

January Announcements - Knoxville Energy & Sustainability Initiative

January 27, 2009

Greetings!

The City and E&S Task Force members and partners have been in the spotlight this month with some good news about green initiatives:

1) The City of Knoxville has been awarded \$10,000 for its new downtown dog park after being selected as one of the first four Tennessee cities to receive the state's new **Green Development Grants**. The program grew out of a 2008 Green Development Conference sponsored by TDEC and the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection that highlighted environmentally-sound building and development practices. Knoxville will use its grant to help protect the water quality of First Creek by installing features designed to better control the flow of stormwater runoff at the new park. A low-impact infiltration trench along the border of the park will reduce runoff volume and additional trees and vegetation between the park and the creek will help prevent bacteria, pollutants and excessive nutrients from reaching the creek. Read more at http://www.cityofknoxville.org/Press_Releases/Content/2009/0123c.asp.

2) Congratulations to Oak Ridge National Lab for their new 288-foot, 50 kW solar PV array. The new installation is a part of **ORNL's Sustainable Campus Initiative**. Read the Knoxville News Sentinel's coverage of last week's ribbon-cutting event at <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/jan/23/ornl-goes-solar-with-288-foot-span-of-panels/>. ORNL staff responsible for the new array have been contracted by the U.S. Department of Energy to provide technical support to Knoxville's Solar America Cities Project.

3) Congratulations to Pellissippi State Technical Community College for launching a slate of new, online **course offerings on sustainable building practices and renewable energy**. The online courses are designed to fit the needs of industry professionals interested in learning more about emerging energy and conservation techniques in the construction and building maintenance fields. Targeted professionals include everyone from architects, engineers, contractors and installation technicians to real estate agents, property managers and sales professionals. PTSCC's goal is to offer courses that will help them upgrade their expertise in certain fields or perhaps learn new skills that will come in handy in the future. The City of Knoxville, through the Solar America Cities program, will help Pellissippi develop workforce training opportunities for solar installers. Read more at http://www.cityofknoxville.org/Press_Releases/Content/2009/0120.asp. The list of Pellissippi's Green Energy Courses is available at <http://www.pstcc.edu/bcs/indtech/greenenergycourses.html>.

4) The next "**Solar 101**" **Workshop** in our Solar America Cities workshop series is scheduled for February 12th at 8:30 at the Knoxville Chamber Partnership (17 Market Square). Feel free to circulate the following blurb to potential attendees:

Solar Power Can Help Your Business Reduce Energy Costs and Go Green

Solar Electric . Solar Hot Water . Solar Heating . Solar Lighting . Passive Solar

Local business owners and facility managers interested in the science and benefits of solar technology are invited to a special workshop hosted by the Knoxville Chamber. Sponsored by the City of Knoxville's Solar America Cities Program, the workshop will address opportunities to integrate solar technology into your facility and the financial incentives available that make it affordable. Although the workshop is not designed to offer technical or financial guidance to a specific project, it will help business owners or facility managers better understand the options and process for pursuing solar technologies. To RSVP for the workshop call: Gil Melear-Hough at (865) 789-5482 or email at gil@cleanenergy.org. For more information about Knoxville's Solar America Cities Program, please visit: www.cityofknoxville.org/policy/solar.

5) Please watch your inboxes for an email regarding the next E&S Task Force meeting. There has been a long hiatus as we've been getting some of the implementation projects up and running, but it's time to bring the group back together to gather feedback about the long-awaited strategic plan, implementation to-date, and new opportunities/next steps.

Madeleine R. Weil
Deputy Director, Policy & Communications
City of Knoxville
(865) 215-2680