

Highlights Sustainable TN Press Conference & Agenda Release 1/25- 1-2pm – Legislative Plaza

- 1:00 -1:05 TN Sustainability Agenda
John McFadden, Tennessee Environmental Council
- Agenda is developed by a coalition of environmental experts, citizens, businesses.
 - Over 150 people have read and signed the 2011 Agenda as well as over 46 organizations since December.
 - Driving the agenda is the fact that its all about the new economy and jobs
 - The group established priority objectives. The full Agenda can be found online at www.sustainabletn.org
- 1:05-1:10 Energy for a Challenging Economy
Sam Gomberg, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
- We've seen energy-related issues come front and center in our discussion over Tennessee's future in the past 3 years and it is going to continue to be relevant as we seek out economic opportunities for the state.
 - Clean energy offers a tremendous opportunity to harness economic growth at a time when economic growth is hard to come by
 - Investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy offers double benefits because while it creates jobs and spurs local investments on one end, it reduces the cost of doing business on the other end.
 - As we transition to a new governor's administration and welcome many new legislators to the capital, it's critical that we remain focused on Tennessee's energy issues and continue to support programs, policies and legislation that is going to develop the state's clean energy markets, create jobs in clean energy sectors, and attract local and regional investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- 1:10-1:15 Green Jobs and a New Economy
Dan Joranko, Tennessee Alliance for Progress (TAP)
- A study by the Political Economy Research Institute found that investments in clean energy create 3.2 more jobs overall than fossil fuel investments and 3.6 more jobs requiring high school degrees or less. This is well suited to TN which has a relatively high number of workers with low levels of formal education.
 - An estimated 6,000 jobs resulted from the clean energy sector including: Hemlock and Wacker silicon manufacturing plants, Nissan Leaf manufacturing plant, electric car charging stations and solar generation facilities.
 - Clean energy jobs are not exotic they include carpenters, construction laborers, electricians, insulation workers, roofers, machinists, sheet metal workers, and bus drivers.
 - TAP supports legislation that promotes job creation by assisting business, that provides coordinated workforce development programs to prepare people for those jobs, and which enables

Tennesseans, particularly from our most distressed communities, to be placed in these jobs.

1:15-1:20

Just Say No to Radioactive Waste from Around the World

Brian Paddock, Paddock & Mastin Attorneys At Law

- Every year tons of radioactive waste is put into Tennessee Landfills under the “Bulk Survey for Release” program. This waste comes from all over the United States and potentially all over the world.
- When a license is granted the landfill site is not required to notify the community that radioactive waste is being trucked in and mixed with the city’s garbage.
- Likewise there legal requirement for public notice to the community where the burning or other processing is to take place.
- A company called Energy Solutions has requested a permit to bring 1.000 tons of radioactive waste from Germany – waste that was collected around the world. For more information visit http://www.tectn.org/display_headline.php?id=81
- Legislation will be introduced this year to restrict the “Bulk Survey for Release” program. Citizens should have more say about the nuclear waste business which has made Tennessee the dumping ground for lower level radioactive waste.

1:20 -1:25

Mining in Tennessee

Mary Mastin, Tennessee Environmental Council & Paddock & Mastin Attorneys At Law

- Mountaintop coal mining - or mountaintop removal coal mining - in Tennessee threatens our Cumberland Mountains among the oldest mountains on the planet. Our Cumberland Mountains have some of the most biodiverse plant and aquatic life in the Northern hemisphere and were the seed bed for all plant life in North America after the ice receded in the last ice age.
- Our pure mountain streams and headwaters are the source for all our drinking water.
- Our scenic mountain vistas, mountain cultural heritage and clear mountain streams are important tourist attractions.
- Tourism is the second largest industry in Tennessee, producing many more jobs than the few hundred in mountain top mining which relies on huge machinery and not human labor in Tennessee.
- In order to protect our drinking water source, our mountain vistas, cultural heritage and tourism jobs, Tennessee must protect its mountains from mountaintop removal mining in Tennessee, where often 200-300 feet of mountaintop may be blown up or removed to get to as small a coal seam as 17-20 inches.

1:25-1:30

Recycling Refunds and the New Green Economy

Marge Davis, Pride of Place/Scenic Tennessee

- Almost 50,000 jobs across the SE are tied to manufacturers who need recycled materials with a total sales of \$4 billion.

- The Recycling refund law will create green jobs in Tennessee and move a small percentage of solid waste management into the private sector
- The cleanest/highest quality and most valuable used beverage containers for recycling come from states that have bottle bills

1:30-1:35

The value of Connecting Citizens to the Land

Kevin Guenther, Design Resource & Tennessee Environmental Council

- Land is the connecting crossroad of clean air, water and energy resources providing for our growth and economy, recreation and health and wildlife habitat.
- If we connect people to the land they will care for it and value it. This connection makes all the difference in establishing sustainable land use patterns.
- Comprehensive land use planning – analogous to using a plan or blueprint to build a house – Soil is our foundation, trees and vegetation act as our air ventilation and climate control and the streams and watershed act as our plumbing. Different land use policies can be drawn as an analogy to the different uses we plan for the spaces within our homes. Planning is very important as a tool for sustainability and the public needs to be part of the planning process.

1:35-1:40

Mary Helen Clarke

Tennessee Conservation Voters

- A sustainable, efficient economy is a prosperous one. Natural resources are the backbone of our economy.
- Tennessee Conservation Voters will announce their priority issues soon. These priorities are drawn from member group surveys and input, the Sustainable TN coalition and also from the bills scheduled for review by the Legislature.
- A further distinction between TCV agenda and the Sustainability agenda has to do with timeframe—The TCV Agenda focuses on what must we do today at the legislature.
- TCV's mission is to make communication on our issues between you and your legislators easier.

1:40-1:45

The Value of Headwater Streams

John McFadden, Tennessee Environmental Council

- Headwater streams and wet weather conveyances provide specific ecological function and value to humans as they serve as the collection system for all drinking water
- Headwater streams and wet weather conveyances need continued protection by the state regulatory agencies and demonstrate how natural resources are the backbone of our economy, communities and quality of life.