

Tennessee



Environmental and Climate Threats in TN

- More than 4 out of 10 people live in counties with unhealthy levels of ozone or particle pollution. This can increase risk for asthma and other respiratory issues, which can lead to missed school days, work days, hospitalization and full respiratory failure.
 - In TN: about 1 out 10 people live with asthma.
- Tennessee is also home to 2 coal powered plants on the coal blooded "D-F" list, Kingston and Kingsport.
- To ensure clean air for all, actions must be taken including retiring coal powered plants and passing clean air ordinances.
- Tennessee averages about 10 dangerous heat days a year. By 2050, that number is projected to increase to 55; directly harming the 200,000 citizens of Tennessee vulnerable to heat, increasing the number of wildfires, and increasing the number and length of droughts.
- Increase in heat also supercharges storms, leading to stronger storms each year, and directly harming the 270,000 Tennessee residents at risk of in-land flooding.



Does Tennessee meet NAACP standards?

- TN currently does not meet NAACP standards. These standards are policies that every state should have to take steps towards a cleaner, greener, and more equitable future. Tennessee must:
 - Have a mandatory Renewable Portfolio standard, with a target of 25% clean energy by 2025
 - Have mandatory Energy Efficiency standards that requires a minimum 2% annual reduction on energy sales each year
 - Have a mandatory net metering policy that allows for solar panel systems up to 2000 kilowatts
- Have mandatory legislation that gives minority and woman owned businesses equitable access to green jobs and clean energy opportunities
- Have mandatory legislation that allows communities to take advantage of solar energy (whether each individual has solar panels or not!)



Proposed Action Steps

- Every branch has an ECJ committee and chair
- Every branch has an Community Emergency Response Team
- McMinn, Haywood, and Clarksville branches engage in Rural Electric Co-Op Democratization projects
- Coal Blooded action campaigns at the Roane County and Johnson City/ Washington County branches to retire Plants Kingston and Kingsport and transition to clean energy
- Tennessee State Conference hosts a "Bridging the Gap: Connecting Black Communities to the Green Economy" summit
- Tennessee State Conference engages in "Power to the People" campaign to strengthen TN environmental standards
- Memphis Branch passes local clean air ordinance
- TN Youth and College engages in a local food project