

Regional Approach

Welcome Mayors

MAYOR'S RETREAT		
<i>Facilitated by Director Tara Pedraza, Division of Stakeholder Engagement</i>		
	Teams Recording Begins:	
10:00 – 10:05 a.m.	Welcome- TDEC Commissioner David Salyers	Mountainview C & D (Upstairs)
10:05 – 10:25 a.m.	TN Brownfields – An Array of Options – Paula Middlebrooks & Shay Smith, TDEC Division of Land Protection	
10:25 – 10:35 a.m.	Legislative Update: Solid Waste Management Plans – Jeremy Hooper, TDEC Advisor	
10:35 – 10:55 a.m.	2035 Solid Waste Management Plan – Jeremy Hooper, William Anderson (TDEC) & Ashley Ramsey (Geosyntec Consultants, Inc)	
10:55 – 11:15 a.m.	Nuclear Movement in TN – Patrick Flood, TDEC Senior Advisor	
11:15 – 11:25 a.m.	American Rescue Plan Update – A Huge Success – Karen Simo	
11:25 – 11:45 a.m.	Governor Lee's Conservation Strategy, Finish Strong– Brian Clifford, TDEC Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Conservation	
11:45 – 11:55 a.m.	Q&A, Final Remarks Dep. Comm. Ronné Adkins	

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Office of External Affairs

tn.gov/environment/oea

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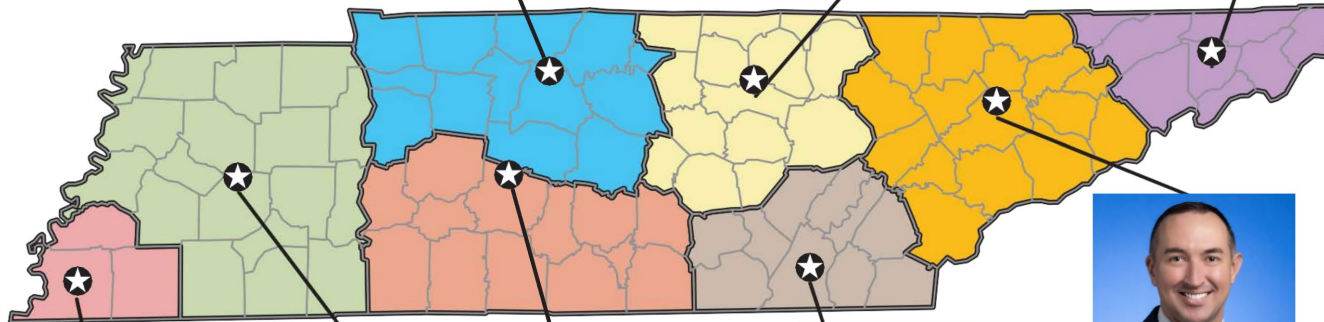
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Office of Recovered Materials

TDEC 2025 ANNUAL REPORT • Tennessee's Unsung Hero

Managing Solid Waste Responsibly in Northeast Tennessee

TDEC's Division of Solid Waste Management recently awarded more than \$7 million in grants for recycling equipment, convenience centers, and other materials management needs.

Boosting recycling rates is a key component of a comprehensive approach to solid waste management. In Northeast Tennessee, TDEC awarded two major grants to Sullivan County for a new regional recycling facility. Ronné Adkins, Deputy Commissioner of Environment for TDEC, presented grants of \$599,330 for waste reduction and \$191,939 for recycling equipment to local leaders in June 2025.

The \$3.5 million East Tennessee Materials Recovery Facility will have 20,000 square feet of space and serve many rural areas, which has been a focus of Gov. Bill Lee. The success of the facility will rely heavily on partnerships among local governments, residents, and businesses. TDEC is committed to working alongside local groups to make the recycling center a success.

TDEC recognizes the need for cooperation and innovative solutions for the future of solid waste management. It is committed to working with the Tennessee General Assembly on the newly established solid waste task force, comprised of fifteen members and tasked with establishing a forward-looking strategy for managing solid waste through 2050. The task force will evaluate waste management and recycling systems, identify long-term challenges and opportunities, and recommend innovative, cost-effective solutions that protect public health, preserve natural resources, and strengthen Tennessee's economy.



East Tennessee Materials Recovery Facility



Scan to learn about the Putnam County Schools food waste grant.



Sullivan County Mayor Richard Venable, TDEC Deputy Commissioner Ronné Adkins, Senator Bobby Harshbarger, Representative John Crawford, Sullivan County Solid Waste Director Mark Torbett, and County Commissioner Zane Vanover accept TDEC materials management grants and cut the ribbon on the new \$3.5 million East Tennessee Materials Recovery Facility.



This year, TDEC Materials Management awarded:

37

Recycling Equipment Grants

4

Recycling Rebates

16

Convenience Center Grants

2

Household Hazardous Waste Grants

16

Used Automotive Fluid Recycling Grants

9

Technical Assistance Grants



TDEC recently awarded \$7 million in materials management grants across the state, including a waste reduction grant for the City of Columbia for \$425,200. Senator Joey Hensley joined Columbia leaders to celebrate the award.