



Department of
**Environment &
Conservation**

Getting to Know
The Office of Policy and
Sustainable Practices (OPSP)

TDEC Mission Statement

TDEC exists to enhance the quality of life for citizens of Tennessee and to be stewards of our natural environment through:

- **PROTECTING** and **IMPROVING** the quality of Tennessee's air, land, and water through a responsible regulatory system;
- **PROTECTING** and **PROMOTING** human health and safety;
- **CONSERVING** and **PROMOTING** natural, cultural and historic resources, and
- **PROVIDING** a variety of quality outdoor recreational experiences.

The Office of Policy and Sustainable Practices



We enhance TDEC's capacity to conduct short and long term environmental policy research and analysis, promote a culture of environmental sustainability, provide technical guidance to business, industry, and other public entities to promote environmental stewardship, implement departmental strategic planning initiatives, and perform Title VI and Environmental Justice functions in an effort to better conserve Tennessee's natural resources and to fulfill the Department's mission and vision.

OPSP Programs

Business Team

- Get Food Smart TN
- Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards
- Tennessee Green Star Partnership
- Tennessee Materials Marketplace
- Clean Tennessee Energy Grants
- Tennessee Sustainable Spirits

Community Team

- Tennessee Environmental Education Initiative
- Tennessee Radon Program
- Unwanted Household Pharmaceutical Program
- Tire Environmental Act Program
- Zero Waste Day

State Government/Institution Team

- Tennessee Higher Education Initiative
- Sustainable Workplace
- TN State Parks "Go Green With Us"

Get Food Smart TN

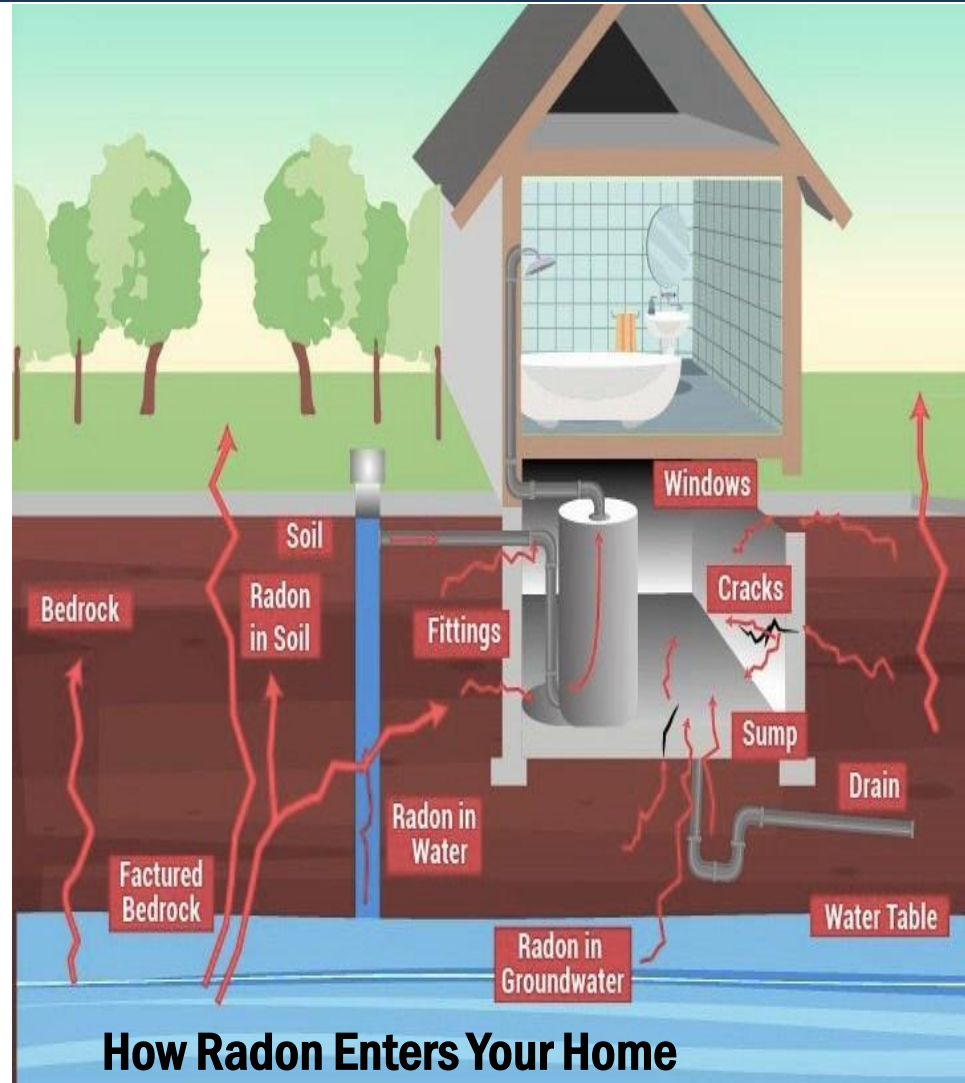
- People in the U.S. throw out approximately 25 percent of the food and beverages they buy. This translates into an estimated \$337 to \$569 wasted annually per person.
- This loss is due to confusion over date labels, spoilage, a lack of planning, and over preparation.
- Be proactive and do things to cut down on the amount of food you waste.
- Check out the tips and resources on our website and don't forget to take the pledge to Get Food Smart!



Get Food Smart TN

Tennessee Radon Program

- Radon is a naturally occurring odorless, tasteless gas that is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer after smoking and the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.
- Radon is considered a serious problem in TN. No matter what part of TN you live in, there is the potential for radon to enter your home.
- As part of our State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG) Tennessee residents can request a free test kit at the link [here](#).



Campus Food Pantry Grant

- Anticipated application period starting **November 1, 2020**
- Funding will be used to purchase equipment necessary for operation of an on-campus food pantry
- This mini grant will total \$30,000 with individual grants not exceeding \$7,000
- A portion of the food the pantry receives must come from a rescued food source

Important Links:

[Campus Food Pantry Grant Application and Manual](#)

[Food Pantry Resources](#)



Tennessee College/Underserved Community Partnership Program (TN CUPP)

- Establishes partnerships between underserved/at risk communities and Tennessee Higher Education Institutions
- Provides a variety of low to no-cost technical support and manpower to address environmental, economic, and health issues that impact the quality of life in nearby underserved communities

Learn More About TN CUPP

Higher Education
Institution



Community



Higher Education Sustainability Network

Launching Fall 2020

- The Sustainability Network provides a mechanism for faculty, administrators, staff, students, and other organizations who interact with Higher Education Institutions to be able to connect so they can collaborate, support, share, and advise on best practices for incorporating sustainability into Tennessee higher education institutions
- Listserv established for TN schools to connect with each another directly
- Newsletter distributed each semester that shares school sustainability news and any sustainability/resiliency grant and scholarship offerings



[Sign up for
Listserv and
Newsletter](#)

Zero Waste TN Program

Zero Waste Day - October 27th

- A day to raise awareness about waste in Tennessee.
- Take the "Zero Waste Challenge" and reduce your waste footprint by following the challenge guidelines
- Earn zero waste kit prizes by participating

Website Resources

- A Guide to Understanding Zero Waste
 - ✓ Includes the need for change, key principles, and numerous benefits
- Consumer Guide to Zero Waste
 - ✓ Detailed guide for Tennesseans to help incorporate waste-reducing practices into their every-day lives



Follow us for helpful daily zero waste tips throughout the month of October [@TNSustainability](https://www.facebook.com/TNSustainability) on Facebook
[@thestateofsustainability](https://www.instagram.com/thestateofsustainability) on Instagram

TN State Parks and Natural Areas

- 56 parks representing natural, archaeological, and historical sites of significance
- 85 state natural areas
- Natural Areas Programs restore and protect plants, animals, and natural communities
- Local Parks and Recreation Programs support community access to green spaces and outdoor activities



TN State Parks “Go Green With Us”

- State Parks track and report waste, recycling, and organic metrics monthly
- Several park restaurants participate in food waste reduction through diversion, donations, and composting
- Recognized as national leaders in food waste diversion efforts through EPA’s Food Recovery Challenge program
- Bear Saver recycling bins in all parks offer a more uniform branding for guests



Internship and Employment Opportunities

- TDEC is one of the most diverse, dynamic departments in state government.
- TDEC employees ensure the mission of the department is accomplished, bringing the highest quality of service to the citizens of Tennessee.
- TDEC fosters a culture of diversity and inclusion by creating and maintaining a work environment that welcomes individuals of all races, ethnicities, genders, cultures, abilities and experiences.
- TDEC's Internship program is an excellent opportunity for college students to develop professionally, acquire real-world experiences, establish valuable references, enhance their resume, and earn college credit. TDEC also offers seasonal employment opportunities in preparation for peak seasons at Tennessee State Parks.

Current Opportunities

Questions?



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