiliency, and creating a community benefits plan. [View all upcoming and past webinars here.](#)

Upcoming webinars will take place from 1:00-2:00 PM Eastern and include:

- [Solar for All – Leveraging Federal Funds to Advance Your Community’s Priorities:](#)
November 12
- [Regional Grid Transformation – Building a Resilience, Flexible and Integrated Energy System:](#) **December 10**

Technical Assistance for Local Governments to Apply for Federal Funding

The [State Funding Readiness Project](#) (SFRP) provides no-cost technical assistance to jurisdictions, including local governments, for preparing and applying for funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. SFRP can help jurisdictions identify specific investment opportunities, conduct a stakeholder mapping exercise, inform budget planning, meet Justice40 requirements, develop competitive grant applications, and strengthen linkages with administering agencies. SFRP has an open, rolling intake process and considers jurisdiction requests at any time. Learn more on the [SFRP website](#).

TREEDC Founding Member University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) Celebrates 75th Anniversary in Knoxville

The Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) recently celebrated its 75th anniversary across Tennessee. MTAS has hosted three celebrations across the state. The third event was held on October 3, 2024 in Knoxville. MTAS Director Margaret Norris welcomed over 60 attendees with an overview of MTAS' accomplishments over the years.

MTAS was established on April 15, 1949, in cooperation with the Tennessee Municipal League, provide for studies and research in municipal government, publications, educational conferences and attendance at such conferences and in furnishing technical, consultative and field services to municipalities in problems relating to fiscal administration, accounting, tax assessment and collection, law enforcement, improvements and public works and in any and all matters relating to municipal government. MTAS collaborates with agencies within IPS, the university system, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and with all entities that work with municipal governments. Congratulations, MTAS!



Former MTAS Director Mike Tallent, MTAS Consultant Nevad and Former MTAS Director Bob Schwartz

EPA Community Change Grants Program

EPA [announced \\$2 billion](#) in funding from the [Inflation Reduction Act](#) for the [Community Change Grants Program](#). Funding is available for projects that deploy clean energy, reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges. These place-based investments will be focused on community-driven initiatives to be responsive to community and stakeholder input.

There are two separate tracks available:

- Track I: Community-Driven Investments for Change, which is expected to award approximately \$1.96 billion for 150 projects at \$10-20 million each;
- Track II: Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance, which is expected to award approximately \$40 million for 20 projects at \$1-3 million each.

Eligible applicants include partnerships between two community-based non-profit organizations and partnerships between a community-based non-profit organization and a local government, institution of higher education, or federally recognized tribe. View the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) and the [Grants.gov page](#) for additional information. Applications are due **November 21**.

Tennessee Awarded \$7 Million to Adapt Infrastructure for Extreme Weather Events

Tennessee has been [awarded \\$7 million](#) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to support communities in reducing vulnerability to natural hazards and increasing resilience. The funding is under the [Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund Program](#), which aims to equip the State with the ability to administer revolving low-interest loan funds to local governments to adapt infrastructure and better prepare communities. Examples of eligible projects that can be funded through the program are available from the [Tennessee Emergency Management Agency here](#).