

The Catalyst

Activating TN's Sustainable and Resilient Future

Office of Sustainable Practices



News Articles:

[TDEC Accepting Applications for Solid Waste Management Grants](#)

[Nissan Stadium sets ambitious zero-waste goal for 2027 opening](#)





Tennessee Sustainable Spirits

By: Mark Valencia

Sustainability is becoming a top priority in the beverage industry, and Tennessee is leading the charge with its [Tennessee Sustainable Spirits](#) (TNSS) program. This initiative supports distilleries, wineries, and breweries that adopt environmentally friendly practices through certification as a “Tennessee Sustainable Spirit”. While producers benefit from guidance and recognition, consumers play an essential role by supporting these sustainable businesses.

So, how can you identify a sustainable producer? Here are some key factors to look for:

1. [Energy and Water Conservation](#): Producing spirits can use significant energy and water, but sustainable producers take steps to minimize their consumption. Look for companies using renewable energy sources, energy-efficient equipment, or advanced water recycling systems/practices.
2. [Waste Reduction](#): Sustainable producers aim to minimize waste. Whether it's composting leftover grains, reusing barrels, or reducing packaging waste, these practices show a commitment to environmental responsibility.
3. [Local Ingredients](#): Many sustainable producers source their ingredients locally. This supports nearby farmers and reduces the carbon footprint of transporting raw materials. When choosing spirits, look for labels or descriptions that highlight local sourcing.
4. [Look for the Tennessee Sustainable Spirits Logo](#): The TNSS logo identifies that the facility you are visiting has committed to becoming a recognized sustainable producer. Other certifications such as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) or USDA Organic demonstrate a producer's commitment to sustainable practices. Many producers also share their sustainability goals and progress online, offering transparency to consumers.

By choosing spirits from producers who prioritize sustainability, you're not just enjoying a high-quality beverage—you're also supporting businesses that care about the environment. Programs like Tennessee Sustainable Spirits make it easier to identify these eco-friendly options, ensuring your drink of choice contributes to a greener future. Next time you raise a glass, make it a sustainable one!

Upcoming Webinar



The beginning of the year starts the clock for environmental reporting deadlines. Several of TDEC's environmental regulatory programs require some type of annual reporting relevant to manufacturers. In this webinar, you will hear an overview of the following annual reporting requirements from TDEC staff:

- Tennessee Multi-Sector Stormwater Permit, presented by Division of Water Resources
- Hazardous Waste Generator Annual Reports, presented by Division of Solid Waste Management
- Air Emissions Inventory Reporting, presented by Division of Air Pollution Control

Presentations will cover who/what activities are applicable, when the deadline is, why annual reporting is required, and instructions on how to submit each report. Presenters may include some helpful tips and tricks, as well! Time for Q&A will be available at the end of the webinar for attendee questions. Let us help you achieve your facility's goals for environmental compliance.

REGISTER

National Invasive Species Awareness Week

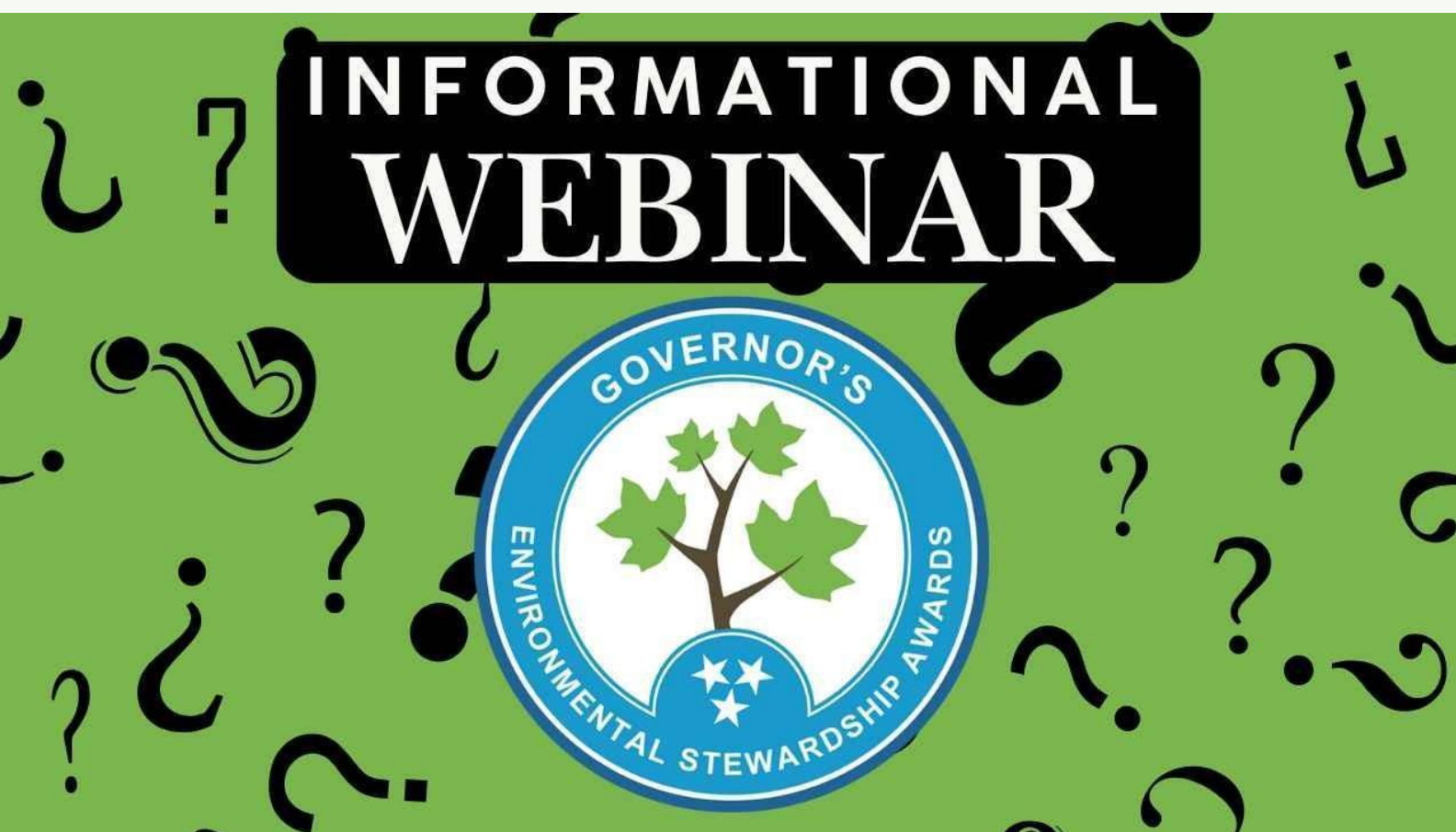


National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW), held this year from February 24th -28th, is a national event to raise awareness about invasive species, the threat that they pose, and what can be done to prevent their spread. Throughout the week, the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) will host a series

of webinars on priority invasive species issues covering various topics in an effort to enhance our nation's biosecurity. You can visit the NAISMA [website](#) to see the list of webinars as well as access a NISAW toolkit to help promote the week.

[Weed Wrangle](#) is part of a Garden Club of America's national stewardship effort to remove invasive plants from public spaces. On March 1st, Tennessee State Parks will be hosting weed wrangle events that will be great opportunities for volunteers to get outside and help restore their native natural beauty, and provide the knowledge and skill to combat these non-native invaders at your own home. Click [here](#) to register to volunteer for one of these events.

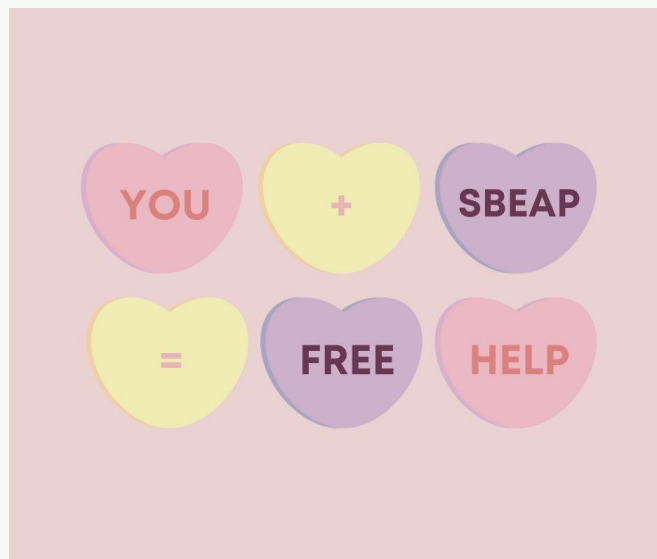
Governors Environmental Stewardship Awards



The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards (GESA) are presented annually to recognize outstanding achievements by individuals, local governments, businesses, organizations, educational institutions, and agencies for successful environmental projects and conservation measures. If you have questions about the GESA application process, this [webinar](#) covers the do's and don'ts of the application and goes over many frequently asked questions. GESA nominations are due by March 14th, to submit and nomination for a project or organization, click [here](#).

Small Business Environmental Assistance Program Corner

We love helping small businesses in big ways! This February our program is presenting on applicable environmental regulations that may affect concrete ready-mix plants at the Tennessee Concrete Association's convention. If your small business, association, or trade group is interested in the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program presenting to you, reach out to us at (800) 734-3619 or BGSBEAP@tn.gov. Presentations are just one way we can help. Our free and confidential service offers assistance for permit applications, site visits, and technical information.



Show some love this Valentine's Day to your small business by:

- replacing air filters on your heating/cooling system
- storing chemicals, like pesticides, strong cleaners, and solvents, in a safe area
- reviewing your environmental permits for preventative and/or routine maintenance

By regularly cleaning and replacing equipment, you're keeping your equipment up to snuff and reducing pollution in the environment.

Recipe of the Month

Looking for a way to surprise your special someone this Valentine's Day? Why not try breakfast in bed with this **French Toast with Honey** recipe that is not only delicious but also helps to save any stale bread you may have from going to waste.



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
- [Pick TN Conference](#)
Franklin, TN
February 13-15, 2025
- [Tennessee Environmental Network Show of the South \(TENSOS\)](#)
Chattanooga, TN
May 14-16, 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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