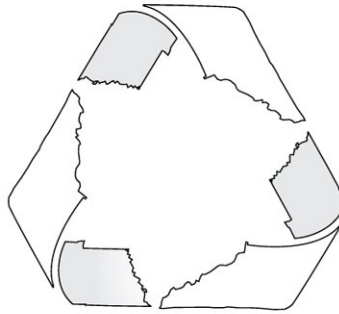


Sustainable Tennessee Agenda 2010

Priorities



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A project of the Tennessee Environmental Council
& Tennessee Conservation Voters



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From the majestic mountain vistas in the east, forested woodlands of the Cumberland Plateau and rolling green pastures of middle Tennessee to the fertile farmlands in the west, Tennessee is blessed with an astounding natural environment. Our pristine mountain waters and river systems boast seven of the eight most biologically diverse rivers in North America. These wondrous natural resources help keep Tennessee green and beautiful. Tennessee's natural resources form the backbone of our way of life, our economy, and the health of our communities. Presently, expanding populations, unplanned growth, deteriorating infrastructure, industrial processes and excessive extraction of natural resources increasingly threaten the sustainability of Tennessee.

The concept of sustainability can be defined simply as, "no waste". Waste is a measure of economic efficiency, and a simple metric Tennesseans can utilize to measure how sustainable our lifestyles and communities have become. We can monitor waste generated, or lack thereof, to track our progress toward sustainability as individuals, organizations and societies. Sustainability can also be defined in more complex terms that include economic criteria, natural resources and equity of access.

A sustainable strategy for Tennessee will position our state to simulate a growing Green Economy and Green Jobs sector. The Green Economy potentially represents an economic future like Tennessee has never seen before. It is a retooling of our failing infrastructure in a manner that promotes Tennessee heritage, our communities and our quality of Life. This strategy ensures that labor-intensive Green Collar Jobs are created locally and training programs are initiated so segments of the population currently unemployed or underemployed can benefit from stable well-paying opportunities.

Over the past two years, more than 800 Tennesseans and 230 organizations have worked to develop the Sustainable Tennessee Agenda 2010. In November 2009, over 150 individuals representing over 90 organizations and businesses throughout the state participated in the Sustainable Tennessee Summit. Leaders of statewide conservation groups, businesses and other agencies came together to discuss the action steps necessary to create sustainability for Tennessee. Emphasizing the need to conserve our natural infrastructure and promote safe, healthy communities, quality growth and sustainable energy, Summit attendees agreed on and finalized the Sustainable Tennessee Agenda 2010 (www.sustainabletn.org).

This "Priorities" document features the Summit participants' top recommendations. These priorities fall into five broad categories; 1) Legislative, 2) Regulatory, 3) Market-based 4) Education and 5) Research. They can be applied to many levels of organization from individuals, businesses, churches, schools, and government agencies and are readily implement able. It is imperative that we work together to implement the Sustainability Agenda to protect and re-vitalize our economy.

2010 TOP FIVE POLICY PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND TENNESSEE'S LEGISLATURE

- 1) Real Estate Transfer Fund - Fully restore the Real Estate Transfer Fund by budget amendment (or other) to Forever Green Tennessee.
- 2) Energy & Water Building Codes - Institute commercial energy efficiency and water (storm and drinking water) building codes to reduce operational costs for buildings and promote clean water for drinking.
- 3) Nuclear Waste & Hazard - Stop Tennessee from becoming the "nuclear" dumping ground of the world and protect Tennesseans from the dangers of nuclear weapons and power and associated waste disposal.
- 4) Ban Open Burning - Promote a ban on open burning by TDOT and other developers to reduce toxics released into the air we breathe.
- 5) Regional Coordinated Development Plans - Develop regional coordinated development plans that address the conservation of natural resources

2010 TOP FIVE PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- 1) Evaluate, Reduce & Green Up Energy Use - We encourage all Tennesseans to conduct a home Energy evaluation (www.energyright.com/savingenergy/evaluation.htm) and act based on findings, to purchase at least one block of Green power at <http://www.tva.gov/greenpower/switch/>) and learn about, promote and participate as able in the TVA Generation Partners program (www.GPSGenpartners.com).
- 2) Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership (TP3)- We encourage all Tennesseans to become members (<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/ea/tp3/>) and encourage Cities, and county governments and local Chambers of Commerce to use TP3 as a framework for business recruitment
- 3) Planting Trees - Plant and care for one native tree in the fall of each year. Plant a deciduous tree on the east, south or west of your home to save on cooling cost during the summer. Plant a row of evergreens on the north to block the cold north wind.
- 4) Sustainable Transportation - Use mass transit, bike or walk at least once per month instead of using the car.
- 5) Recycle - Recycle everything you can based on availability of local markets.