



TREEDC



APRIL NEWSLETTER

TREEDC Releases Annual Report



Conservation Day On the Hill: Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) and TREEDC

TREEDC recently completed its Annual report for 2024. To view this report visit: [annual_report.pdf](#) ([treedc.us](#)). During 2024, TREEDC hosted an annual conference and awards program with Tennessee Tech University. We worked with various local governments on determining the feasibility of streetlight conversions to LED. TREEDC worked diligently to keep our members informed with grant announcements, site visits, introductions, forums and phone calls. We also partnered with the University of Tennessee MTAS with its Rural Community Development Initiative Program to strengthen rural economies through outreach and resiliency. TREEDC also worked with the state about the economic and environmental benefits of green stormwater infrastructure.

TREEDC PARTNERS WITH TDEC FOR CONSERVATION DAY ON THE HILL

Recently, TREEDC partnered with the Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) for participation for Conservation Day on the Hill. A total of 120 participants - from Memphis to Kingsport - joined other partner organizations at the Tennessee state capitol to speak with 85 legislators about protecting the environment and supporting the Tennessee Waste to Jobs Act.

Congratulations to TEC President Jimmie Walker, TEC Director Jeff Barrie and staff for organizing this event.



TDEC DIRECTOR Jeff Barrie and MTAS Management Consultant Warren Nevad

TREEDC PARTICIPATES IN BELMONT UNIVERSITY PANEL: ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Recently, TREEDC Member Belmont University conducted an informational panel involving ways for students to engage in assisting non-profit organizations in the Nashville area. This panel was presented to students in the class "Project Planning and Execution". The five (5) Belmont Honors Students pictured below decided to base their research project from a perceived lack of student engagements in hopes to connect students to volunteering opportunities in the greater Nashville community. In order to combat this issue, the students decided to bring their classmates into spaces to learn about ways they can get involved with volunteer work in the community. For more information click: ["Engaging the Community WellCore Series: How a Belmont Honors Collectiv"](#) by Katelyn Anziano, Ella Buettner et al.



MIDDLE TENNESSEE MAYORS ASSOCIATION CONDUCTS INAUGURAL MEETING

Livingston Mayor Lori Burnett recently hosted the first Middle Tennessee Mayors Association (MTMA) meeting with the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) on March 27th. The mission of MTMA is to promote the economic interests and public welfare of the municipalities of Middle Tennessee. Mayors from Hartsville-Trousdale County, Crossville, Liberty, Livingston, Monterey, Sparta, and Spring City attended the meeting. The topics discussed included MTAS training, budgets and infrastructure. The next meeting will be hosted by Sparta Mayor Jerry Lowrey later this summer.

This organization will provide mentoring for new mayors, provide an opportunity to network and discuss shared issues facing mayors around the state and be extremely valuable in providing outreach to the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) and MTAS.



March 27th Inaugural meeting of the Middle Tennessee Mayors Association – Upper Cumberland Chapter.

NEW 1.4-MW SOLAR ARRAY WILL POWER THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE

Chroma Energy Group recently announced the completion of a new 1.4-MW solar installation at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base in Louisville, Tennessee. The solar system, designed to enhance the base's energy resilience and offset energy costs, is part of a phased initiative to establish a microgrid at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base. The base will eventually add battery storage to the installation, further reducing the base's grid reliance. Once finished, the microgrid will enhance base operations during power outages and national emergencies, providing increased energy reliability for critical operations like air refueling missions. For more information click: [New 1.4-MW solar array will power Tennessee Air National Guard base,](#)



RENEWABLE ENERGY BEST PRACTICES: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES AND ENERGY (EGLE)



The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has announced the fourth round of [Renewables Ready Communities Awards](#) (RRCA). This round will support deployment of 1,836 megawatts (MW) of solar power projects – enough clean energy to power more than 1,830,000 Michigan households and businesses.

“Michigan’s Renewables Ready Communities Awards continue to support local communities and our prosperous, healthy, clean energy future,” said EGLE Director Phil Roos. “These awards will enable communities to invest where they see needs in infrastructure, public safety, and more, while accelerating the build-out of affordable green power to hundreds of thousands of Michigan residents.”

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The RRCA awards program provides flexible funding to local units of government to help fund community improvements and additional services for their residents. Examples include local road and bridge repairs; public safety systems; park and playground enhancements; accessibility accommodations; and upgrades to grounds, energy for public buildings, and streetlights.

The program aims to speed the build-out of large-scale renewable energy projects such as wind, solar, and storage by providing these incentives for communities that permit and host the projects. RRCA grants are provided in addition to the tax revenue and community benefits already received by host communities. For more information click: [EGLE awards over \\$8.1 million for renewable energy projects throughout the state](#). This could be a program for Tennessee to explore in the future.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR TREEDC CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 13, 2025

TREEDC will hold its annual conference and awards reception on November 13, 2025, at the Cookeville -Putnam County Chamber of Commerce building in Cookeville. We are excited to be partnering again with the Tennessee Tech University Center for Rural Innovation and School of Professional Studies along with the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service.

The conference will include presentations from municipal sustainability professionals, energy services providers, rural economic development officials, PACE clean energy initiatives and updates from TDEC Office of Energy Programs and USDA Rural Development funding opportunities. The awards reception will be held across the street at 37 Cedar Restaurant and will begin at 5 pm. More information and registration details will be provided in early September.

For sponsorship and presentation opportunities, please call TREEDC President Dwain Land at 423-718-3436 or email at mayorland@gmail.com.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR TENNESSEE ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK SHOW OF THE SOUTH: MAY 14-16, 2025

The Tennessee Environmental Network Show of the South (TENSOS) will be held May 14-16 at the Chattanooga Convention Center. Over the three-day event, TENSOS will host an elite group of environmental professionals seeking to exchange knowledge and share ideas about environmental concerns in Tennessee and across the Southeast region. Breakout sessions will cover a wide range of environmental topics, including energy-focused breakout sessions that will discuss alternative energy, including solar and hydrogen, and nuclear enrichment and fuel production. For more information click: [Join us! Tennessee Environmental Network Show of the South - TENNESSEE ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK](#)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR: TENNESSEE VALLEY SOLAR + STORAGE CONFERENCE: OCTOBER 28-30, 2025

The Tennessee Solar Energy Industries Association (TenneSEIA) will host its 2025 Tennessee Valley Solar + Storage Conference in Nashville on October 28-30. Click: [Conference – TenneSEIA Solar Association](#) The focus of the Conference is to bring together people interested in growing solar business opportunities in the Tennessee Valley and 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 the evolving technical opportunities facing the industry in the Tennessee Valley.

TAEBC CONDUCTS PODCASTS

Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council — Energizing Tennessee - Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council, a podcast from the Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council (TAEBC) and FirstBank, explores the latest news and insights about the advanced energy sector with experts sharing their thoughts on transportation electrification, workforce development, and the growing sector of advanced energy in Tennessee's economy.

In episode thirty-one, host Cortney Piper interviews participants to learn about microgrids and the asset mix, site considerations, challenges, lessons learned, and what this project means for the future of energy.

All episodes are available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and wherever you get your podcasts.

APPRENTICESHIPS IN CLEAN ENERGY WEBINAR SERIES

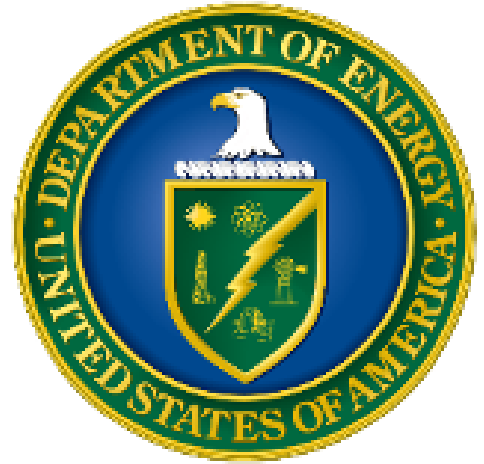
The Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) launched a learning series on registered apprenticeships through its Apprenticeships in Clean Energy (ACE) Network, a national coalition of industry, training and workforce development leaders seeking to expand and diversify Registered Apprenticeship opportunities in the clean energy industries. Webinars are scheduled on the third Wednesday of every month at 2:00 PM Eastern through November, and each session will focus on a specific aspect of apprenticeships, equipping attendees with the knowledge to develop, implement, and manage successful programs. View all upcoming webinars here: Registered Apprenticeship Learning Lunch Series: A 12-Month Program - Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC).

SEVEN STATES POWER CORPORATION RECEIVES USDA FUNDING TO SUPPORT SOLAR AND STORAGE IN THE TENNESSEE VALLEY

In January, Seven States Power Corporation was awarded over \$439 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the Empowering Rural America (New ERA) Program. The funds will support 250 MW of solar energy and storage initiatives in the Tennessee Valley. The associated project will power nearly 113,000 homes each year, create over 100 jobs, and reduce emissions by nearly 291,000 tons annually. The new solar generation is expected to take up to three to five years for design finalization and full project deployment. For more information click : USDA Continues Historic Commitment, Partnering with Rural Communities on Clean, Affordable Energy | Home.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING & ASSESSMENT CENTERS IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

The U.S. DOE Industrial Training & Assessment Centers (ITAC) Program has re-opened applications for small and medium-sized manufacturing (SMM) firms to receive grants of up to \$300,000 per unique assessment recommendation from ITAC assessments. These grants will support projects to improve energy and material efficiency, increase productivity, and reduce emissions at SMMs. U.S. DOE has extended the application deadline and selection process for this program to be compliant with recent Executive Orders. The application deadline is to be determined, and U.S. DOE will provide a 30–60-day notice prior to closing the application portal. For more information click: [ITAC - Industrial Training & Assessment Centers Implementation Grants](#).



COMMUNITY ENERGY INNOVATION PRIZE ROUND 2

U.S. DOE recently announced the second round of the [Community Energy Innovation Prize](#), a multi-million-dollar competition supporting grassroots innovation, entrepreneurship, capacity building, and economic development.

One of the three available prize tracks is the Vehicles Ecosystem Track. In this track, a total prize pool of \$2.6 million will be awarded to up to 10 teams for supporting the deployment of clean transportation technologies in a manner that promotes access to clean transportation technologies, improves health and air quality outcomes, and lowers the burden of transportation impacts on community members.

Eligible entities include private entities (for-profits and nonprofits); nonfederal government entities such as states, counties, tribes, and municipalities; academic institutions; and individuals. [Applications](#) are due June 20.

TVA DRAFT INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN RELEASED

TVA released the draft 2025 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), a comprehensive plan that will shape TVA's energy system through 2050, and released the accompanying draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The drafts result from months of planning, analysis, and active engagement with stakeholders, including TDEC OEP's own Ben Bolton, 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.

IN MEMORIUM: CARLOS MAYER: WOLDWIDE SOLAR PIONEER

This TREEDC Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Carlos Mayer, who passed away in January. Carlos was one of the early solar pioneers in Tennessee by assisting in the development of Plateau Park Solar, Chattanooga Solar Share and Fayetteville Solar Projects. Back in 2014, Carlos and Tim Hayes of TREEDC Founding Member Vis Solis helped TREEDC launched its International Exchange Program by developing TREEDC's first solar project in at the City of Puerto Princesa Philippines Municipal Complex. Carlos assisted TREEDC with emergency flashlight distribution for victims of Typhoon Yolanda and often gave presentations to students in Tennessee and the Philippines. He also provided educational tours with Barry Brown to our Philippine delegation visiting Tennessee in 2014. Carlos also developed many projects in Germany. He was a worldwide solar pioneer. Rest in peace, Carlos.



Carlos Mayer center- dark jacket and former Rockwood Brillo Miller opens Plateau Park Solar in 2016