



April 12, 2011

TREEDC Holds Clean Energy Jobs Forum for West Tennessee communities

The Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) held its 2nd annual renewable energy forum for area farmers, elected officials and clean energy providers at the University of Tennessee West Research Center in Jackson, Tennessee on April 5, 2011. Despite extreme stormy weather the prior day, 48 participants representing 11 cities, 8 counties, 5 states and Denmark joined together to learn about job creation opportunities in the clean energy sectors of biofuels, solar energy, green diesel, compressed natural gas and biosolids gasification. The event was sponsored by TREEDC founding member Jackson Energy Authority and Jackson City Councilman Ernest Brooks, II. The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) crafted the agenda which consisted of presentations from Pathway Lending, 25x25 Initiative, 49 Green, Integrated Solar/Maupin Technologies, Efficient Energy of Tennessee, Clean Energy and an update from TREEDC President/Pikeville Mayor Greg Johnson. Attendees were afforded a tour of the state of the art solar generation facility at the American Drive Business Center in Jackson, Tennessee following the forum.

TREEDC President Johnson and MTAS Consultant/TREEDC Founder Warren Nevad praised the Tennessee Valley Authority(TVA) , Oak Ridge National Laboratory(ORNL) and the University of Tennessee for assisting the statewide TREEDC mayors with their initial outreach activities regarding the green power switch program, sustainable planning and community development. Nevad informed the attendees that as of April 2011, TREEDC had 51 cities and 19 counties as members to the advisory board. East, Middle and West Tennessee have mayoral coordinators who reach out to area stakeholders to bring regional economic development opportunities in renewable energy to their area. Johnson thanked the Tennessee General Assembly's Agricultural Committee for allowing TREEDC to testify about the need for green jobs in Nashville on March 29th. TREEDC also announced plans for a future forum sponsored by the City of Franklin on June 24, 2011 and announced upcoming presentations and events including a reception at the annual Tennessee Municipal League Conference in Murfreesboro on June 12, 2011.

Al Campbell with Pathway Lending discussed details regarding a low interest revolving loan fund program to finance energy efficiency projects for Tennessee facilities. Brent Bailey with the 25x25 Initiative discussed biomass feedstock opportunities to convert into cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel. Henning Bollerslev of 49 Green explained their revolutionary Danish process of converting municipal and

agricultural wastes into green diesel as an emerging alternative transportation fuel for European vehicles. Billy Gibson with Integrated Solar/Maupin Technologies urged cities to look at using their wastewater sludge to create syngas which can power their wastewater facilities.

Greg Martin with Clean Energy advised the audience that replacing one diesel municipal garbage truck with one that operates on natural gas has the same emissions benefits as taking 325 cars off the road per year. Martin stressed that increased petroleum demand in China and India, turmoil in Egypt, and the earthquake in Japan have propelled natural gas as a potential leading replacement in fossil fuel. Mary Speight with Efficient Energy of Tennessee advised attendees that Hemlock, Wachter Chemie, Sharp Solar and AGC Flatglass were critical components of the solar supply chain in Tennessee.

For sponsorship opportunities at future TREEDC events and/or details regarding TREEDC's testimony to the Agriculture Committee of the General Assembly, please contact warren.nevad@tennessee.edu.