

## February/March Announcements - Knoxville Energy & Sustainability Initiative

March 12, 2009

Greetings! Thanks for reading the updates below, especially #4 (a save-the-date for an Energy & Sustainability Task Force meeting on Thursday, April 9th, from 9:30-11:30).

1) Please join us tomorrow to help kick-off a new Lunch & Learn series entitled "**Brown Bag - Green Book**," co-sponsored by the City of Knoxville and Knox County Library. Knoxville Chamber President and CEO Mike Edwards will launch the new Brown Bag - Green Book series by discussing Thomas Friedman's best-selling book, "Hot, Flat and Crowded: Why we Need a Green Revolution and How it Can Renew America." **When:** noon on Wednesday, March 11. **Where:** In the Café 4 Conference Room located on Market Square. **What else:** This series will be held on the second Wednesday of each month with each program featuring a prominent Knoxvilleian discussing a timely "green book." The public is invited to join in the conversation each month but you don't have to have read the book to attend or participate. Attendees may bring their own lunch, order in advance from Café 4 at 544-4144 or from another downtown restaurant. (Task Force Member) Elizabeth Eason, owner of the design firm, Elizabeth Eason Architecture, will talk about "Cradle to Cradle/Remaking the Way We Make Things" by William McDonough and Michael Braungart as the series continues on April 8th. Knoxville Citycouncilman (and Task Force Member) Chris Woodhull will lead the May 13th discussion of "The Green Collar Economy" by Van Jones. See [www.cityofknoxville.org/Press\\_Releases/Content/2009/0226](http://www.cityofknoxville.org/Press_Releases/Content/2009/0226) for more information.

2) More than 75 businesspeople took part in our February 12th "**Solar for Your Business**" workshop at the Knoxville Chamber on Market Square. The morning-long session was designed to inform businesses about opportunities to install various types of solar technology and the financial incentives available to help make it affordable. The event was one of a series of free workshops being offered as part of the City of Knoxville's Solar America Cities Program. Please see [www.cityofknoxville.org/Press\\_Releases/Content/2009/0218](http://www.cityofknoxville.org/Press_Releases/Content/2009/0218) for more information, including the power point presentation by Gil Melear-Hough from the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, a video clip of Gil-in-action, and a schedule of upcoming solar workshops. The next workshop will be "**Green Jobs and Education Opportunities**" on Friday, April 17th, from 12:30-2:00 p.m. at Pellissippi State Technical Community College, J.L. Goins Building Cafeteria Annex, 10915 Hardin Valley Road.

3) There are two other solar-oriented workshops coming up this spring that we are sponsoring as part of the Solar America Cities Program. **First**, the Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) will host a regional workshop at the Knoxville Downtown Hilton from April 13-14. The Workshop targets utilities in the low cost electricity states of the Midwest and Southeast, and the theme of the workshop is "**Solar Options for Low Cost Utilities**." The Workshop is open to all utilities, State Public Utility Commissions, State Energy Offices, and solar companies. **Highlights of Keynotes and Sessions:** Solar Market Trends and Utility Engagement; Solar American Board for Codes and Standards;

Solar Electric Technology: Options and Applications for Today and Tomorrow; Interconnection & Net Metering: State Policies and Considerations; Utility Metering & Interconnection Practices; Customer Perspectives on Solar Incentive Programs; Green Power Switch Program and Solar, Generation Partners Program; Renewables & Clean Energy RFP. For more information and registration, see [www.solarelectricpower.org](http://www.solarelectricpower.org). **Second**, the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) will present "**National Electric Code Compliance for Photovoltaic Systems**" at the Knoxville Civic Coliseum on Friday, May 8th. This Workshop presents standardized guidelines for applying the National Electric Code (NEC) to photovoltaic (PV) system installations. Those completing the workshop will be eligible for Continuing Education Units (details pending). **Who Should Attend?** Local Code Enforcement Officers, Building Department Officials and third party electric inspectors. For more information and registration, see [www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=712913](http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=712913) (the site will be active by the end of this week).

4) Finally, please save the date for an **Energy & Sustainability Task Force meeting on Thursday, April 9th, from 9:30-11:30, location TBD**. Among other agenda items, Ameresco will provide an update about their progress on the energy and water audit for city facilities and discuss what comes next. We have gotten a fair amount of press on this project recently, see stories in the Knoxville News Sentinel ([www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/feb/20/work-renewable-resources-may-bring-federal-funds-k/](http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/feb/20/work-renewable-resources-may-bring-federal-funds-k/)), the New York Times ([www.nytimes.com/2009/02/26/business/energy-environment/26efficiency.html?\\_r=1&pagewanted=all](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/26/business/energy-environment/26efficiency.html?_r=1&pagewanted=all)) and Metropulse ([www.metropulse.com/news/2009/feb/25/knoxville-ready-and-waiting-stimulus/](http://www.metropulse.com/news/2009/feb/25/knoxville-ready-and-waiting-stimulus/)). I'll send out a follow-up email shortly with a detailed agenda and meeting location.

Madeleine R. Weil  
Deputy Director, Policy & Communications  
City of Knoxville  
(865) 215-2680