



Department of  
**Environment &  
Conservation**

# *Pathways for Sustainable and Resilient Communities*

# *TDEC Mission Statement*

TDEC exists to enhance the quality of life for citizens of Tennessee and to be stewards of our natural environment through:

- **PROTECTING** and **IMPROVING** the quality of Tennessee's air, land, and water through a responsible regulatory system;
- **PROTECTING** and **PROMOTING** human health and safety;
- **CONSERVING** and **PROMOTING** natural, cultural and historic resources, and
- **PROVIDING** a variety of quality outdoor recreational experiences.



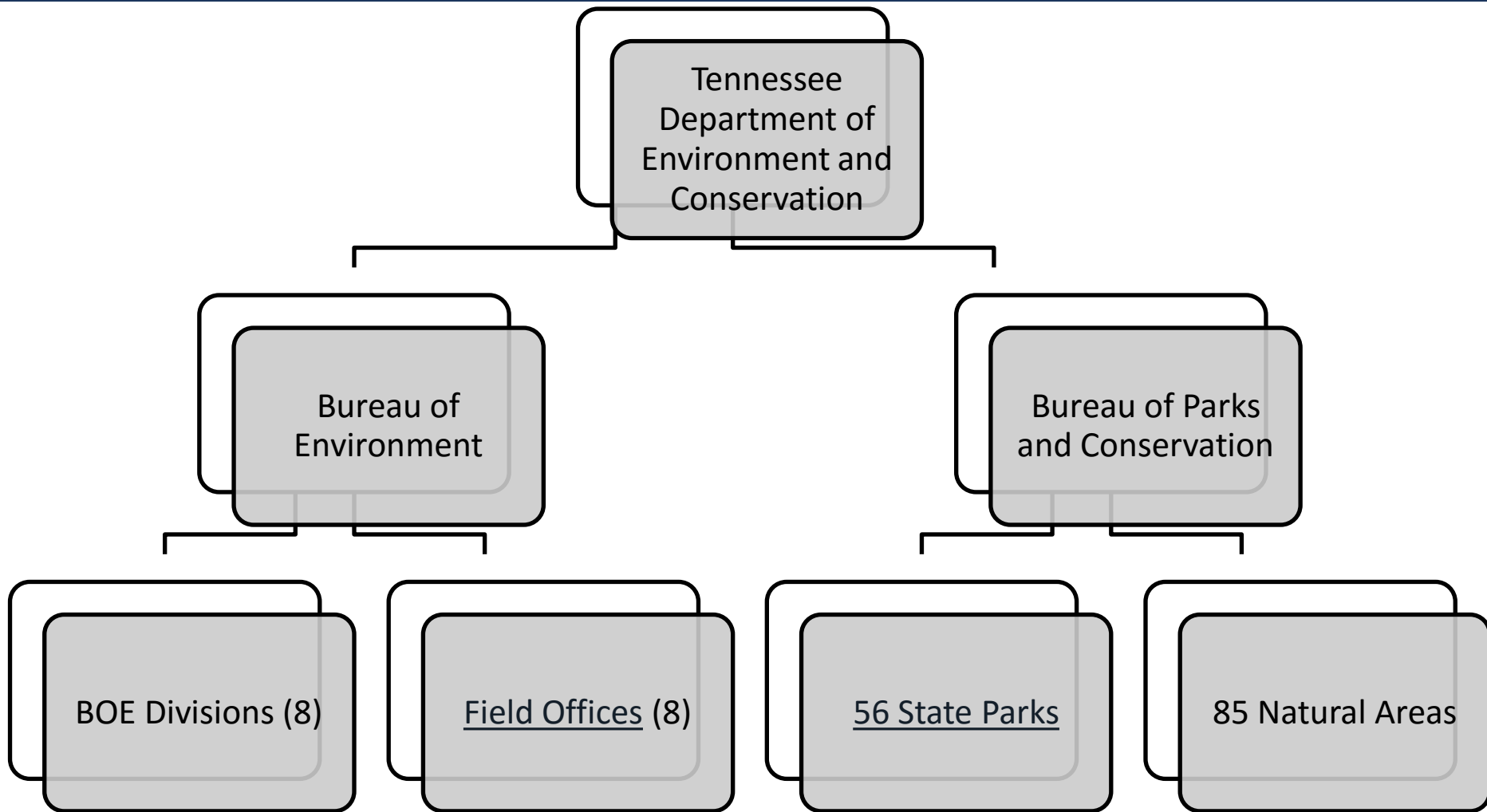
**Commissioner's  
Office**  
WRS Tennessee Tower, 2nd Floor  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243



- Commissioner David W. Salyers, P.E.
- Deputy Commissioner Greg Young



# TDEC Organization



# *Bureau of Parks and Conservation*



- 56 state parks representing natural, archaeological, and historical site of significance
- 85 state natural areas
- Natural Areas Programs restore and protect plants, animals, and natural communities
- Local Parks and Recreation Programs support community access to green spaces and outdoor activities



# *Bureau of Environment*

- Chief environmental and natural resource regulatory agency in Tennessee
- Delegated responsibility from U.S. EPA to regulate sources of:
  - Air pollution
  - Solid and hazardous waste
  - Radiological health issues
  - Underground storage tanks
  - Water pollution, water supply & groundwater
- Grants and loans
- Environmental education, energy programming, and sustainability



## *Core Beliefs*

- Economic growth and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive.
- Pollution prevention practices – particularly energy efficiency and elimination of waste – save money.
- Committed to protecting environment and supporting regulatory community.
- Committed to working with stakeholders in a customer-friendly way to achieve compliance.



# The Office of Policy and Sustainable Practices



We offer an array of education, recognition, technical assistance, resources, and tools to Tennessee entities to promote a more sustainable culture. In addition, we perform Title VI, Environmental Justice, and policy support functions to help fulfill the Department's mission and vision.



# *Sustainable Practices*

- **Business Team**

- Get Food Smart TN
- Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards
- Tennessee Green Star Partnership
- Tennessee Materials Marketplace
- Clean Tennessee Energy Grants
- Tennessee Sustainable Spirits

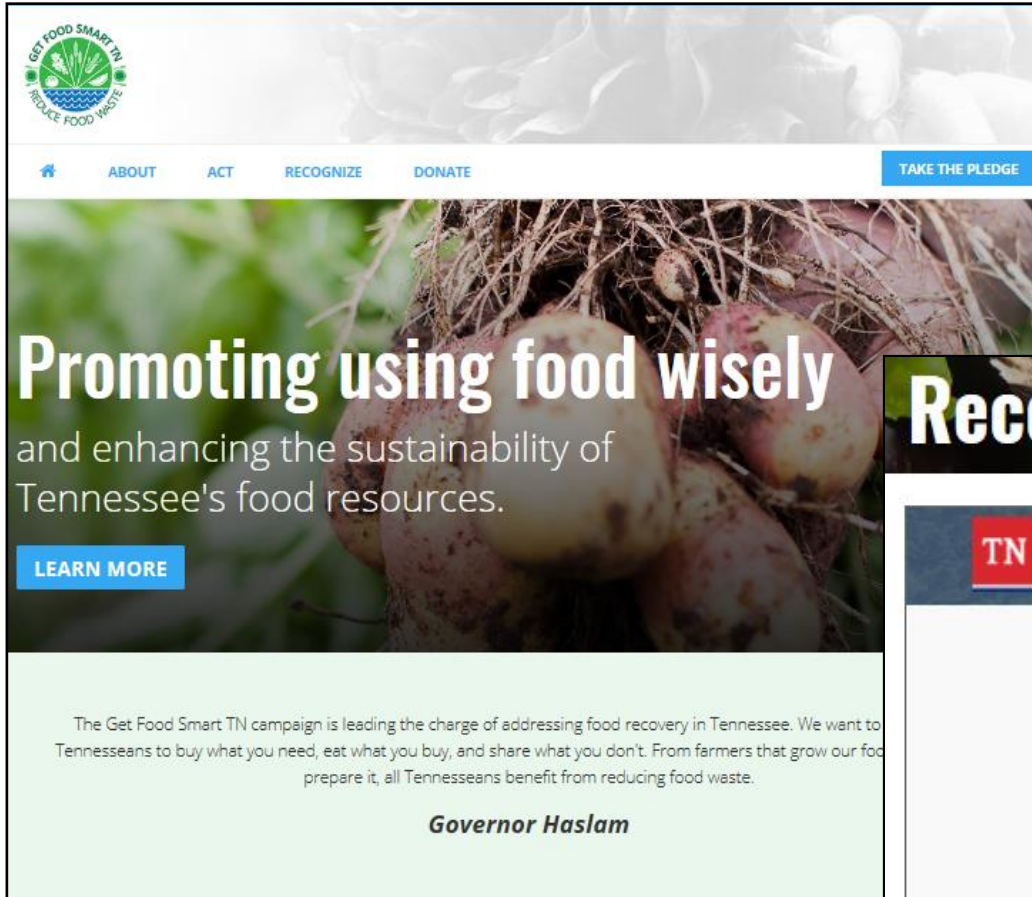
- **Community Team**

- Tennessee Environmental Education Initiative
- Tennessee Radon Program
- Unwanted Household Pharmaceutical Program
- Tire Environmental Act Program

- **State Government/Institution Team**

- Tennessee Higher Education Initiative
- Sustainable State Government

# Get Food Smart Tennessee

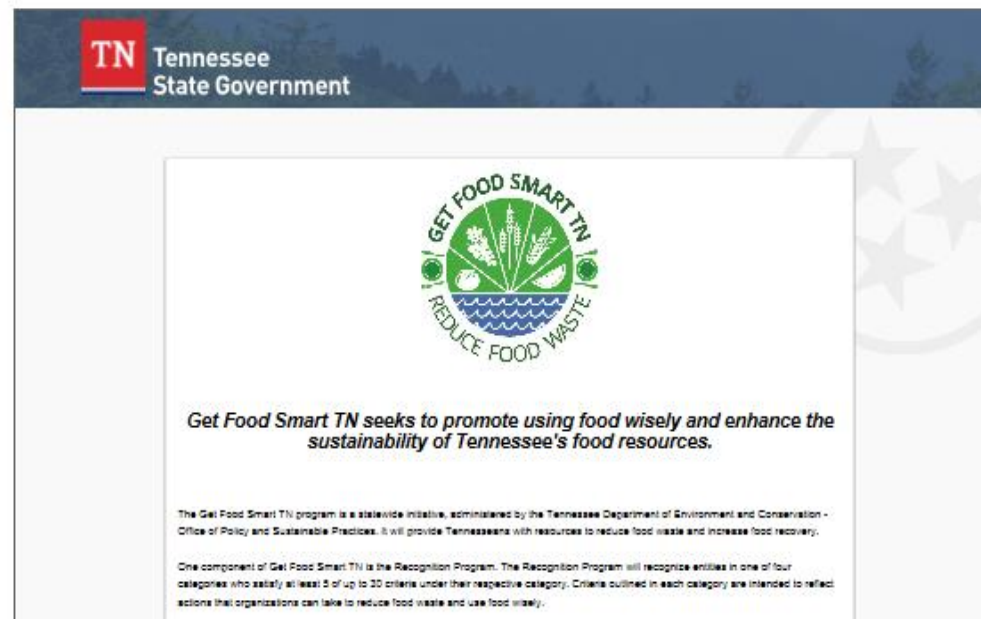


The screenshot shows the homepage of the Get Food Smart TN website. At the top left is the logo, which is a green circle containing icons for a leaf, wheat, corn, and a tomato, with the text "GET FOOD SMART TN" above and "REDUCE FOOD WASTE" below. Below the logo is a navigation bar with links: "ABOUT", "ACT", "RECOGNIZE", "DONATE", and a blue button labeled "TAKE THE PLEDGE". The main content area features a large image of potatoes with the headline "Promoting using food wisely and enhancing the sustainability of Tennessee's food resources." Below this is a blue button labeled "LEARN MORE". At the bottom, a quote from Governor Haslam reads: "The Get Food Smart TN campaign is leading the charge of addressing food recovery in Tennessee. We want to Tennesseans to buy what you need, eat what you buy, and share what you don't. From farmers that grow our food to the restaurants that prepare it, all Tennesseans benefit from reducing food waste."

getfoodsmartrn.com



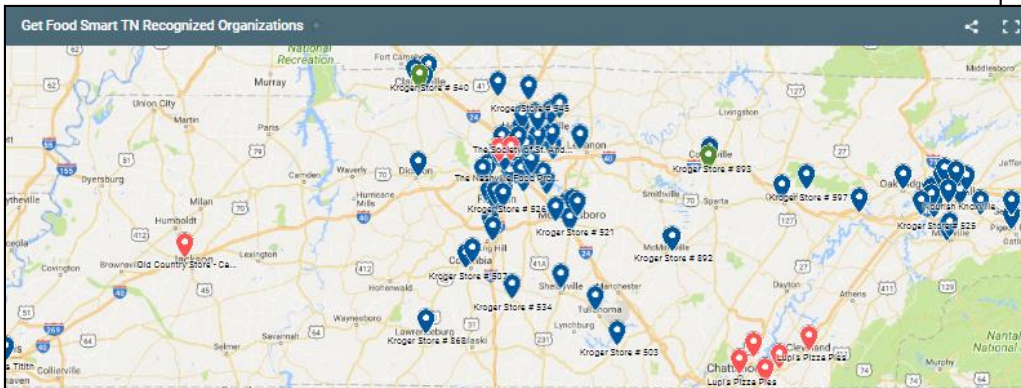
## Recognize: Apply



The screenshot shows a page from the Tennessee State Government website. At the top left is the "TN Tennessee State Government" logo. Below it is a large image of the Get Food Smart TN logo. The main text reads: "Get Food Smart TN seeks to promote using food wisely and enhance the sustainability of Tennessee's food resources." Below this is a paragraph of text: "The Get Food Smart TN program is a statewide initiative, administered by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation - Office of Policy and Sustainable Practices. It will provide Tennesseans with resources to reduce food waste and increase food recovery. One component of Get Food Smart TN is the Recognition Program. The Recognition Program will recognize entities in one of four categories who satisfy at least 5 of up to 20 criteria under their respective category. Criteria outlined in each category are intended to reflect actions that organizations can take to reduce food waste and use food wisely."

## Get Food Smart Tennessee

- Organization must satisfy at least 5 of up to 30 criteria under their category.
- The four categories are:
  - Schools
  - Restaurants
  - Government Entities and Non-Profit Organizations
  - Grocers, Industry, Agriculture, and other Private Entities



[getfoodsmartrn.com](http://getfoodsmartrn.com)



# *Sustainable State Government - Go Green With Us*



- State Parks report recycling metrics monthly.
- Resort State Park restaurants participate in food waste reduction through diversion, donations, and composting.
- EPA regional and national recognition for food waste diversion efforts in EPA's Food Recovery Challenge program.
- New Bear Saver recycling bins for all parks offer a more uniform branding for customers.



# *Sustainable State Government — Go Green With Us*



- Go Green with Us is a technical assistance and recognition program for the Tennessee State Parks system which aims to lead by example through reducing environmental impacts associated with operations and activities at the 56 State Parks
- Points based sustainability program developed for TN State Parks
- First recognition ceremony in April 2017
- 28 of 56 parks voluntarily submitted checklist application
- 26 recognized-
  - Bronze – 17
  - Silver – 6
  - Gold – 3

# Sustainable State Government — Go Green With Us



GO GREEN WITH US

## CERTIFIED PARKS

2017-2018

### GOLD

Burgess Falls State Park  
Henry Horton State Park  
Montgomery Bell State Park

### SILVER

Fort Pillow State Park  
Indian Mountain State Park  
Paris Landing State Park  
Radnor Lake State Park  
Rock Island State Park  
South Cumberland State Park

### BRONZE

Bicentennial Mall State Park  
Cedars of Lebanon State Park  
Cove Lake State Park  
Cumberland Trail State Park  
Dunbar Cave State Park  
Fort Loudon State Park  
Harrison Bay State Park  
Johnsonville State Park  
Long Hunter State Park  
Meeman Shelby State Park  
Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park  
Norris Dam State Park  
Panther Creek State Park  
Pickett State Park  
Port Royal State Park  
Roan Mountain State Park  
Tims Ford State Park

\*NO PARK ACHIEVED PLATINUM CERTIFICATION

## GO GREEN WITH US

TENNESSEE STATE PARKS

2017-2018 IMPACT

### RECYCLING

All 56 State Parks recycle.  
1,115,600 lbs. of material was  
recovered and recycled in 2017.



### CONSERVING WATER



19 State Parks have  
replaced old fixtures with  
low-volume alternatives

### COMPOSTING

7 State Parks have composted  
130,000 lbs of food waste in  
their first year of participation.



### SAVING ENERGY

28 State Parks have installed  
LED lights in high-traffic areas

### REDUCING EMISSIONS

25 State Parks enforce a  
no-idle policy for vehicles, and  
16 use alternative patrols for rangers.



### PROTECTING SPECIES



27 State Parks track  
Rare, Threatened and  
Endangered species.

### LANDSCAPING

28 State Parks plant native  
species in landscaping and  
work to remove invasive species.



TN

# Tennessee Higher Education Initiative

## Higher Education Institution




## Community





# Tennessee Higher Education Initiative



Counties 

Judicial Officials

State Legislators

Directory Tips

CTAS Employees



## County Officials

County Mayor

Randy Heady

(931)268-9172

P.O. Box 716

Gainesboro, TN 38562

(931) 268-9888

<http://www.tn.gov/local/jackson.html>

### INCORPORATED CITIES OR TOWNS:

Gainesboro (962)

### COUNTY LEGISLATIVE MEETING INFORMATION:

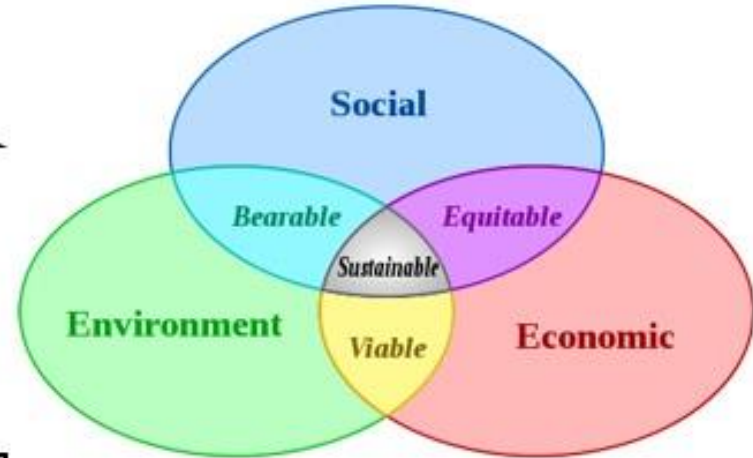
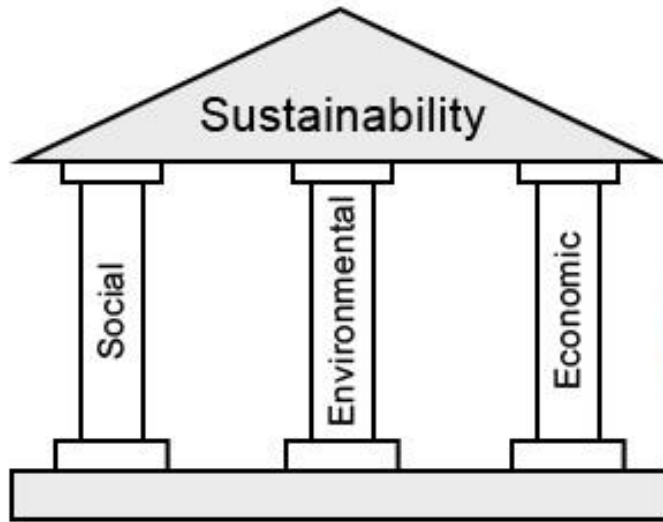
7:00 p.m. - Monday every six weeks

**2010 POPULATION:** 11,638

# *Defining and Scoping Sustainability*

- What do you think of when you hear the word **Sustainability**?
- Sustainability has three fundamental pillars
  - Environmental – is it good for the environment?
  - Economic – is it good for the economy?
  - Social – is it good for society?
- According to the dictionary, sustainability is the avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance.

# Sustainability



**Bearable (Society + Environment)** – This occurs when we are cognizant of our impact, which results in humans intentionally contributing towards a healthier environment and overall well-being.

**Equitable (Society + Economic Equitable)** This occurs when a nation's resources are used to help eradicate poverty and social inequality, and to raise the standard of living of the society.

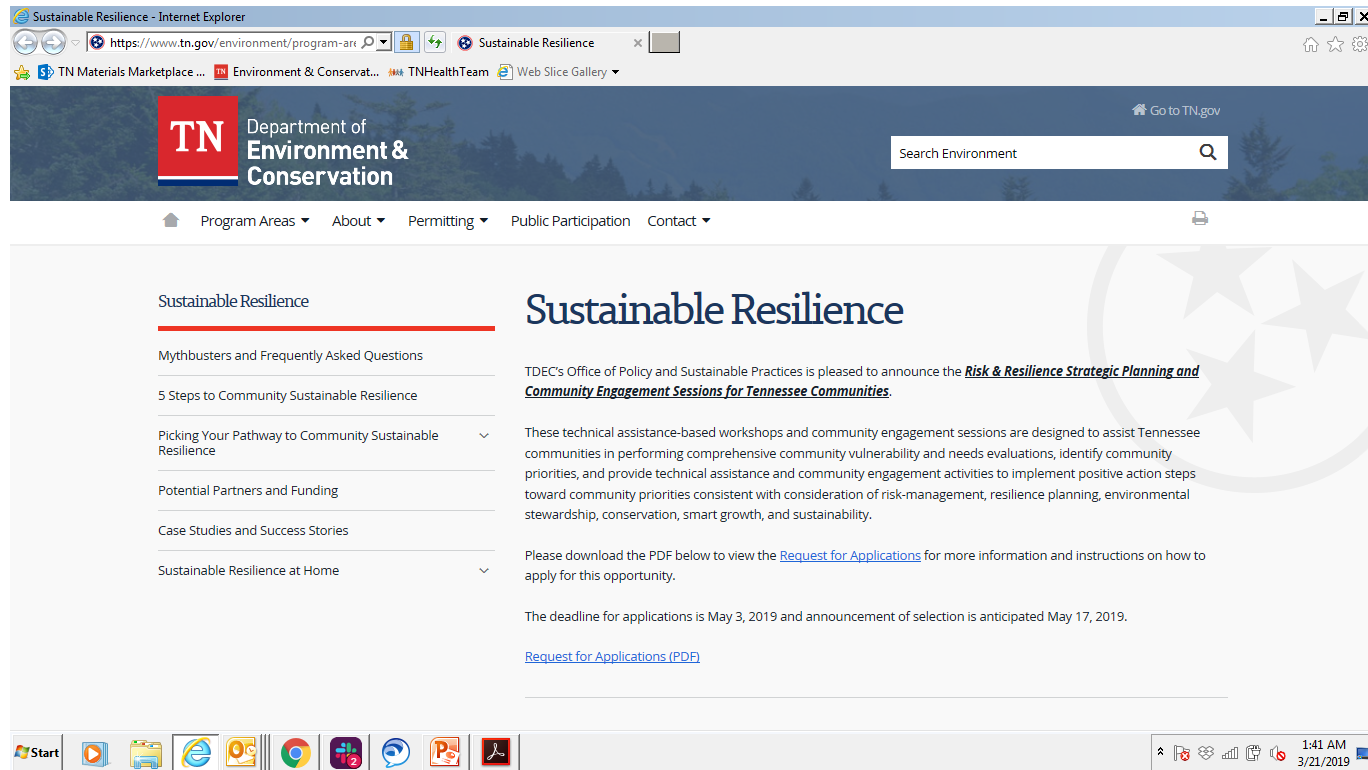
**Viable (Economic + Environment)** – This occurs when a Nation strives to meet economic growth and development, while operations are pursued with environmental protection in mind.

# *Sustainable Resilience*

- Sustainability is the avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance.
- Resilience is the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; the ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape; elasticity.
- Sustainable resilience is the ability of communities to confront changing conditions, absorb disturbances with flexibility, and utilize existing resources and local partnerships to achieve community goals without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



- <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/opsp-policy-and-sustainable-practices/community-programs-and-services/sustainable-resilience.html>



# Picking your Pathway

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/5-steps-to-community-sustainable-resilience/>. The page title is "5 Steps to Community Sustainable Resilience". The navigation bar includes links for "Program Areas", "About", "Permitting", "Public Participation", and "Contact". The left sidebar lists several topics, with "5 Steps to Community Sustainable Resilience" highlighted. The main content area features a large heading "5 Steps to Community Sustainable Resilience" and a paragraph explaining the concept. Below this, there are five numbered steps listed with right-pointing chevrons. The bottom of the page shows a "Contact Information" section. The taskbar at the bottom displays various application icons, including Start, Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, and Adobe Reader. The system clock in the bottom right corner shows the date as 3/21/2019 and the time as 2:24 AM.

5 Steps to Community Sustainable Resilience - Internet Explorer

<https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/5-steps-to-community-sustainable-resilience/>

TN Materials Marketplace ... Environment & Conservat... TNHealthTeam Web Slice Gallery

TN Program Areas About Permitting Public Participation Contact

Sustainable Resilience

Mythbusters and Frequently Asked Questions

**5 Steps to Community Sustainable Resilience**

Picking Your Pathway to Community Sustainable Resilience

Potential Partners and Funding

Case Studies and Success Stories

Sustainable Resilience at Home

## 5 Steps to Community Sustainable Resilience

Pursuing sustainable resilience can seem daunting with dozens of sustainability and resilience models and hundreds of resources available. *Everyone can do something to support more sustainable and resilient communities.* This webpage breaks down approaching sustainable resilience into simple steps.

See the [Partnerships](#) section of our website for potential partners in your area and the [Case Studies](#) section of our website for examples of partnerships across the state supporting sustainable resilience now. If you're a citizen or community group interested in pursuing sustainable resilience at home, please visit our [Sustainable Resilience at Home](#) webpage.

Wherever you are in your sustainable resilience journey, we offer the following five, simple steps below, which will allow you to make an informed decision about the best way to pursue sustainable resilience in your community today:

- > Step 1: Perform a Baseline Assessment of Current Conditions
- > Step 2: Engage your Stakeholders
- > Step 3: Pick Your Path
- > Step 4: Take Action
- > Step 5: Publicize Your Progress and Set New Goals

### Contact Information

Start Internet Explorer Google Chrome Adobe Reader 2:24 AM 3/21/2019



# 1. *Baseline Assessment*

Perform a baseline assessment of current conditions

- Infrastructure
- Housing
- Transportation
- Recreational space
- Economy
- Social values
- Regulations



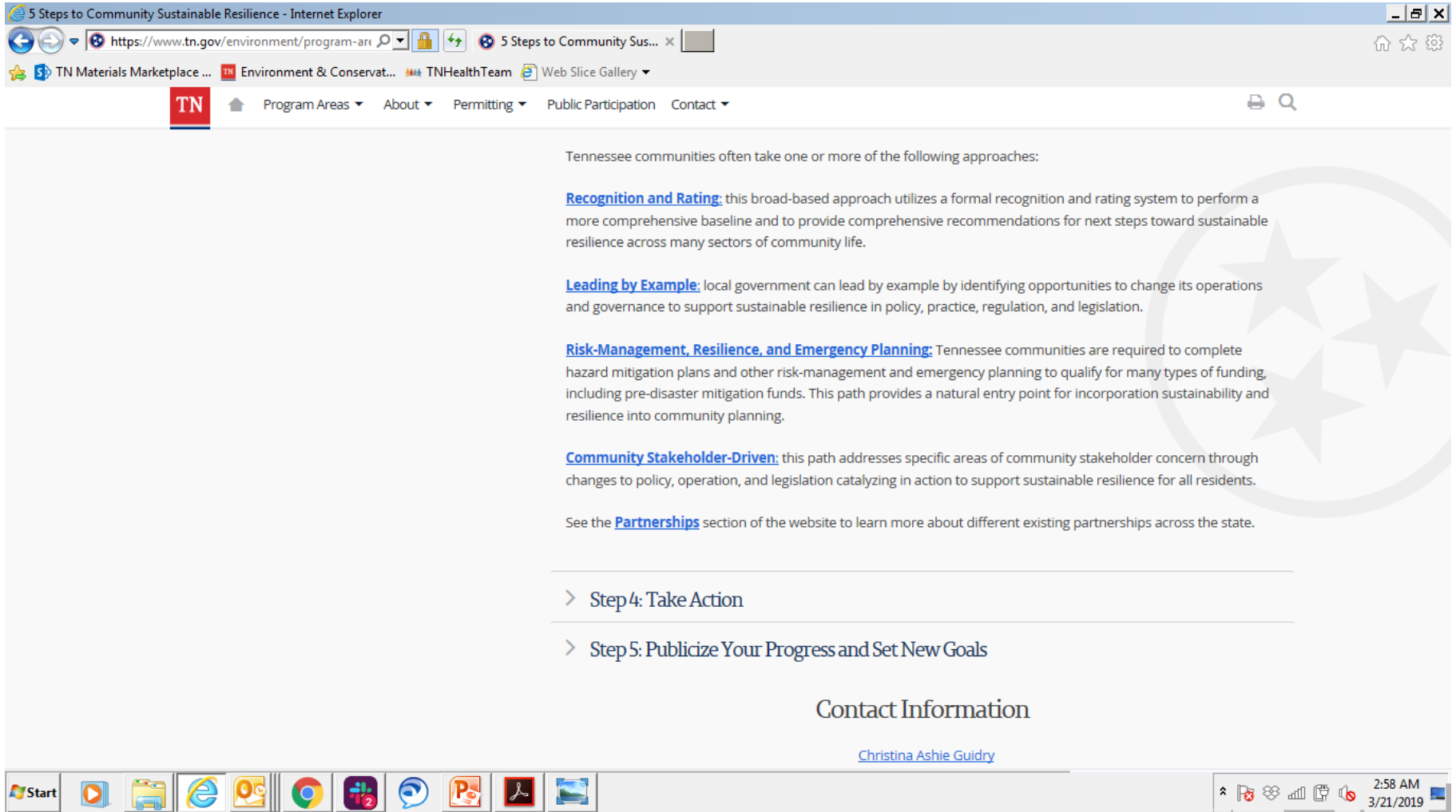
Then, identify greatest need and opportunity

## 2. Engage Your Stakeholders

- Host public meetings with stakeholders to discuss baseline
- Identify opportunities for growth
- Prioritize next steps



### 3. Pick Your Path



# Picking your Pathway

Risk-Management, Resilience, and Emergency Preparedness - Internet Explorer

https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-ari

TN Materials Marketplace ... Environment & Conservat... TNHealthTeam Web Slice Gallery

Program Areas ▾ About ▾ Permitting ▾ Public Participation Contact ▾

## Sustainable Resilience

- Mythbusters and Frequently Asked Questions
- 5 Steps to Community Sustainable Resilience
- Picking Your Pathway to Community Sustainable Resilience**
  - Recognition and Rating
  - Leading by Example
  - Risk-Management, Resilience, and Emergency Preparedness**
  - Community Stakeholder or Topic-Driven
- Potential Partners and Funding
- Case Studies and Success Stories
- Sustainable Resilience at Home ▾

## Risk-Management, Resilience, and Emergency Preparedness

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

In Tennessee, all communities are required to submit hazard mitigation plans to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) in order to qualify for specific funds, such as pre-disaster mitigation funding. Other funding opportunities may require risk-management planning, emergency preparedness planning, or other disaster planning.

Does your community already have plans in place? If so, this is a natural launching point for integrating resilience and sustainability considerations into your plans to increase the positive effect of those plans.

Is your community ready to develop risk-management or hazard mitigation plans? We have some great resources to inform your planning process: from baseline assessment tools to evaluate your community's risks in the face of extreme climate events to sample hazard mitigation plans, following TEMA guidance.

Taking a holistic approach to risk-management, resilience, and emergency planning allows your community to use the same dollars more effectively – saving your community money and giving your community the better opportunity to bounce back from disasters.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Guidance from TEMA



## 4. Take Action

- Take visible action engaging stakeholders
- Pursue initial projects that will result in cost savings over time and which benefits can be easily conveyed to the community.
- Energy saved through LED-retrofitting
- Water conserved through use of low-flow faucets
- Green space added and/or utilized by citizens
- Improvements to water infrastructure
- Enhancing public transportation options generate metrics that are readily accessible to community members.

## 5. Publicize

**Informal:** Host a dashboard or scorecard with regularly updated metrics like energy savings, water conservation, number of citizens using green spaces or outdoor trails and parks, and miles citizens have logged using public or alternative transportation on your website.

The city of Rockwood provides an annual dashboard update, Chattanooga provides a regularly updated dashboard for its areas of targeted performance growth, and Knoxville provides public dashboards for specific areas of focus, such as homelessness and building blight.

**Formal:** Host public meetings to highlight progress in sustainable resilience, including effective partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and industry, and ask community stakeholders to identify continued prioritization and community goals so that you can move the needle in areas of greatest community concern.

# Potential Partners and Funding

Potential Partners and Funding - Internet Explorer

https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-ari

TN Materials Marketplace ... Environment & Conservat... TNHealthTeam Web Slice Gallery

**TN** Department of Environment & Conservation

Go to TN.gov

Search Environment

Program Areas About Permitting Public Participation Contact

## Sustainable Resilience

Mythbusters and Frequently Asked Questions

5 Steps to Community Sustainable Resilience


Picking Your Pathway to Community Sustainable Resilience

## Potential Partners and Funding

Case Studies and Success Stories

Sustainable Resilience at Home

## Potential Partners and Funding



### Funding

Click below to download a PDF of available funding sources for local governments, nonprofits, organizations, businesses, higher education facilities, and individuals for project related to sustainability and resiliency.

[Funding for Community Resilience \(PDF\)](#)

For additional grant opportunities, please see:

- TDOT's [Program Development and Administration webpage](#)

Start

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# Case Studies and Success Stories

Case Studies and Success Stories - Internet Explorer

https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-are Case Studies and Success ...

TN Materials Marketplace ... Environment & Conservat... TNHealthTeam Web Slice Gallery

**TN** Department of Environment & Conservation

Go to TN.gov

Search Environment

Program Areas About Permitting Public Participation Contact

## Sustainable Resilience

- Mythbusters and Frequently Asked Questions
- 5 Steps to Community Sustainable Resilience
- Picking Your Pathway to Community Sustainable Resilience
- Potential Partners and Funding
- Case Studies and Success Stories**
- Sustainable Resilience at Home

## Case Studies and Success Stories

- > Transportation
- > Natural Environment
- > Land Use and Redevelopment
- > Energy
- > Citizen Science
- > Grant Management
- > Stakeholder-Led Sustainable Resilience

Contact Information

Start

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# Case Studies and Success Stories

## ✓ Stakeholder-Led Sustainable Resilience



### **City of Kingsport: population 53,374** **Engaging Citizens in the Spirit of Resilience**

In 2018, following its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the city was awarded for [Excellence in Government](#) by the Tennessee Municipal League for its innovative approaches to local governance through involving citizens, utilizing new technology, and cooperation among both elected officials and appointed staff. Leading up to the city's centennial anniversary in 2017, officials established the "OneKingsport Summit," a two-day period where citizen input was gathered and an advisory committee was formed to help guide the city into the future. Five projects designed to provide a sustained economic impact and improve the quality of life for citizens were identified at the summit and are currently in progress. The city also recently established a 12-member Neighborhood Commission that advises and promotes initiatives to strengthen local neighborhoods. To better communicate with residents, Kingsport implemented "YourGov," a free service that allows residents to report non-emergency issues and service requests using the web or a smart phone. Kingsport continues to build on increasing sustainability and becoming more resilient by continually seeking input and synergy from residents to harness the Kingsport "spirit" of achievement.

# *Wildfires, Sustainability, Resilience*

- Extreme weather conditions more frequent:
    - drought/flooding/wind
  - Buffer zones – beneficial for stormwater and fire retention
  - Can buffer zone be used for greenspace or a trail as well?
  - Promote healthier lifestyles, livable communities
  - Increase property value
  - Economic stimulus
- 
- How do we focus more on big picture and holistic approach?

# Sustainable Resilience at Home

Sustainable Resilience at Home - Internet Explorer

https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-are... Sustainable Resilience at H... x

TN Materials Marketplace ... Environment & Conservat... TNHealthTeam Web Slice Gallery

TN Program Areas About Permitting Public Participation Contact

## Sustainable Resilience

- Mythbusters and Frequently Asked Questions
- 5 Steps to Community Sustainable Resilience
- Picking Your Pathway to Community Sustainable Resilience
- Potential Partners and Funding
- Case Studies and Success Stories

### Sustainable Resilience at Home

- Transportation
- Water
- Energy
- Waste Management
- Food
- Emergency Preparedness
- Other Ways to Engage in Sustainable Resilience at Home


## Sustainable Resilience at Home

Everyone can do something to pursue more sustainable and resilient living. It's important to engage in conservation so that future generations can enjoy natural resources and quality of life.

To take action to pursue more sustainable and resilient living at home, follow these steps:

- STEP 1: Perform a Baseline Assessment of Your Current Use of Natural Resources
- STEP 2: Do Your Research
- STEP 3: Set Attainable Goals for a More Sustainable and Resilient Lifestyle
- STEP 4: Engage in Sustainable Resilience through Simple Behavioral Changes
- STEP 5: Leverage Your Savings into Sustainable and Resilient Upgrades to Further Your Sustainability and Resilience

Take a look at the topics below to identify sustainable and resilient steps that fit your household.



## *Risk & Resilience Strategic Planning and Community Engagement Sessions for Tennessee Communities*

- To assist Tennessee communities in performing comprehensive community needs and vulnerability evaluation with a focus on risk-management, resilience planning, environmental and public health planning, smart growth, and sustainability
- To support communities in identifying specific vulnerabilities and environmental priority areas; to assist in identifying resources and technical assistance to support a strategic action plan to address community vulnerabilities and priorities across multiple sectors; and to provide technical assistance and community engagement activities to support positive action in those priority areas.

## *Risk & Resilience Strategic Planning and Community Engagement Sessions for Tennessee Communities*

Governor Lee's Executive Order 01 requires all state agencies to identify the actions that it can take to support rural communities. TDEC's OPSP is uniquely positioned to: 1) assist communities in performing an assessment of community strengths and challenges across all sectors of community life with a focus on risk-management, resilience planning, environmental stewardship, smart growth, and sustainability, 2) identify community priorities for action, 3) perform analysis and make recommendations on financial and technical resources available to the community, and 4) engage the community, including its residents, in taking action steps to pursue community priorities.

# *Risk & Resilience Strategic Planning and Community Engagement Sessions for Tennessee Communities*

- Bi-weekly planning calls with OPSP during project period
- A tailored half-day strategic planning session, organized and facilitated by OPSP, in the community
- Report summarizing the strategic planning session, community vulnerabilities and priorities, and identification of available resources and technical assistance
- Tailored full-day action plan workshop=morning session for community leaders, afternoon community engagement
- Periodic follow-up and support





# Questions?



Jan Compton  
Office of Policy and Sustainable Practices/  
Office of External Affairs  
[Jan.Compton@tn.gov](mailto:Jan.Compton@tn.gov)  
(423) 854-5417