



# News & Information Services

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## **ETSU student assists with Tennessee Environmental Council's Web site addressing toxic emissions in the state**

JOHNSON CITY— The Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) has unveiled a Web site at [www.tectn.org/tri.htm](http://www.tectn.org/tri.htm) to provide the latest analysis of toxic chemical releases from industries in the state. The project coincides with TEC's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of working to educate and advocate for the protection of the environment and public health in the Volunteer State.

The site's information is based on the Environmental Protection Agency's Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), a national database of industrial toxic emissions.

The Web site was designed by Daniel Ferguson, who graduated from East Tennessee State University Dec. 17 with a degree in environmental health. Ferguson is a *Knoxville* native and a graduate of Central High School.

"Tennessee continues to rank as one of the worst states in the country for toxic industrial emissions," said Ferguson. "Especially troubling is the issue of toxic air emissions, for which the state ranked third in the nation. The Web site reveals numerous details of air, water and land discharges of the 176 different toxic substances which Tennessee facilities are reported to have released in 2002. A county-by-county breakdown of toxic releases is also presented. Surprisingly, the releases of toxic chemicals by Tennessee industries are actually more than the releases of California, New York, and New Jersey combined!"

"We have known for some time that toxic chemical emissions are a problem in Tennessee. This site helps to identify the most persistent toxics and their locations."

ETSU environmental health majors must fulfill a 180-hour "co-op" project with an organization, agency or employer. "Working with the Tennessee Environmental Council was a great experience. They perform a vital service and I hope my contribution to their Web site can help educate the public," said Ferguson.

Will Callaway, executive director for the Tennessee Environmental Council, adds "We appreciate the support of ETSU and Daniel Ferguson in generating the data for us."

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