



## Points of Pride in Alternative Fuels

Tennessee's Second Congressional District

### Blount County

- *DENSO*, a major supplier for Toyota, Honda, and others, recently invested \$1 billion in its Maryville operations, where the company produces electric vehicle products and systems. DENSO's investment expanded its production line to include advanced safety, connectivity, and electrification products for hybrid and electric vehicles. As part of DENSO's plan to make Maryville the North American manufacturing center for electrification, the company is creating 1,000 new jobs.<sup>1</sup>

### Grainger County

- *Appalachian Electric Cooperative (AEC)*, in partnership with *Seven States Power Corporation*, the *Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)*, and the *Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)*, installed a Fast Charge TN Network station in Bean Station along U.S. Highway 11W.<sup>2</sup>

### Knox County

- *Volkswagen Group of America*, *Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)*, and *The University of Tennessee* announced a collaboration creating Volkswagen's first innovation hub in North America at the UT Research Park at Cherokee Farm. Research conducted at the hub has already led to advancements related to an AI-optimized EV battery pack frame, EV interiors made of paper, lightweight fiber composite body parts, and wireless EV fast charging.<sup>3</sup>
- *Waste Management* has converted eleven of its forty waste collection route trucks from diesel to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and plans to continue this conversion over the next two to three years until they reach 100% CNG. The CNG vehicles emit nearly zero air particulates, cut greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 25% and reduce diesel fuel consumption around 8,000 per year.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> *Tennessee's Electric Vehicle Evolution is Here*. (January 5, 2021). Trade and Industry Development. <https://www.tradeandindustrydev.com/region/tennessee/tennessees-electric-vehicle-evolution-here-17433>

<sup>2</sup> *Bean Station Connected to Fast Charge TN and Regional Fast Charge Network*. (April 12, 2023). GraingerToday.com. [https://www.graingertoday.com/news/bean-station-connected-to-fast-charge-tn-and-regional-fast-charge-network/article\\_ce034796-d8d8-11ed-b63a-3f65c322a0f7.html](https://www.graingertoday.com/news/bean-station-connected-to-fast-charge-tn-and-regional-fast-charge-network/article_ce034796-d8d8-11ed-b63a-3f65c322a0f7.html)

<sup>3</sup> Lewis, M. (July 18, 2023). *VW's US Innovation Hub Just Revealed 4 EV Breakthroughs*. Electrek. <https://electrek.co/2023/07/18/vw-us-innovation-hub/>

<sup>4</sup> Mattheis, C. (May 4, 2020). *Waste Management Focusing on Clean, Renewable Energy*. *Knoxville News Sentinel*. <https://www.knoxnews.com/picture-gallery/money/business/2020/05/04/waste-management-focusing-clean-renewable-energy/5144850002/>

- *Pilot Travel Centers, General Motors, and EVgo* are making convenient, accessible charging a reality with the opening of their first stations in a coast-to-coast EV charging network. By the end of 2023, it is expected that at least twenty-five Pilot and Flying J travel centers will feature EV fast charging, with approximately 200 locations targeted by the end of 2024. In total, the network will include up to 2,000 high-power fast charging stalls at up to 500 Pilot and Flying J travel centers across the U.S., connecting urban and rural communities. Expansion sites for this network have been strategically selected for continued electrification of highly traveled corridors in every corner of the nation.<sup>5</sup>
- *The University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK)*, will receive \$1 million for the development of low-density alloys for lightweighting vehicle structural components as a result of the U.S. DOE's announcement of \$131 million to boost America's battery supply chain and supercharge electric vehicle innovation.<sup>6</sup>
- The *Knoxville City Council* recently approved funding to install EV charging stations at the City-County Building Garage for the City's EV fleet. The City currently has nine EVs in its fleet and has ordered an additional sixteen vehicles. Adding charging stations will allow the City to further expand its EV fleet, with each station allowing for two vehicles to charge simultaneously.<sup>7</sup>
- *UTK and Volkswagen Group of America* recently announced the signing of a new five-year Master Research Agreement. The agreement, which also includes the *UT Research Foundation*, builds off of a partnership that has already produced nearly thirty active research projects, fifteen publications, and multiple pending patents. UTK research faculty and Volkswagen scientists are collaborating on technology to make lighter vehicles, batteries that last longer, and more sustainable materials.<sup>8</sup>

## Loudon County

- South Korea's *Hanon Systems* announced it will build a new manufacturing facility in Loudon County, Tennessee that will create 600 new jobs. The company is slated to invest \$170 million in a production facility to supply thermal solutions to electric vehicle makers with American manufacturing bases.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> *Pilot Travel Centers LLC, General Motors and EVgo Make Convenient, Accessible Charging a Reality with Opening of First Stations in Coast-to-Coast EV Charging Network*. EVgo. <https://www.evgo.com/press-release/pilot-travel-centers-llc-general-motors-and-evgo-make-convenient-accessible-charging-a-reality-with-opening-of-first-stations-in-coast-to-coast-ev-charging-network/>

<sup>6</sup> *TDEC OEP's Monthly Transportation Edition*. (January 2024). <https://t.e2ma.net/webview/a3yubj/31fb102cd914b04db64ac1eb98e3d579>

<sup>7</sup> *TDEC OEP's Monthly Transportation Edition*. (October 2023). <https://t.e2ma.net/webview/msic6i/38d99c939f4bb5bf468b8af4ed6cc2dc>

<sup>8</sup> Ballard, T. (October 20, 2023). *Five More Years: Volkswagen and UTK Extend Partnership*. Teknovation.biz. <https://www.teknovation.biz/utk-and-vw-sign-up-for-another-five-years-of-research-collaboration/>

<sup>9</sup> *Hanon Systems Will Create 600 Jobs in Tennessee*. Business Facilities Magazine. <https://businessfacilities.com/hanon-systems-will-create-600-jobs-in-tennessee>



## A Closer Look: The Economic Impacts of EV-Related Projects

According to the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, the following benefits are currently being enjoyed by individuals and businesses across the Volunteer State.

- 191,000+ Electric Vehicles manufactured in Tennessee since 2013.
- \$16.2+ Billion in Capital Investment from EV projects since 2017.
- 200,000+ EVs projected on Tennessee roads by 2028.
- Tennessee is ranked #1 in the Southeast for EV manufacturing employment and investment.
- Four major OEMs are currently manufacturing in Tennessee.
- 12,300+ New Job Commitments since 2017.
- 20,800+ Tennesseans are employed by companies with EV operations.



## Contact Us

**Daniel Siksay**, *Chief of Staff, East TN*  
865-974-9665, [daniel@etcleanfuels.org](mailto:daniel@etcleanfuels.org)

**Chris Black**, *Development Director, East TN*  
865-974-0721, [chris@etcleanfuels.org](mailto:chris@etcleanfuels.org)

**Alex Strong**, *DET Director, East TN*  
865-974-1880, [alex@driveelectrictn.org](mailto:alex@driveelectrictn.org)

**Alexa Voytek**, *Coordinator, Middle-West TN*  
615-532-0238, [alexa.voytek@tn.gov](mailto:alexa.voytek@tn.gov)

**Mark Finlay**, *Energy Analyst, Middle-West TN*  
615-253-3676, [mark.finlay@tn.gov](mailto:mark.finlay@tn.gov)

[www.TNCleanFuels.org](http://www.TNCleanFuels.org)

East TN Clean Fuels is hosted at ISSE, which is a part of the Tickle College of Engineering at UT Knoxville.

Middle-West TN Clean Fuels is hosted at TDEC.