



# JULY NEWSLETTER

## TREEDC President Land Reelected as Dunlap Mayor



*TREEDC President/ Dunlap Mayor Dwain Land*

Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) President Dwain Land was recently reelected as Mayor of Dunlap, Tennessee. Mayor Land previously served as Dunlap Mayor from 2009 to 2021. Mayor Land has served Dunlap with distinction, spearheading numerous projects that have enhanced the quality of life for residents. His accomplishments include the revitalization of downtown Dunlap, improvements in local infrastructure, and initiatives aimed at boosting the local economy. Check out Season 1” “Small Town America” on Roku channel which features the city’s efforts to rebuild downtown and its country charm.

In addition to his role as Mayor, Dwain Land has been the President of the Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TREEDC) since 2015. Under his leadership, TREEDC has driven forward numerous clean energy and resiliency projects across the state and Asia, fostering economic development social responsibility and sustainability. Congratulations, President Land.

# CHATTANOOGA RECEIVES MUNICIPAL LEAGUE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION

Several departments within the city of Chattanooga have worked together to improve the city's storm water system, resulting in decreased flooding risks, improving water quality, and becoming a national model for tackling stormwater issues.



For a citywide approach to mitigating flood risk while improving local waterways and watersheds, the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) is proud to present the city of Chattanooga with an award for Excellence in Energy Efficiency and Conservation. The award will be presented Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025, at the 85th Annual Conference of the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) held at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

As trees and native plants are important to stormwater management, the Chattanooga Public Works Department has partnered with the city's Forestry Department and the Natural Resources Division of the Parks and Outdoors Department to pass a new tree ordinance.

The city, public works department, Chattanooga EPB, and Reflection Riding also worked together to receive a \$6 million grant to increase tree canopy in disadvantaged neighborhoods. This will also bring down core neighborhood temperatures and improve health care outcomes as well as decrease energy usage in the community.

The public works department also started an anti-litter campaign to remove trash and debris from local waterways. The floating litter booms on Chattanooga Creek have kept more than 2.6 tons of trash out of the Tennessee River since May 2023.

To get citizens involved, the city of Chattanooga has created two programs that provide both residents and businesses owners with the opportunity to aid in stormwater mitigation. Educational resources and financial incentives for the use of native plants, rain gardens, rain barrels, and other eco-friendly practices are available to homeowners through the RainSmart Yards and Rewards program and non-residential landowners through the Green Grants program.

Technology has also been employed to allow both public works and emergency responders to arrive on scenes more quickly and protect citizens. With flash flooding being the deadliest type of flooding, the city's new Automated Flood Warning System instantly closes flood-prone streets to traffic, preventing people from crossing dangerous roadways.

The automated gate system includes flashing lights on either side of the high-water area and allows real-time data collection, analysis and management as well as alarm and notification that gates have been closed. Prior to this system, public works employees were often put at risk having to manually put in barriers, often in the dark or after hours.

Data gathered at the site is also helping the city better understand issues related to flooding as well as forecasting where responses may need to be concentrated during flood events.

Beyond amazing work on stormwater and water quality, the Chattanooga Public Works Department has renewed its American Public Works Association (APWA) accreditation, one of only two in the state and 147 in the country to receive this national designation. Congratulations to the City of Chattanooga.

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE MAYORS ASSOCIATION CONDUCTS SECOND MEETING

Sparta Mayor Jerry Lowery recently hosted the second Middle Tennessee Mayors Association (MTMA) meeting with the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) on July 10, 2025. Mayors from 17 area cities attended this luncheon meeting provided by the City of Sparta, Tennessee. Attendees heard informative updates from MTAS Executive Director Margaret Norris, Tennessee Municipal League (TML) Executive Director Anthony Haynes, MTAS Training Program Manager Johanna Owenby and Upper Cumberland Development Council (UCDD) Deputy Director Tommy Lee.



*MTAS Executive Director Margaret Norris Speaks at the MTMA Lunch in Sparta on July 10, 2025*

Gary Cohen, Executive Director of Tennessee Waste to Jobs (TWTJ) explained to the mayors the key elements of the Waste to Jobs Act. This piece of legislation is aimed at promoting waste reduction and recycling efforts across the state. The act encourages businesses to create jobs by investing in waste management and recycling technologies. It provides incentives for companies to develop innovative solutions for waste management, with the goal of creating economic opportunities and reducing environmental impact. This act also supports local economies by encouraging the use of recycled materials in manufacturing and other industries.

The mayors gave updates about their communities. The topics discussed included MTAS training, budgets and infrastructure. Officers for the inaugural year will be President Livingston Mayor Lori Burnett; 2) Vice President Jerry Lowery; and 3) Fayetteville Mayor Donna Hartman. 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 TML and MTAS. The mission of MTMA is to promote the economic interests and public welfare of the municipalities of Middle Tennessee.



*TWTJA Director Gary Cohen Addresses the Mayors*

## TREEDC MEMBER PATH PARTNERS WITH NASHVILLE ELECTRIC



*Streetlighting conversion results in Nashville*

PATH is proud to partner with Nashville Electric Service (NES) and Metro Nashville to lead a transformative, multi-phase streetlight retrofit across the city. This ambitious project involves converting over 55,000 public streetlights to energy-efficient LED fixtures—supporting Nashville’s Vision Zero initiative to create brighter, safer roadways.

As of March 31, 2025, more than 23,000 lights have been upgraded, resulting in an estimated 1.37 million kWh in monthly energy reduction and over \$116,000 in monthly savings. With approximately 25,573 installations completed to date, the project is well underway and will continue through 2025 and beyond.

Private and security lighting is not included in this retrofit, which focuses solely on public infrastructure within Metro boundaries. To learn more and read project updates, visit [nashvillestreetlights.com](https://www.nashvillestreetlights.com)

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR TREEDC CONFERENCE ON 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](mailto:mayorland@gmail.com).



*Far right: Dr. Michael Aikens, Tennessee Tech University Center for Rural Innovation , Warren Nevad, MTAS and Tennessee Tech Engineering students at the 2024 conference.*

# SAVE THE DATE: OPPORTUNITIES IN ENERGY

The Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council (TAEBBC) will host the annual Opportunities in Energy event on November 19 in downtown Knoxville. The event will bring together TAEBBC members and stakeholders to discuss all new and upcoming “opportunities” in the clean energy sector, including trends, businesses, technologies, and other developments.



## 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.

## SOUTHEAST ENERGY POLICY FORUM

The [Southeast Energy Policy Forum](#) will take place August 5-6 in Knoxville. The Forum is hosted by the Center for Energy, Transportation, and Environmental Policy, housed at the Howard H. Baker Jr. School of Public Policy and Public Affairs at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. It convenes industry leaders, nonprofits, ORNL, TVA, and government officials for accessible policy analysis, insights on the policy process, and policy-centered technical discussions about emerging technologies.

The 2025 Forum will foster discussions around four key questions:

- What can we expect from the new administration?
- How much energy demand growth should we expect?
- How can we spur the infrastructure development to meet this demand growth?
- What is energy security, and how does international trade affect our energy system?

Register [here](#).

# USDA ANNOUNCES NEW PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEE TO SERVE RURAL TENNESSEE

Patrick Jaynes was recently appointed by President Donald Trump to serve as the USDA Rural Development State Director for the state of Tennessee. Director Jaynes will implement President Trump's America First agenda at USDA Rural Development, ensuring the needs of America's farmers, ranchers, and producers remain a top priority.

Before being named State Director for USDA Rural Development, Jaynes worked as Senior Consultant for Nashville-based Jigsaw Consulting, where he engaged in local, state, and federal government relations. Prior to his work with Jigsaw, Patrick served for 18 years as Deputy Chief of Staff and State Director with U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander.

State Directors serve as the Chief Executive Officer of USDA Rural Development in the states and territories and are tasked with leading teams to carry out the mission of Rural Development to the benefit of all rural Americans. In conjunction with the guidance and support of the National Office, State Directors are responsible for advancing the key priorities and initiatives of the Presidential Administration, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development. State Directors also provide key leadership to foster a mission-driven, accountable, and high-performing workforce focused on operational excellence, public trust, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources.



## TVA OFFERINGS FOR BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY



TVA EnergyRight offers various types of support for business and industry partners, including energy efficiency incentives, revitalization programs, and strategic energy management. TVA provides no-cost energy assessments to customers with an electrical demand of 1,000 kW and greater to identify and quantify incentive-eligible energy efficiency projects. For industrial customers with an electrical demand of 3,500kW and greater, TVA and its LPCs offer the Strategic Energy Management program, which lasts two years and helps qualifying industrial customers increase profitability and achieve sustainability goals by reducing energy use and lowering carbon emissions. The program provides energy performance modeling, energy mapping, onsite engineering studies, and individualized monthly coaching, all tailored to help eliminate energy waste.

# EPA COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANT 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.

# 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).