



Renewable Energy Outreach by the City of Franklin and TREEDC

Warren Nevad, MTAS Municipal Management Consultant

The Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TREEDC) held its first membership meeting in Middle Tennessee on June 8, 2010 at the Factory in Franklin, Tennessee. More than 130 attendees from 48 cities, 25 counties and six states took advantage of educational and networking opportunities that focused on growing the renewable energy industry in Tennessee. Panel discussions ranged from cellulosic ethanol, biodiesel, electric cars, municipal and county best practices, gasification, solar energy and state and economic development and planning.

Franklin Alderman and TREEDC Middle Tennessee Coordinator Ken Moore and the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) Management Consultant/TREEDC Director Warren Nevad organized the workshop. The University of Tennessee President Emeritus Dr. Joe Johnson praised the visionary leadership and grassroots approach demonstrated by mayors of TREEDC and MTAS. He also announced that TREEDC had collaborated with McBee Bailey & Associates to assist in bringing in more than \$1.9 million dollars in energy economic impact to Tennessee. He added that TREEDC has become a national model since it was created through a partnership between a major university, mayors and a small innovative firm. Dr. Johnson also announced plans for a fall 2010 TREEDC forum to be organized by MTAS and the Roane County Alliance.

Tracy Woodard, Director of Government Affairs advised the audience that Nissan officials were working closely with state and local officials in the Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga areas to build adequate infrastructure to support the marketplace entry of the Nissan Leaf. Dr. Sam Jackson, a Genera Energy Vice President and faculty member of the UT Institute of Agriculture discussed the cellulosic ethanol opportunities associated with the joint venture with Dupont Danisco. David Lindon, Hoover, Alabama Fleet Management Director and East Ridge City Manager William Whitson gave updates about their biodiesel programs. Brent Bailey with the 25 x'25 Initiative and Leah Berry with Strata-G discussed agricultural feedstock opportunities for energy crops.

TREEDC Advisory Board Member/Legal Advisor Ernest T. Brooks, II and Cortney Piper with the Tennessee Business Leaders for a Clean Economy discussed key legislative policy initiatives. TREEDC President/Pikeville Mayor Greg Johnson gave leadership awards to the City of Franklin officials, L.K. Browning & Associates, Tennessee Department of Agriculture Biofuels Coordinator Kyle Holmberg and Penny Judd with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Attendees also were treated to presentations by, Flex Fuel U.S, Frazier, Barnes & Associates, Crossville Sustainability, Strata-G, Efficient Energy of Tennessee, Diversified Renewable Energy Systems and Knoxville Solar City Program.