

# The Catalyst

Activating TN's Sustainable and Resilient Future

Office of Sustainable Practices



## News Articles:

[TN Dept. of Environment and Conservation Seeks Nominations for Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards](#)

[Tennessee State Parks Announce 4 More Parks With Adult-Sized Changing Tables](#)



Test Your Home. Protect Your Health.

# JANUARY IS NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH

## Radon Action Month

By: Lexi Brown

Radon is a naturally occurring invisible, odorless, and tasteless gas that, according to the [US Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA), is responsible for approximately 21,000 deaths in the US annually. Radon is present in almost all rock and all soil and water and can accumulate in residences, posing a significant health risk. About one in five homes tested through the State Radon Program surpasses the EPA recommended action level of 4 pCi/L (picocuries per liter). To put this into perspective, a level of 4 pCi/L is equivalent to getting 200 chest x-rays a year.

To help raise awareness of the dangers of radon, Governor Lee has declared January as “Radon Action Month” in Tennessee. Testing your home is the most important action you can take toward reducing radon exposure. The [TN Radon Program](#) provides a limited number of free radon test kits to residents year-round. To request a free test kit, simply visit the program’s [website](#), provide your information, and a kit will be mailed to you for free.

Once you have received your kit, simply fill out the information on the kit, follow the instructions to place it in your home for 3-7 days, seal it up upon completion, and mail it to the lab for analysis. Postage is included, and there is no additional cost for obtaining your results.

While high radon levels have been identified in every county in Tennessee, effective mitigation services can bring levels down to safety standards. The key first step to safeguarding your family against the dangers of radon is testing your home. Take action and order your free test kit today to protect your loved ones.

## New Podcast Episode!

The State of Sustainability  
**NEW EPISODE**  
“Soles4Souls w/ Nancy Youssef”



**Caleb Powell**

Podcast Host



**Nancy Youssef**

Soles4Souls



The State of Sustainability released a new podcast episode with Soles4Souls Chief Corporate Development Officer

Nancy Youssef. The conversation highlights the overlapping themes of helping others and sustainability. We discuss:

- How the Organization Started
- The 4Relief, 4Opportunity, and 4EveryKid Programs
- Environmental Impacts and Waste Reduction Metrics

[LISTEN NOW](#)

## Tire Environmental Act Program 2025 Grant Cycle

### TIRE ENVIRONMENTAL ACT PROGRAM WEBINAR

DATE: January 22, 2025

TIME: 1pm Central/2pm Eastern

- Learn about the grant program including eligibility requirements, available funding amounts, matching requirements, etc.
- Hear about the different types of projects that are eligible to receive funding including tire recycling, tire-derived products, and research & development



**Next Grant Application Period is January 15<sup>th</sup> – April 15<sup>th</sup>**

The [Tire Environmental Act Program](#) will open its 2025 Grant Cycle on January 15th. If you are interested in learning more about the program including the eligibility requirements and the various types of projects that can be funded, you can register for our upcoming webinar on January 22nd.

[REGISTER](#)

## Food Waste Prevention Week Partner Information



Join us for [Food Waste Prevention Week](#) (FWPW), April 7-13, a national week to celebrate and expand our efforts to reduce food waste. If you are curious about food waste and food insecurity, you can visit the FWPW website's [Partner Portal](#) to learn how you can become a partner. The website also provides access to resources that can help you spread awareness about food waste by sharing information on social media or possibly hosting an event.

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## Small Business Environmental Assistance Program Corner

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As we close out the year, here are some reminders of reporting requirements for our small businesses.

Hazardous Waste Generator Annual Report is due on March 1st. This annual report is required for small and large quantity generators and encouraged for very small quantity generators. This [link](#) to the Division of Solid Waste Management (DSWM) website provides the forms and a frequently asked questions page.

Tennessee Multi Sector Permit (TMSP) stormwater monitoring report is due on March 31st. Certain industries under the [TMSP](#) must sample their



stormwater run-off annually. Results from the sample should be submitted within 30 days of the receipt of results or by March 31st, 2025, whichever is sooner. This report must be submitted in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Network Discharge Monitoring Report (NetDMR) website. For information on the NetDMR website, click this [link](#) to Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (TDEC) webpage on electronic reporting.

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## Recipe of the Month

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Start the New Year off right by making a pledge to waste less food. Making the most of the ingredients in your kitchen is a great way to save time and money - and prevent unnecessary waste. Challenge yourself to go a whole day of using just what's in your pantry, and ingredients you frequently throw away. Take a look at these great [recipes](#) that turn your leftovers into delicious meals.



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### Events:

[Tennessee State Parks Events](#)

[Household Hazardous Waste Collection](#)

[Environmental Education in Tennessee Events](#)

[Socket, Nashville's Sustainability Outlet](#)

### Funding Opportunities:

[TDEC Grants and Programs](#)

[Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#)

[TDOT Rural Planning Initiative](#)

[Grants.gov](#)

### Conferences, Workshops, & Training Opportunities:

[green|leader - The Nation's First Localized Sustainability Certificate](#)  
Ongoing Opportunity

[COMPOST2025](#)  
Phoenix, AZ  
January 27-30, 2025

ReFED Food Waste Solutions Summit  
Seattle, WA  
June 23-25, 2024

Drive Electric Momentum Summit 2025  
Middle Tennessee State University  
June 24, 2024



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