

Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council First Meeting a Success



Warren Nevad, TREC Executive Director/MTAS Management Consultant

The Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TREC) held its first statewide meeting on June 10, 2009 at Fall Creek Falls. A total of 75 interested mayors, businesses and state officials heard presentations about the University of Tennessee/Dupont Danisco Switchgrass Ethanol Demonstration Plant; Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Solar Energy Program; Arcadis Wind Energy Development; East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition; Biodiesel Logic; and StrataG biomass logistics planning.

University of Tennessee President Emeritus Dr. Joe Johnson gave the keynote address which urged members to cooperate together and provide leadership to their communities across the state. Dr. Johnson



also reminded attendees that the agencies of the Institute of Public Service — MTAS, CTAS and CIS — are key resources to assist communities in both renewable energy and economic development. Dr. Johnson also stated that the Council would be an excellent vehicle to promote and educate citizens about renewable energy.

A presentation was made on the City of Crossville's innovative program of sustainability and youth awareness. Attendees

also heard about proposed program from McBee, Bailey, & Associates to develop 10 community wide biodiesel recycling programs.

TREC's mission is to promote and connect renewable energy with sustainable economic development. The Council is also available to help communities with strategic planning in renewable energy and can be a conduit to assist communities with the development of energy production facilities. The Council was chartered by the State of Tennessee on August 21, 2008.

For proceedings of this meeting go to the [MTAS Web site](#). Nevad can be contacted at warren.nevad@tennessee.edu or 865-974-9839.