



**Press Release: November 20, 2023**

## **CTAS Consultant Kim Raia Receives 2023 TREEDC Champion Award**

On November 16, 2023, the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) recognized The University of Tennessee County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) Environmental Management Consultant Kim Raia as a 2023 TREEDC Champion for her work in helping advance community sustainability and resiliency for Tennessee’s local governments since 2000. The theme of the TREEDC conference was “Creating New Energy and Economic Opportunities”. It brought together leadership from The University of Tennessee (UT) Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development, UT-Martin, Tennessee Tech University, the Tennessee Office of Energy Programs and Department of Economic Development. Presentations were given regarding local government opportunities in clean energy resulting from the Inflation Reduction Act, and updates on the Ford Blue Oval Plant and EPA solar for all program.

Kim has worked in environmental services since the early 1980s. She has worked with federal, state, and local officials on environmental issues related to GIS, land use planning, solid waste management, water quality, education, and environmental compliance. Kim was recognized for her efforts in assisting the cross agency development of a statewide solar ordinance, moderating the solar opportunities forum for the Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council (TAEBEC) and her lifetime service in solid waste and landfill management.

TREEDC ([www.treedc.us](http://www.treedc.us)) is a statewide 501C (3) organization of 108 city and county mayors who are working together to create a path to fast-track renewable energy in Tennessee. TREEDC was formed by former UT President Joe Johnson, MTAS and mayors representing Crossville, Gainesboro, Graysville, and Pikeville in 2008.