



Memphis and Shelby County Office of Sustainability

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Memphis-Shelby County Participate in Sustainable Communities Development Program

Memphis and Shelby County have been accepted to participate in the Valley Sustainable Communities Program. This program, now in its second year, is being sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and managed by Boyette Strategic Advisors (BSA). The Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability is partnered with the Greater Memphis Chamber to coordinate this initiative.

The Valley Sustainable Communities Program was initiated by TVA Economic Development in 2013 as part of its community preparedness offerings. Sustainability has become a key issue for economic development organizations and communities as more corporations have demonstrated an increasing commitment to sustainability. In addition, more than 90% of corporate real estate executives who responded to a CoreNet Global survey said that sustainability is a consideration in their company location decisions. The typical reasons for this corporate commitment are reduced operating costs for increased profitability and greater employee satisfaction.

The goal of the program is to increase the likelihood that communities will be viewed as forward thinking and competitive by companies planning to invest in new or expanded business locations. BSA and TVA staff will be administering the program and meeting in person with communities' sustainability teams to help inventory, develop and implement sustainable initiatives and increase awareness of the many sustainable assets in the region.

The program recognizes communities at three levels – Silver, Gold and Platinum – based on the sustainability programs in place. While a wide variety of sustainable initiatives contribute to a community's level of recognition, those programs directly related to business and industry support and economic development receive greater emphasis. Learn about the communities recognized in 2013: TVAed.com/sustainable.

"City of Memphis and Shelby County have already made significant strides in the area of sustainability, from its increase in number of bike lanes to its reduction of energy use in government buildings. Through the Valley Sustainable Communities Program, the city and county can be recognized for these initiatives, while attracting new corporate investment and creating jobs," said Mayor Luttrell.

About Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability: The Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability is a joint City-County office that works on behalf of the City and County Mayors to convene government agencies, non-profits, and businesses on sustainability initiatives. The Office has been charged with the implementation and oversight of the Sustainable Shelby Implementation Plan. In addition, the Office is tasked with being the regional advocate on sustainability topics such as, increasing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy, waste reduction and recycling, sustainable economic development, sustainable food systems, and green building practices.

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