

January

Pollution Prevention

NEWSLETTER

2026

Providing technical assistance and training to the regulated community

Tennessee Pollution Prevention Program

TDEC's [Pollution Prevention Program](#) is a non-regulatory office within TDEC's Office of Sustainable Practices. The Pollution Prevention Program provides educational resources related to pollution prevention to Tennessee manufacturers. Pollution prevention is defined as any practice that reduces, eliminates, or prevents pollution at its source prior to recycling, treatment or disposal. You are receiving our newsletter as a member of Tennessee's regulated community.

Happy New Year for 2026! The [Tennessee Pollution Prevention Program](#) through the [Office of Sustainable Practices](#) is eager to provide top tier webinars, workshops, networking opportunities and technical assistance to Tennessee manufacturers this year.

We have a suite of excellent webinars planned for the entire year as well as a workshop in tandem with the Oak Ridge National Labs (ORNL). This workshop will be an important opportunity for all of our partners to attend and learn. ORNL is a regional hub of research on sustainable technologies as well as energy efficiency and critical minerals.

TN Pollution Prevention

POLLUTION PREVENTION WEBINAR

Energy Assessments Exposed: What We See Most—and Why It Matters

Join us for an expert-led session on the top energy waste issues uncovered during industrial assessments. Discover practical solutions—from quick fixes to long-term strategies—that can help you reduce costs, improve efficiency, and maximize performance.

EXPERT SPEAKER:
DR. JEFF MARCHETTA
UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

Wednesday
FEBRUARY 18, 2026

Starts at
10:00 AM

February 18, 2026

[Energy Assessments Exposed: What We See Most - and Why It Matters](#)

Guest Speaker: Dr. Jeff Marchetta (University of Memphis' Industrial Training and Assessment Center).

Join us for an expert-led session on the top energy waste issues uncovered during industrial assessments. Discover practical solutions—from quick fixes to long-term strategies—that can help you reduce costs, improve efficiency, and maximize performance.

April 2026 - Circular Economy and Material Reuse

As the old saying goes, your waste is another manufacturer's treasure. Let's talk about options to reduce waste to landfill through both TDEC and Oak Ridge National Laboratory initiatives. The webinar will cover historical and recent successes as well as some exciting possibilities for Tennessee's circular economy.

June 2026 - Better Building, Better Plants Initiative

Speakers will share helpful information on Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Better Buildings, Better Plants program. This program works with leading U.S. manufacturers and wastewater treatment agencies to set ambitious energy, water, and waste goals. By partnering with industry, the Better Plants Program aims to help leading manufacturers boost efficiency, increase reliability, and strengthen economic competitiveness.

August 2026 - Zero Waste for Community Events

Tennessee has declared October 27 as Zero Waste Day, and it's an excellent opportunity for your facility to provide recycling events for your employees and local community. Join our webinar to learn more about Zero Waste Day and resources that are available to ensure your event is a success.

October 2026 - Empowering Floor Employees: Real Stories of Operational Efficiencies

TDEC's Pollution Prevention team learns valuable tips and tricks from our site visits to manufacturers throughout Tennessee. In this webinar, we will share those tips and tricks with you, in case they would work well at your facility.



[Tennessee Green Star Partnership](#) is our premiere industry leadership program.

Currently the partnership has 64 of the most sustainable companies in Tennessee, and we are looking for more. Does your company qualify? Take a look at our landing page at the above link. The program has grown this past year by several companies. Namely, XSYS (formerly MacDermid), Magotteaux and Toyota Boshoku. We have a few more in the process.

Once we bring a company into the partnership, we create an article highlighting their achievements to introduce them to other partners and the public. Each year, though, we publish an anniversary article highlighting the achievements of our partners.

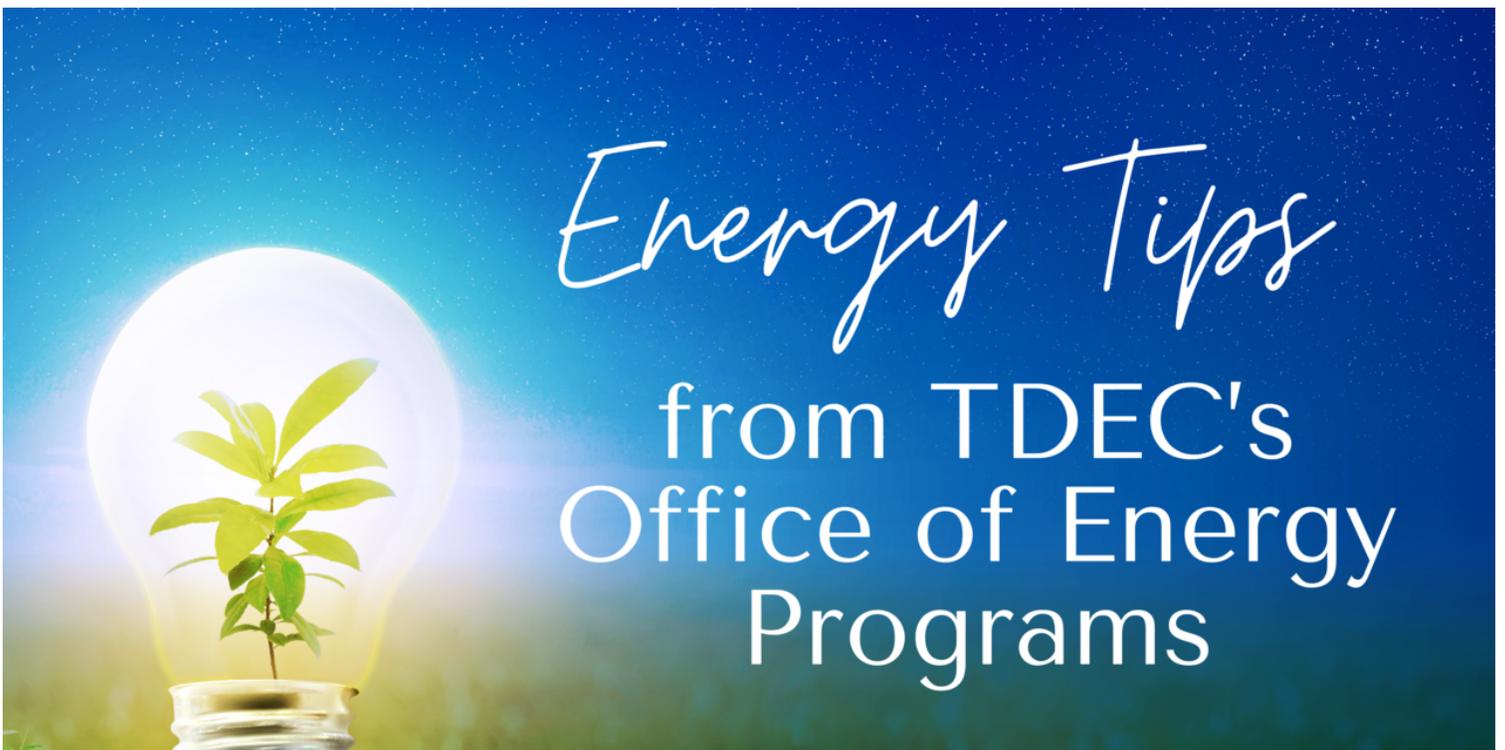
We will be sharing our **2025 Anniversary TN Green Star Partnership Highlight** very soon.

Join the partnership and enjoy networking with other like-minded industries, receive technical and regulatory assistance at a more intimate level, be the first to hear of our excellent webinars based on what we learn from our partners.



Energy Tips

from TDEC's
Office of Energy
Programs



Better Buildings & Better Plants is an initiative of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) designed to improve the lives of the American people by driving leadership in energy innovation. Through Better Buildings & Better Plants, DOE partners with leaders in the public and private sectors to make the nation's homes, commercial buildings, and industrial plants more energy-efficient by accelerating investment and sharing successful best practices.

The Oakridge National Labs will guide us through this program later in the year, but the ongoing series is available right now.



Open to
Tennessee
Industries
ONLY

Quarterly Open Discussions

TDEC Office of Sustainable Practices is hosting a quarterly, hour-long open discussion for existing and prospective TN Green Star Partnership partners, as well as Tennessee industry interested in pursuing sustainability and solving environmental issues.

The goal of these open discussions is to facilitate conversation to help solve some of the problems your facility is facing. Topics may include recycling, resource reuse, vendors, and any other items relating to facility environment, health, sustainability, or operations. Members will receive a reoccurring quarterly calendar appointment.

Future Open Discussions will be a combination of a planned agenda based on topics submitted by participants before the meeting. Please expect to introduce yourself, your position and what your facility manufactures or processes.

Our next Open Discussion will be on April 13th.

If you would like to join us, contribute and learn, please contact Vaughn Cassidy directly, at 731-431-7856 or through e-mail: Vaughn.Cassidy@tn.gov.



Upcoming Events

Award Nominations

[Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards](#)



Conferences

[Tennessee Environmental Show of the South](#)



TEN

SHOW OF THE SOUTH



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