

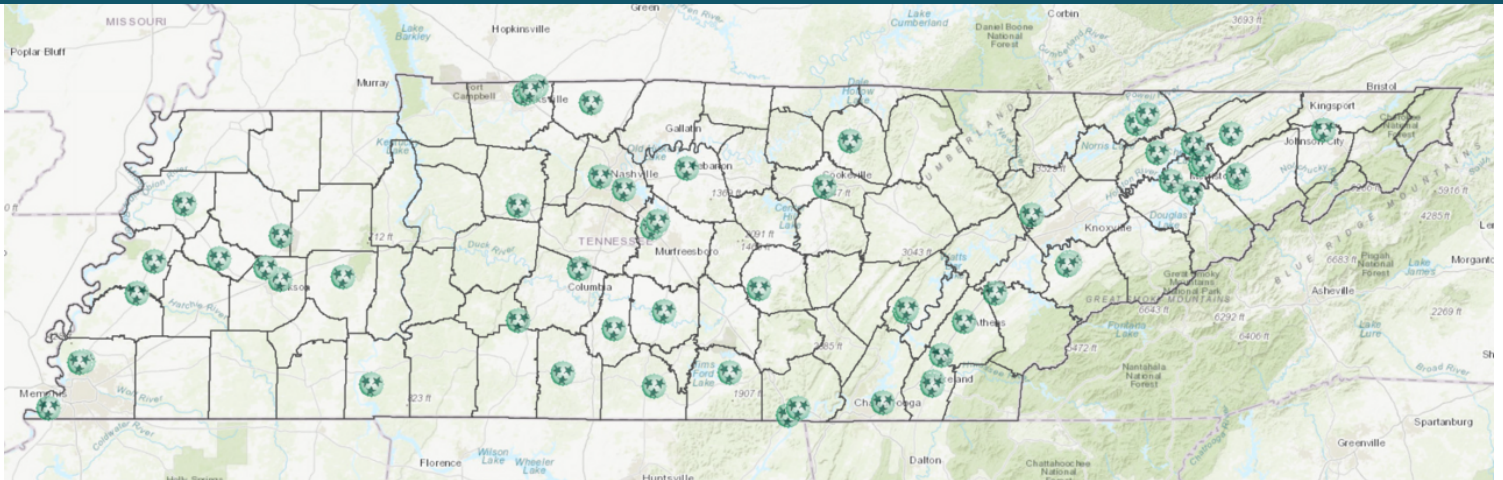
# The Catalyst

Activating TN's Sustainable and Resilient Future

Office of Sustainable Practices



## Supporting Sustainable Industry in Tennessee



Tennessee has long been a prime location for leading industries. Today, many of those industries don't just lead in production and job development—they lead in sustainability, making intentional choices to reduce waste, conserve resources, and protect the environment.

When making purchasing decisions, you can choose companies that prioritize sustainability. Explore industry leaders in our state committed to sustainability through TDEC's [Tennessee Green Star Partnership](#).

### Sustainable Product Spotlight

- [Lodge Cast Iron](#) – South Pittsburg  
Their skillets are produced using a magnetic induction furnace, instead of gas or coal, to melt cast iron.
- [Marvin](#) – Ripley  
The sawdust and wood waste used to make their windows and doors is reused—some even ends up as

horse bedding locally or animal bedding at the St. Louis Zoo.

- [Stanley Black & Decker](#) – Jackson

Their top-tier DeWalt tools are produced using recovered, powderized metal.

- [Frito-Lay](#) – Fayetteville

The process water used to produce their tasty snacks is pumped nearly three miles to a local cattle farm for reuse.

- [Electrolux](#) – Springfield

The waste powder paint used to make their stoves is sent to K2 Environmental in Ohio, where it's repurposed for cement and mortar applications.

Looking for more sustainable options? Shopping Tennessee products is a great way to reduce transportation emissions, purchase fresh produce, and support local Tennessee economies. Explore [Pick Tennessee Products](#) to find options.

## Healthy Built Environments Grant



Sustainability is more than protecting our natural resources. It's about strengthening communities, improving public health, and creating opportunities for people to thrive.

A new grant from the [Tennessee Department of Health's Office of Primary Prevention](#) highlights this broader vision. [The Healthy Built Environment Grant Program](#) supports planning and construction projects that protect, promote, and improve the health and prosperity of Tennesseans. Examples of funded projects include walking tracks, playgrounds, greenways, parks, outdoor fitness stations, farmers markets, school gardens, and more.

Grants of up to \$50,000 for planning projects and \$80,000 for construction projects are available to local and state governments, American Indian tribes, and 501(c)(3) nonprofits. No match is required. The letter of intent deadline is March 13.

Not ready to apply for the grant? Sign up for the [Department of Health's Newsletter: Built Environment and Health News](#) to stay informed about future opportunities.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GRANT](#)

# National Invasive Species Awareness Week



**NAISMA**  
**NISAW**

National Invasive Species  
Awareness Week

National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) runs February 23–27, 2026, spotlighting efforts to stop the spread of harmful non-native species. Led by the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA), NISAW features free webinars and resources on prevention strategies, biosecurity, and restoration. Visit [NAISMA's website](#) for the full schedule and a toolkit to help promote awareness.

Locally, Tennessee State Parks will be hosting [Weed Wrangle Events](#) on March 7th. Weed Wrangle is part of a Garden Club of America's national stewardship effort to remove invasive plants from public spaces. These events are a great way to volunteer, get outdoors, and help restore Tennessee's natural beauty. Participants will also gain valuable knowledge and skills to combat invasive species in their own yards. Learn more about common [invasive plants in Tennessee](#).

**TN STATE PARKS WEED WRANGLE EVENTS**

## Join the Great Backyard Bird Count



Bird lovers of all ages are invited to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), a global citizen science event taking place February 13–16. Spend just 15 minutes counting birds in your backyard, a local

park, or [Tennessee State Park](#), and report your sightings online. Organized by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the National Audubon Society, and Birds Canada, the GBBC helps scientists track bird populations and understand how environmental changes affect them.

## How to Participate

1. Pick a good spot, early morning is best.
2. Be still and quiet.
3. Use binoculars and the [Merlin Bird ID](#) app.
4. Record count by species.
5. Submit your data at [eBird.org](#) or the [GBBC](#) website.

## Winter Weather Increases Litter



Tennessee has been recently enveloped with winter weather, bringing with it downed trees and extended power outages. Winter weather can also create issues related to increased litter in our waterways. Snow covers up roadside trash, fast-food packaging, bottles, and other debris and ice can lock that litter in place, making it easy to forget and hard to remove. As the snow and ice melt, the run-off will carry the litter into storm drains, ditches, creeks, and rivers, sending months' worth of hidden trash straight into Tennessee's waterways, threatening our wildlife, water quality, and our communities.

TDOT's [Nobody Trashes Tennessee](#) has some simple [recommendations](#) for what you can personally do to help reduce litter. And as the weather starts to warm up, you can further help by joining one of the many local cleanup events offered by [Keep Tennessee Beautiful](#).

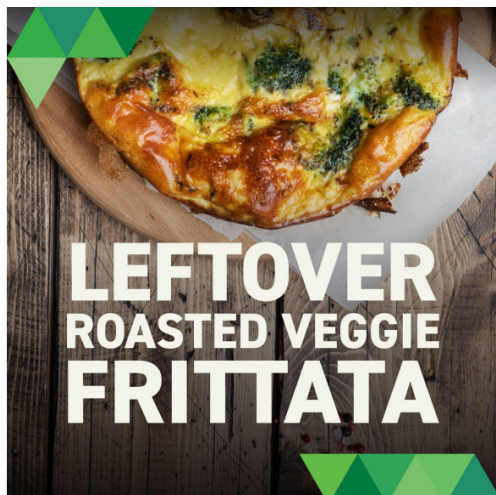
[LEARN MORE ABOUT WINTER LITTER](#)

## Sustainable Recipe

Turn yesterday's roasted vegetables into a flavorful meal with this easy [frittata recipe](#). In about 35–40 minutes,

you'll create a dish that reduces food waste and saves money. Use eggs, a splash of milk, and any roasted veggies you have. Add leftover cheese and finish with fresh herbs like thyme.

Discover more [food-saving recipes](#) that help you cut costs and reduce waste by repurposing ingredients throughout the week and turning leftovers into delicious meals.



## News

[Tennessee named "epicenter," No. 1 state for nuclear energy growth](#)

[WATCH: TDEC & City of Clifton break ground on clean water infrastructure project](#)

[With landfills filling up, Tennessee legislature once again looks at recycling bills](#)

[WATCH: TDEC, Tennessee Aquarium discover signs of a successful spawn of rare & endangered species](#)

[Tis the Season: Why Litter Increases in Winter](#)

[Natchez Trace State Park asks for Christmas trees to create new fish habitats](#)

## Get Involved

### Volunteer

[Land Trust for Tennessee: Glen Leven Farm Stewardship](#)  
Nashville

[Plant the Parkways](#)  
Memphis

[Keep Tennessee Beautiful Clean Ups](#)  
Statewide

[Nobody Trashes Tennessee Clean Ups](#)  
Statewide

# Events

[Treasure Not Trash: Short Film Premiere](#)

Brentwood  
February 19

[Changemaker Book Club](#)

Nashville  
February 24

[Conservation on the Hill](#)

Nashville  
February 25

# Conferences

[Tennessee RiverLine Summit 2026](#)

Chattanooga  
February 22-24

# Webinars

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

Virtual  
February 18

# Receive Funding

[West TN Community Impact Grants](#)

Opening: February

[TDH Heathy Built Environment Grant](#)

Letter of Intent Deadline: March 13th

[TDEC Waste Tire Resue Project Grants](#)

Deadline: April 15th

[Keep Tennessee Beautiful Law Enforcement Grant](#)

[TDOT Litter Grant Program](#)

[TDEC Grants and Programs](#)

[Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#)

[Grants.gov](#)

# Have something to share in *The Catalyst*?

With an audience of 40K subscribers, we're looking for content that helps residents learn more about sustainability and take action in Tennessee.

CONTACT US

# Stay Connected



SUBSCRIBE TO THE CATALYST NEWSLETTER

[your preferences](#) |

using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward?

to receive our future emails.

[View this email](#)

Davy Crockett Tower 500 James Robertson Parkway | Nashville, TN 37243 US

This email was sent to .

*To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.*

**emma**®

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.