



Tennessee
Environmental
Council

Summit for a Sustainable Tennessee

Many voices, common vision moving Tennessee toward a healthy and sustainable future for its people, places, and economy.

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1st Annual Summit for a Sustainable Tennessee: Lipscomb University - Nashville November 15-17, 2007

Vision and Goals

The 2007 Summit for a Sustainable Tennessee will convene in Nashville, November 15-17, 2007. *The Summit* will bring together private companies, non-profit organizations, agencies, institutions, community and business leaders and citizens from across the state with an interest in the long-term future of Tennessee, including its economy, its diverse communities and its land, air, water and wildlife.

The goal of the 2007 Summit is to establish an efficient and equitable process for crafting, prioritizing and advancing a statewide sustainability agenda and action plan for its implementation. This statewide plan for a sustainable Tennessee, to be known as The Sustainability Agenda, should establish the connection between the natural landscape, a healthy environment, a healthy economy and improved quality of life for all citizens. During the Summit, we will establish a schedule for collaborative meetings and identify an action committee to coordinate continual conversation and collaboration among stakeholders.

A guiding principle for the 2007 Summit will be a positive emphasis on the environmental, economic and community benefits of conserving natural resources and promoting sustainable practices in homes, workplaces and neighborhoods.

Conservation and Sustainability: The Opportunity for the 21st Century

The move toward conservation and sustainability is all about ***opportunity***.

Opportunity to experience natural, unspoiled landscapes as places to hike, swim, fish, hunt, camp or simply escape from the noise and rush of our towns and cities.

Opportunity to study and be fascinated by nature's infinitely complex and interconnected living systems.

Opportunity to leverage cutting edge technologies, to explore new sources of jobs and wealth, and to tap into the innovative power of Tennessee's entrepreneurs, research labs and educational institutions.

To make the most of these opportunities, we in Tennessee must be ready to listen more closely to a wider range of voices, to challenge long held assumptions about how things work, and to be prepared to acknowledge the *root causes* of issues and problems facing communities across the state. This new understanding will lead us to discover the best *upstream* solutions—solutions from which we, and our children, and their children, will all benefit.

In almost every area where our state faces an economic, environmental, or social challenge, there are compelling examples of practical ways to make real progress *and profits* without sacrificing community values or our children's future.

- Natural landscapes and waterways as settings for employment, education and healthy recreation
- Healthy, robust watersheds serving as natural filtration systems
- Expanded tree cover helping cool urban heat islands and absorb the carbon dioxide contributing to global warming

- Long-range growth strategies that preserve or restore the landscapes, watersheds and green-spaces necessary for wildlife, recreation, tourism and reliable sources of clean water and rich soils
- High performance greenbuilding materials and low-waste construction methods
- Economic development that supports local economies, independent, small business owners and non-polluting industries
- More reliable energy sources and recycling technologies that attract jobs and smart investment
- More efficient industrial designs and manufacturing procedures
- Healthier agricultural practices that use less fossil fuel while producing better tasting animal products and produce
- Practical land use plans, zoning practices and mixed-use community designs that reduce fuel costs and air pollution while encouraging transit, ridesharing, walking and a more active lifestyle, especially for children and seniors

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*The mission of the **Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC)** is to educate and advocate for the protection of Tennessee's environment and public health. For more than thirty years, TEC has been working daily to protect the environment in Tennessee.*

***Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV)** is a coalition of Tennessee environmental, conservation and preservation groups dedicated to electing environmentally responsible state officials and holding them accountable for safeguarding the natural heritage of Tennessee through the making of prudent laws.*