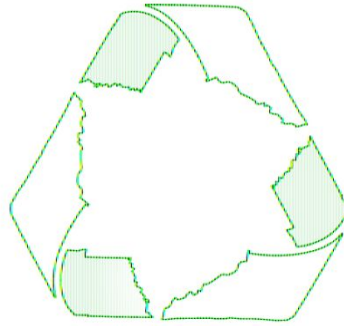




## 2019 Draft Sustainable Tennessee Agenda

A Project of  
Environmental  
and...



Tennessee  
Council



[www.TECTN.org](http://www.TECTN.org)

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## **2018 SUSTAINABLE TENNESSEE AGENDA**

### **Overview**

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. Tennessee's mountain waters and river systems boast seven of the eight most biologically diverse rivers in North America.<sup>1</sup> Natural resources like these form the backbone of Tennessee's economy, communities, and quality of life.

Meanwhile, rapid population growth, deteriorating infrastructure, industrial processes, and natural resource extraction increasingly threaten the sustainability of Tennessee. A sustainable strategy for Tennessee is critical not only for the environmental health but also the economic and public health in our state. We can develop an economy built on sustainable principles that promote Tennessee's heritage, communities, jobs, and quality of life by retooling our failing civil, industrial and social infrastructure.

Since 2007, more than 1,200 Tennesseans and 250 organizations have provided input on the Sustainable Tennessee Agenda (the Agenda). The Agenda is subdivided into four main categories: Energy, Air, Land, and Water, each with separate policy and practice recommendations. Considering their inherent interconnectivity, a change in one category can affect another to which we must be mindful. For example, reducing air emissions from a power plant will have a positive impact on water quality, land quality, and human health.

The recommendations in this Agenda may be applied to many types of entities and organizations—individuals, businesses, churches, schools, and government agencies and are meant to be actionable. Some recommended actions are simple can be implemented daily by individuals while many are multifaceted and will require concerted effort of Tennesseans concerned about the economy, communities, and quality of life. It is imperative Tennesseans work together to implement the Sustainability Agenda.

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<sup>1</sup> Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, 2005. Tennessee's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

## Energy

Recently, Tennessee has taken key steps to becoming a leader in clean energy development. In order to continue meeting current and future energy demands while minimizing high-risk energy sources such as coal and nuclear, the State of Tennessee must increase its promotion and support of energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy development. To continue Tennessee's progress in developing its clean energy resources, the following policies are recommended:

### *Energy Policy*

- 1) Facilitate third party and other options for financing renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements to homes and businesses by passing legislation such as the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) legislation.
- 2) Generate sufficient support to compel TVA to establish goals and implement programs to achieve:
  - Significant increases in the development of the Valley's renewable energy resources through TVA adoption of a goal of 30% renewables by 2020.
  - A regularly revisited Integrated Resource Plan and process that properly delineates the potential contributions of energy efficiency and renewable energy resources.
  - Uniform interconnection fees and procedures for local power companies through the use of TVA's regulatory authority.
- 4) Require the disclosure of energy usage and costs at point of sale or rental for residential and commercial buildings.
- 5) Seek out and commit funds for the creation of community-based partnerships to retrofit government, residential, and private sector buildings for energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- 8) Require Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) to 1) revise its 25-year plan and 10-year investment plan to demonstrate a reduction in vehicle miles travelled and greenhouse gas emissions for all new TDOT projects and to 2) allocate highway funds for mass transit and other low-carbon mobility options for both passengers and freight.
- 9) Advocate for the continued support of the Energy Efficiency Schools initiative. (The program allows K-12 schools to apply for lottery money to carry out projects such as updating heating and cooling equipment and weatherizing buildings to cut operational costs, increase comfort levels in the schools, and reduce emissions from power plants. The program has approved nearly \$87 million grant applications to date and has \$90 million in funding available.<sup>2</sup>)

### *Energy Practices*

The following practices are recommended for Tennessee communities, businesses, and citizens who have a critical role to play in advancing the Sustainability Agenda. Each Tennessean should commit to the following:

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.tn.gov/eesi/section/about-us>



- 1) Support implementation and public awareness of residential energy codes that passed in the legislature in 2009.<sup>3</sup>
- 2) Use mass transit, bike, walk, or carpool as much as is practical. Support elected leaders in making these necessary choices.
- 3) Contact your local electric membership cooperative and let them know Tennesseans support community solar projects and sign up, as available.<sup>4</sup>
- 4) Reduce energy consumption and support the growth of clean-energy markets by:
  - Completing an energy audit for home or business and implementing the recommended actions<sup>5</sup>
  - Encouraging coworkers, friends, and neighbors to conduct a home energy evaluation and act based on findings
- 5) Advocate for and educate local regional sustainability committees to plan and implement priorities for:
  - Alternative transportation
  - Land planning and conservation
  - Energy use
- 6) Encourage local power companies to provide LED light bulbs to modest income households.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.energycodes.gov/adoption/states/tennessee>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.tnelectric.org/members>

<sup>5</sup> [www.energyright.com/savingenergy/evaluation.htm](http://www.energyright.com/savingenergy/evaluation.htm)

## **Air**

All of Tennesseans deserve clean air to breathe. However, many areas of Tennessee do not meet current and proposed federal standards for ozone smog and small particle pollution. Sources such as open burning for land clearing and diesel engine exhaust emissions exacerbate air quality problems, which, in turn decrease quality of life and increase healthcare costs, as these pollutants cause asthma, heart attacks, and respiratory failure.<sup>6</sup>

To continue Tennessee's progress toward a healthy clean air resource, the following policies are recommended:

### *Air policy*

- 1) Establish and implement odor regulations for air permits.
- 2) Enforce lower freeway speed limits in counties not attaining federal standards for ozone and small particles.
- 3) Establish and implement clean diesel retrofit programs.
- 4) Enact local anti-idling ordinances and enforce reduced speed limits.
- 5) Develop a point of expertise in the Federal Clean Air Act and Title V state implementation plans.

### *Air Practices*

To continue Tennessee's progress in developing its clean air resources, the following practices are recommended for Tennessee communities, businesses and citizens. It is recommended that these entities:

- 1) Encourage citizens utilize more bike/pedestrian transit.
- 2) Work with local governments to establish pedestrian and bike-friendly communities.
- 3) Encourage businesses to work with employees and constituents to promote utilization of alternative forms of transportation.

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<sup>6</sup> Tennessee Department of Health. Retrieved 7/27/2017, (<https://tn.gov/health/article/air-quality>).



## **Water (Leader - Jim Redwine)**

Protecting Tennessee's lakes, rivers and streams will ensure clean drinking water, healthy communities, protected wildlife, sustainable economic development, world-class tourism and recreational opportunities for our communities. Adequate stormwater management will help alleviate the negative impacts of floods, drought, and degraded water quality. Proper stormwater management will help to eliminate siltation—the number one cause/source of drinking water degradation in Tennessee waterways.

To continue Tennessee's progress in attaining higher water quality, the following policies and practices are recommended broken into stormwater, headwater protection, resource extraction (e.g. mining, hydraulic fracturing), long range planning, and the human water nexus.

### *Policy Recommendations to Improve Water Quality*

#### *Stormwater*

- 1) The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and municipalities must implement and enforce the new MS4 permit and the General Construction Permit to fully protect Tennessee's water quality and minimize flooding. This will continue to demonstrate the value of low-impact development and green infrastructure by protecting communities from flooding, improving water quality and quality of life.<sup>7</sup>
- 2) TDEC must consider enforcement of residential and commercial building codes, particularly storm water regulations, and provide funding or other incentive mechanisms for the permit and inspection programs operated by local governments. This will adequately enforce siltation control and post-construction impacts.

#### *Headwater Streams*

- 1) In permitting decisions, TDEC must strictly follow the antidegradation provisions of the federal Clean Water Act.
- 2) TDEC must manage their fee and civil penalty structure in a way that pays for adequate permit compliance review and enforcement of water quality laws. Permit applicants should bear the costs of this program through adequate fees. All wrongdoers must be fined with an unbiased approach to the status of an offender.
- 3) Avoiding impacts to our water resources in 404/401 permitting actions should be the first priority in permitting decisions. Tennessee's effort to mitigate disturbed waterways does not produce the same level of benefits as the original resource.<sup>8</sup> By law there can

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.cahabariversociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/LID-links.pdf>

<sup>8</sup>

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-08/documents/federal-water-pollution-control-act-508full.pdf>  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/225236554Characterization\\_of\\_wetland\\_mitigation\\_](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/225236554Characterization_of_wetland_mitigation_)

be no overall net loss of state water resource value.<sup>9</sup> Proposals to negatively impact waters of the state must first demonstrate that avoiding impact is not feasible. Stream mitigation must result in no overall net loss and offer mitigation and restoration projects of all sizes and adjacent to or in the same HUC 12 sub-watershed.

- 4) The state should amend the Tennessee Water Quality Act to include a Bad Boy Law similar to the provisions in the Tennessee Solid Waste law.<sup>10</sup> TDEC needs to legally consider past violations in permitting decisions.

#### *Long Range Planning for Water*

- 1) Tennessee water suppliers need to implement the recommendations of the Water Resources Technical Advisory Committee.<sup>11</sup>
- 2) Maintaining instream flows is critical to fish and aquatic life<sup>12</sup> and must be considered in water withdrawal permitting. Tennessee should work to manage permits on a watershed basis, considering the entire watershed health.
- 3) Tennessee needs to develop and implement hazard mitigation policies to better protect public health and safety in response to increasing number of severe weather events.<sup>13</sup>

#### *Human water nexus, jobs, and quality of life*

- 1) Educate the public in encouraging their city and county level representatives to design and implement measurable projects that engage and educate people in improved water quality such as greenway implementation.

#### *Water Practice*

- 1) Citizens should engage in local decision making to support city and county level MS4 programs seeking to increase blue and green infrastructure including watershed, rain gardens / rain barrels, water smart irrigation, and water conservation audits. These will provide a sense of value and success that carries over into personal lives and connects people with larger goals.
- 2) Citizens should plant trees along streams and wet weather conveyances to stabilize the banks and help reduce flooding. See also the Citizen Action Guide to Watershed Assessment and Restoration for more watershed restoration ideas and actions.<sup>14</sup>
- 3) Citizens should conserve money and water by utilizing these 10 actions provided by American Rivers.<sup>15</sup>
  - a. Turn the water off while you brush your teeth and save over two gallons a minute.
  - b. Fix dripping faucets and running toilets. A leaky faucet that drips at a rate of one

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/memorandum-agreement>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/topic/sw-solid-waste-management-program>

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/environment/attachments/regional\\_water\\_resources\\_planning\\_guidelines.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/environment/attachments/regional_water_resources_planning_guidelines.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> [https://water.usgs.gov/coop/enviroflows\\_summary.pdf](https://water.usgs.gov/coop/enviroflows_summary.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.nrdc.org/health/climate/tn.asp>

<sup>14</sup> <http://tectn.org/2015-citizen-action-guide-to-watershed-assessment-and-restoration/>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.americanrivers.org/take-action/other-ways/conserve/>





## TENNESSEE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

- drop per second can waste up to 2,700 gallons a year.
- c. Save water and money by choosing efficient showerheads, dishwashers, and other appliances. Look for the WaterSense label.
  - d. Only run your washing machine and dishwasher when they are full.
  - e. Dispose of chemicals properly at a hazardous waste drop off center – don't pour them on the ground, into the sewer, or down the drain.
  - f. Avoid using pesticides or herbicides on your yard and garden — the chemicals can contaminate groundwater and streams, and can also hurt kids and pets.
  - g. In the yard, use mulch to keep moisture from leaving the soil and minimize the need to water. If you must water the lawn, water in the early morning or evening, and try to avoid watering on windy days. These measures will limit the amount of water that is evaporated by the sun or blown onto sidewalks and driveways.
  - h. Plant a rain garden to add beauty to your yard, while absorbing and filtering runoff. Water absorbed in a rain garden will filter pollution otherwise headed for streams.
  - i. Use a rain barrel to collect rain and help water your plants. Forty percent of the average homeowner's water use is outdoors. Rain barrels reduce the stress on municipal water systems during the hot and dry summer months.

### **Land**

Tennessee is blessed with an abundance of majestic mountains, deep lush forests, rich farmland, free-flowing rivers and beautiful urban green spaces, which provide clean water and air and represent the backbone of our economy, communities, and quality of life. Conserving Tennessee's farmland, rivers, woods, wetlands, and wildlife will ensure the health of communities, provide outdoor recreation and protect the economy for the benefit of Tennesseans and future generations. To continue Tennessee's progress toward a healthy land resource, the following policies and practices are recommended:

#### Land Policy

##### *Real Estate Transfer Fund*

Over the last 20 years, these funds have conserved key agriculture lands, wetlands, and forests important for food production, drinking water supply, wildlife, and recreational opportunities including our state parks. These conservation measures are vital to Tennessee's tourism industry and to local parks and greenways, which make the state's economy more vibrant and improve the quality of life for all Tennesseans. Tennessee's second largest industry is tourism –181,000 jobs and \$13.4 billion to the state's economy<sup>16</sup> – and the largest tourist attractions in Tennessee are its wonderful and diverse parklands. Funds used from the Real Estate Transfer

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<sup>16</sup> <http://tn.gov/news/24462>

Tax<sup>17</sup> have conserved 10,000 acres of wetlands producing \$79 million worth of flood control, drinking water filtration, and groundwater replenishment for Tennessee citizens each year. In addition, these funds leverage federal dollars, and so Tennessee's investment is well rewarded.

- 1) Tennessee must continue to utilize and fully restore the Real Estate Transfer Tax to maximize the protection of our drinking water and clean air supply.
- 2) In the short term, an economic study to determine the return on investment funds in acquisition needs to be funded and completed, perhaps in partnership with area colleges for base funding along with other NGO's. The study should include the economic requirements to acquire forest and farmland (1.5 million acres) and address the effects of flooding.

### *Comprehensive Land Use Planning and Green Infrastructure*

Tennessee must create a comprehensive land use plan that would include green infrastructure concepts through a public process in order to 1) conserve working farms and forests, wildlife habitat, river corridors for water quality and quantity and 2) to direct growth to less environmentally critical lands.

### *Green Infrastructure*

A green infrastructure plan that inventories green assets, such as natural areas, parks, forests, farms, streams, and wetlands should be developed at the local, county, and state levels.

- 1) There should be phased master plans.<sup>18</sup>
- 2) Experts in relevant disciplines, such as ecologists, soil scientists, community planners,
- 3) Brownfields should be identified and reclaimed to create urban gardens, and pocket parks.
- 4) A new Forever Green coordinator should be established.

### *Urban Forestry and Tree Ordinances (Jill (UF-ED) or Jennifer Smith?)*

Cities and counties should develop, enhance and address the topic of tree ordinances and set tree canopy goals as follows:

- 1) By education and through public opposition, stop and/or amend TVA's aggressive tree-cutting policy, requiring the total removal of all trees which either are, or could be, 15 feet or taller and located anywhere within the entire width of the 150-250 foot easement "right-of-way" for power transmission lines on public and private property. This policy leads to the needless destruction of millions of trees.
- 2) Through public education, successfully integrate tree ordinances and canopy goals into city's comprehensive land use and transportation plan. Tree inventories are needed to

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<sup>17</sup> <http://www.conservationmanac.org/secure/almanac/southeast/tn/programs.html>

<sup>18</sup> [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/ui\\_chicago\\_narrative.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/ui_chicago_narrative.pdf)



set canopy goals and serve as the base of a tree management plan.<sup>19</sup> The inventory is a report on the resources/trees to be managed and can also indicate where there is space to plant trees to increase the tree canopy.

- 3) Encourage Tennesseans to plant and care for one tree in the fall of each year by emphasizing benefits. For example, planting a deciduous tree on the east, south, or west of the home will save on cooling cost during the summer.

### *Resource Extraction*

#### *Mining*

- 1) Through education, develop support for mining practices that do not damage water quality and develop opposition for dumping of mining waste near headwater areas or small streams.
- 2) Regulations must ensure that reclamation of mined sites occurs after cessation of operations to a minimum standard of permanent stabilization, without exception.
- 3) Encourage TDEC to ensure the safety and structural integrity of TVA's wet coal ash storage ponds and remove the exemption for industrial wastewater ponds from the Safe Dams Act.
- 4) Generate public support to complete state and federal government agencies as well as operators of facilities with the potential to harm Tennessee's waters to comply with the National Incident Management System. After the Kingston Steam Plant ash spill, it is evident that major Tennessee industries (including TVA) have not adequately prepared to deal with emergency releases affecting Tennessee waters<sup>20</sup>.
- 5) Through public education, develop support for regulations requiring that rock-harvesting operations affecting over one acre be covered by mining regulations specific to that type of mining.

#### *Hydraulic fracturing (Fracking)*

- 1) To protect Tennessee drinking water and private property rights, TDEC must strengthen regulations on fracking – the injection of fluids into rock formations to release natural gas from tight sand and shale formations. The long-term consequences to the environment and human health relative to horizontal drilling and high-pressure hydro-fracturing techniques are not beneficial to communities.<sup>21</sup>
  - a. Contamination of water, soil, and air occur from the toxic chemicals used in drilling and fracturing<sup>22</sup> and the economic benefit is not positive.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> [https://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/22044/3b\\_urban\\_tree\\_canopy\\_final.pdf](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/22044/3b_urban_tree_canopy_final.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/tn/epa-response-kingston-tva-coal-ash-spill>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.multistateshale.org/>

<sup>22</sup> <http://insideclimatenews.org/news/05062015/fracking-has-contaminated-drinking-water-epa-now-concludes>

<sup>23</sup> <http://businessesagainstfrackingny.com/business-concerns-about-fracking/>

- b. Environmental and human health costs harm the economy via negative effects on residential property values, state tourism, agriculture, forestry, and possibly businesses' decisions regarding relocation to the state.
  - c. The infrastructure costs of building and repairing roads, water treatment facilities, and other public services may far exceed any economic benefit to local communities.
- 2) Develop support to compel the Board of Water Quality, Oil and Gas in Tennessee to remove the 200,000-gallon threshold for public notification of the hydraulic fracturing of a well.
  - 3) Develop support for regulation requiring operators to disclose the nature of all chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing, so state regulators can adequately test for potential contamination. The state should test surrounding water supplies before drilling takes place, in order to set a baseline.
  - 4) Through education, generate sufficient public support to require a minimum of thirty days public notice and comment period for new hydraulic fracturing operations.
  - 5) Through education, generate public support to stop the practice of "pooling and taking," which gives rights of eminent domain for hydro-fracking on individual property in the event that enough neighbors sign their private property for use by oil and gas companies, to protect the rights of individual landowners.

### **Solid Waste, reduction, reuse, composting and recycling**

Tennesseans landfill approximately \$180 million of recyclable materials each year<sup>24</sup>, yet diverting these materials would generate new jobs, create economic opportunity, and reduce pollution. Landfills create a host of issues, including polluting our drinking water supply, and degrading adjacent land values<sup>25</sup>. A 2010 Southeast Recycling Development Council (SERDC) study<sup>26</sup> documents the dependence of 206 key industrial facilities across the southeast on post-consumer recycled glass, plastic, paper, aluminum, and steel from community and commercial recycling programs to make consumer and industrial products. These companies collectively employ more than 47,525 persons and see a sales volume exceeding \$29.4 billion per year. In Tennessee, the study found 30 companies employing over 6,500 and generating 4.3 billion in economic impact that rely on recycled feedstock for manufacturing.

- 1) Tennessee must remove the loopholes that allow landfilled construction and demolition (C&D) waste to be counted towards recycling goal.
- 2) Tennessee must educate the public, including encouraging businesses, individuals, and schools to sign up for the Tennessee Green Star Partnership<sup>27</sup>, a recognition program to promote sustainable practices. Tennessee must advocate for the public to set specific targets to improve current levels of recycling, composting, and waste reduction.

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<sup>24</sup> Southeast Recycling and Development Council, 2013. Characterization of Tennessee's Recycling Economy.

<sup>25</sup> Sanders, et al. 2017. Value Lost at the Landfill: Metropolitan/Davidson County Region.

<sup>26</sup> SERDC, 2010. State by State Impact.

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/topic/opsp-gs-green-star-partnership>



- 3) Tennessee should promote institutional composting through locally based incentive programs.
- 4) The Tennessee tip fee needs to be increased to generate sufficient funding to support green waste management including raw material recovery and compost plant investment.
- 5) Tennessee must incentivize private industry to identify funding (from business, foundations, government agencies, and other entities) and carry out research to develop implementation models which demonstrate:
  - How to divert waste from transfer stations and landfills
  - How to remediate groundwater pollution at landfills
  - How municipal and institutional composting programs can work
- 6) Tennessee's legislature must require TDEC to incorporate the above best practices into regulations required by SB 2267/HB 2289 [year 2007].

### *Recycling*

- 1) Educate the public to enact beverage-container deposit legislation to reduce litter by 80% for cans and bottles, by 40% for litter overall, and create 1,500 jobs in Tennessee. This will stimulate the economy, create jobs, and clean Tennessee roadsides.<sup>28</sup> The beverage container deposit will be continuously "recycled" in the economy, stimulating jobs and a clean and healthy environment.

### *Quality Growth (Land Use)*

Tennessee's unique communities and beautiful landscapes offer a high quality of life and economic vitality. Quality growth and sustainable development will support growth and development efforts while protecting the future of Tennessee's natural and cultural heritage, economy, and quality of life. These efforts will also support related state, regional, and local initiatives such as regional planning for mass transit, sustainable infrastructure investments, and open space and natural resource conservation.

- 1) Tennessee must enact a comprehensive growth plan act to require long range comprehensive planning in support of sustainable growth and development, livability, economic vitality, and environmental quality. At a minimum:
  - A comprehensive land use plan must include a public process.
  - A comprehensive land use plan must implement a mechanism to identify opportunities for green asset conservation and/or restoration. Green assets include working farms and forests, wildlife habitat, and river corridors.

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<sup>28</sup> <http://www.container-recycling.org/assets/pdfs/jobs/EconomicImpactsBC.pdf>

- A comprehensive land use plan must establish regional planning for commuter mass transit.
  - A comprehensive land use plan provides incentives that direct growth to areas with existing infrastructure.
  - A comprehensive land use plan must involve experts' input, including ecologists, soil scientists, community planners, and aquatic biologists.
  - Other state laws, regulations and policies dealing with zoning, subdivision regulations, infrastructure design and funding, and capital budgeting should be evaluated and updated to support implementation of quality growth principles, comprehensive planning, and sustainable design and development.
- 2) Growth planning should be fully integrated with comprehensive planning under Title 13, Tenn. Code Annotated.
  - 4) Tennessee should build on the "Quality Growth Toolbox," developed and piloted by Cumberland Region Tomorrow<sup>29</sup> and encourage all regions of the state to adopt similar principles of effective comprehensive planning to apply the planning concepts and make appropriate changes to city or county local zoning ordinances that promote best practices to get quality growth.

### **Transportation (local official from Davidson County, RTA? Music City Star person?)**

Transportation connects each of the four overarching categories: air, energy, land, and water; therefore, transportation policy issues are found within nearly all discussions of sustainable economy. To treat transportation as an isolated sphere of activity will deny the potential use of transportation strategies and investments to better address sustainable air quality, energy, land use, and water resources issues.

#### *Transportation Policy*

- 1) Integrate a consideration of transportation choices into the comprehensive land-use planning process.
- 2) Establish a true reduction in "vehicle miles of travel" as a policy goal in local, regional, and statewide comprehensive planning processes.
- 3) Promote and advocate for local and timely mass transit initiatives (i.e. Metro Nashville's).

### **General**

This document has attempted to categorize issues under the primary resource area affected, except the following all-inclusive topics:

#### *Education*

Tennessee must develop a coordinated and comprehensive statewide plan to educate Tennesseans about the importance of interactions with and conservation of the natural

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<sup>29</sup> <https://www.cumberlandregiontomorrow.org/resources/quality-growth-toolbox.pdf>,



resources, the impact of humans on natural systems, and the individual actions and choices that are necessary for a sustainable future.

- 1) All Tennesseans should become members of the Green Star Partnership. Cities, county governments and local chambers of commerce should use TP3 as a framework for business recruitment.<sup>30</sup> All schools, including public, private, K-12, community colleges and universities should pledge and participate in the Tennessee Green Schools Program.<sup>31</sup>
- 2) Tennessee should require public and private K-12 school curricula to include Project CENTS<sup>32</sup> Project Wild, Project Wild Aquatic and/or Project WET.<sup>33</sup>
  - Free in-service opportunities are available for Tennessee Teachers in these curricula.
  - These curricula are generally multi-disciplinary and include experience based education techniques.
  - These curricula promote the ideal and many benefits of the “No Child Left Inside” initiative.
- 3) Conduct campaign encouraging parent organizations to host “No Child Left inside” forums to promote the benefits of children’s exposure to the natural world.
- 4) Expand and create green energy level tech training programs in the public schools; community/technical colleges, and the trade unions; prioritize the passage of the Green Jobs Act in 2011; and attend the commerce committee hearings.
- 5) Initiate efforts such as a Clean Energy Jobs Corps and a statewide Green Jobs Corps to employ young adults in the clean energy markets as a pathway out of poverty.

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<sup>30</sup><http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/topic/opsp-gs-green-star-partnership>.

<sup>31</sup> [www.tp3.org](http://www.tp3.org)

<sup>32</sup> [www.tn.gov/education/projectcents](http://www.tn.gov/education/projectcents)

<sup>33</sup> [www.tn.gov/education/projectcents](http://www.tn.gov/education/projectcents)

### *Fairness and Balance in Composition of Administrative Boards*

The State of Tennessee must ensure a diverse composition of its administrative boards, including the state Air Pollution Control Board, the Water Quality Control Board, and the Solid Waste Control Board. These boards must be fair and balanced, with representation from citizen and environmental and conservation organizations as well as industry. Key recommendations include adding at least two community environmental health advocates to each board.

### *Green Collar Jobs Strategy*

A strategy for sustainable development will position Tennessee to stimulate our economy and green jobs sector. This strategy ensures that labor-intensive, stable and well-paying green collar jobs are created locally. A green collar jobs strategy:

- 1) Nourishes the small business/green job sector in a manner that ensures local residents and Tennesseans are placed in newly created jobs
- 2) Nourishes the growing renewable energy, green waste management (i.e. composting) and technology sector in Tennessee business, industry and agriculture
- 3) Obtains and lobbies for increased government stimulus money to create community-based partnerships to retrofit government, residential and private sector buildings for weatherization, energy efficiency and renewable energy
- 4) Expands and creates Green Tech and workforce training programs in the public schools, community and technical Colleges, trade associations and other non-profits
- 5) Initiates efforts such as a statewide Green Jobs Corps to employ young adults as a pathway out of poverty.
- 6) Continues efforts to support the “Greening” of commerce so that sustainable practices which protect the environment and create jobs are integrated into all levels of business
- 7) Establishes a statewide Green Jobs program, aimed toward at-risk youth, based on the Asheville, North Carolina “Green Opportunities” model and/or other appropriate national models
- 8) Establish an initiative based on the Portland, Oregon weatherization model that created 10,000 jobs over five years.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> <http://data.tennessean.com/v2/bin/pluckTools/display/groupblog>