

# THE RECYCLER

Newsletter of Recycle Rutherford, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Summer/Fall 2021

## Learn All About Making the Switch to Green

**Monday, October 25, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**  
[www.recyclerutherford.org](http://www.recyclerutherford.org)

Tim Suddoth, distributed energy resources coordinator at Middle Tennessee Electric, will be the featured speaker at Recycle Rutherford's fall meeting on **Monday, October 25, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.** **The title of his presentation is "Make the Green Switch for Sustainability."** The meeting will be a Facebook Live event, but it isn't necessary to be a Facebook user to attend and view. Click on the link at [www.recyclerutherford.org](http://www.recyclerutherford.org)

Suddoth graduated from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, with a degree in Building Science. Since 2011, he has been in the construction and renewable energy industries. His passion to help people save money and reduce their carbon footprint led him to his current position.

His areas of expertise include renewable energy, solar, electric vehicles, and storage. He works with members to determine how they can achieve more sustainability.

He lives in Nashville with his fiancé, Celia, and their son Stone. "For more than four years, I have had the great opportunity to serve MTEMC members and this community," says Suddoth. "I enjoy playing disc golf, gardening, traveling, and spending time with my family."

Founded in 1936, Middle Tennessee Electric is the largest electric cooperative in the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) region and the second largest in the United States, serving more than 600,000 Tennesseans via 308,000+ accounts covering nearly 2,200 square miles in eleven middle Tennessee counties, primarily Rutherford, Cannon, Williamson, and Wilson. Municipalities served include Murfreesboro, Franklin, Brentwood, Smyrna, Lavergne, Lebanon, and Mt. Juliet. MTE employs 510 people in seven local offices and its Murfreesboro corporate headquarters.

### County will host free household hazardous waste collection Nov. 6

Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 6, 2021, for the long-awaited Household Hazardous Waste Collections (HHW). Items can be taken to the Murfreesboro Solid Waste Dept., 4765 Florence Road, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This is the ONLY location where HHW items will be accepted. All households are encouraged to participate in this free event.

Acceptable items are home maintenance/improvement products such as used strippers and thinners, adhesives, driveway sealant, roofing tar, and wallpaper remover. Home lawn and garden products accepted include pesticides, fertilizers, and wood preservatives. Acceptable miscellaneous items include pool chemicals, photo processing chemicals, aerosols/compressed gas, mercury thermostats and thermometers, fluorescent tubes (can be taken to Haley Road too), and compact fluorescent bulbs.

Medicines and drugs will also be accepted but should be emptied into a zip-lock plastic bag. Needles and sharps in puncture proof containers with sealed lids are now accepted. A complete list can be found at

<https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/environment/sw-mm-household-hazardous-waste-program/sw-mm-household-hazardous-waste-acceptable-unacceptable-items.html>.

Items not accepted include infectious wastes, automotive gas tanks, explosives, ammunition, gun powder and fireworks, smoke detectors, and radium paint. For more information on how to properly dispose of latex paint, visit:

<http://solidwaste.rutherfordcountyttn.gov/oil-based-paint>

Electronic waste is also NOT accepted at this event. Instead, it is collected each Monday through Thursday, and Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 1140 Haley Road, Murfreesboro. For more information, please, go to

<http://solidwaste.rutherfordcountyttn.gov/electronic-waste>

## Businesses Promote Sustainability

Since its founding in 1990, Recycle Rutherford has sought to recognize local businesses that promote sustainable living. An outgrowth of this effort launched the “Spirit of Recycling Award” in 2018. That event was intended to be biennial, but the COVID-19 pandemic forced cancellation of the 2020 awards and banquet.

To recognize businesses, we launched a series in the newsletter. Board members select businesses that embody the primary principles of sustainability—reduce, reuse, and recycle—in their daily operations. We then feature businesses in each issue of *The Recycler*. Back issues of *The Recycler* can be seen on our website at [www.recyclerutherford.org](http://www.recyclerutherford.org)

A Murfreesboro store dealing in used media is featured below in a piece written by Bonnie Black.

Several board members have shopped, consigned, used, and volunteered at the featured businesses and write from first-hand experience.

**The Great Escape**  
**Jackson Heights Shopping Center,**  
**NW Broad Street**  
**Murfreesboro 37130**  
**Phone: 615-385-2116**

**Hours: W, Th, F, Sat, Sun 12 noon – 7:p.m.**  
**Website: [www.TheGreatEscapeOnline.com](http://www.TheGreatEscapeOnline.com)**

I have been on a crusade to have less stuff for several years. My grown children left a number of their DVDs, CDs, and video games in my house. After asking them which items they wanted to keep, I thought I should donate or sell the rest. They were fond of video games as children and often looked through the inventory of used games at one of the downtown businesses. In those days, I had visited the Great Escape on Broadway in Nashville and realized that we now have that business in Murfreesboro in Jackson Heights. So, I headed over there. This is one of several locations, including Nashville, Madison, Bowling Green, and Louisville. Our local store is managed by Rob Baker.

What a great shop for used (and some new) home entertainment merchandise! They have a whole range of items, from reading material, books, and comics to video games through the recent ages and video game consoles, connectors and a variety of games. They have movies and music in all types of formats. They even have used turn tables, amplifiers, and occasionally speakers. The shop is quite large and expanding to house more merchandise. The décor is as it should be: old stand-up movie figures, vinyl records hanging from the ceiling and decorative “medallions” made

of CD boxes from the past. I cannot forget the toys! Most collectable toys are in unopened boxes because the previous owner was saving a precious item in pristine condition.

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**Buy, sell, or trade CDs, DVDs, albums,  
and more in this unique store.**

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If you have items that you want to trade or sell, come to the shop with your collection and let their experts look at the stuff. They know what sells in this shop and can move it to another location if it has patrons that gravitate in that direction. The store will pay cash or provide a credit in merchandise. The value of item is determined by the condition, scarcity, and demand for the piece.

From our point of view, the grand thing is that all this home entertainment is being recycled, reused, and NOT thrown away. Little from this store ends up in the landfill. They do use a lot of clear, plastic sleeves to display and protect albums and comics. The new owner might hold on to them to continue to protect the piece at home.

## Celebrate Zero Waste Day in Tennessee

According to the latest issue of *The Catalyst* newsletter, on October 27, any individual will have the opportunity to participate in Tennessee’s Zero Waste Day Challenge. Zero Waste Day is a way for Tennesseans to either take their first steps toward zero waste or share their pro-tips for becoming zero waste, while encouraging others to do the same. **Here’s how to participate:**

- Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and/or Re-Earth your waste
- Take a photo of yourself going zero waste with your zero-waste tip in the caption
- Post the photo on Instagram or Facebook using the hashtags #LetsGoZeroWasteTN #ZeroWasteDayTN and tag @TNSustainability (FB) or @theStateofSustainability (IG)

The concept of zero waste is intended to inspire a less wasteful lifestyle; it does not literally mean to generate no waste at all. However, it is very important to be conscious of the waste we do generate and to incorporate earth friendly choices along the way. By adopting and promoting zero waste principles, we can greatly reduce our impact on Tennessee’s environment, preserve our natural resources for future generations, and reduce the growing costs associated with the collection and disposal of our solid waste. Join us in this growing movement and help promote positive change. Let’s go Zero Waste Tennessee!

If you are interested in learning more about Zero Waste Day please visit [Zero Waste TN](http://ZeroWasteTN) or reach out to Kelsey Davis at [Kelsey.davis@tn.gov](mailto:Kelsey.davis@tn.gov).

### Recyclops Seeks to Replicate What Works in Curbside Pickup

Ryan Smith, who founded Recyclops about six years ago, spoke at Recycle Rutherford’s annual meeting in the spring. He shared with his listeners that his company started when he was in college in response to a need for recycling opportunities in the apartment complex where he lived as a student at Brigham Young University. His research pointed to a nation-wide problem. Although many municipalities had recycling programs, 34 million households and 60 million apartments did not have recycling.

Smith and his partners set about to determine how they could replicate what was working on a much smaller scale. Since Recyclops did not use large garbage trucks, thus avoiding the pollution and street damage from the heavier vehicles and allowing a variety of people to service the bins, they needed a practical way to handle the materials. Recognizing that recyclables had to be contained for transporting to be sorted, they decided that bags were needed. Smith says, “Normally bags are no, no in recycling, but for us they worked to contain the materials for customers to place in their bins.”

Smith stresses that what goes in the bags must be empty and clean. “An empty Coke bottle is recyclable; a partially full one with coke or tobacco is trash. And that liquid can contaminate other items in the bag.” Pizza boxes can be easily torn apart, and the greasy part put in the trash and the clean parts in recycling

Plastics that are not recyclable are the largest contaminant. Smith urges people to return plastic bags to the stores that take them, pointing out that “Bags get tangled in the sorting equipment and cause problems.”

Other plastics cause confusion and difficulties. “The American people have been lied to with the little triangle, making them think all plastics can be recycled. Theoretically, everything is recyclable, but curbside is not the place to do that.” The plastics that Recyclops has a market for are bottles and containers with a screw-top lids. Smith explains that “Some cities do accept tubs, but that is not the case here. We are working to find outlets for more kinds of plastic.”

Smith encourages people to keep cardboard dry because water shortens the fibers and means they have to be used to make a lesser product whereas dry cardboard can be made into more cardboard.

“One of the biggest challenges is that people put garbage in their recycling—wet grass, dirty diapers, food, all of which quickly contaminates a load of materials, says Smith.

One exception to the ban on bags is that dry and clean shredded paper is certainly recyclable, but it needs to be in a clear bag so that it won’t scatter and cause problems.

Recyclops offers employment opportunities in the communities they serve—some 80 cities and towns in ten states. Persons need to have a drivers license and be safe drivers. “Many people supplement their incomes, and I encourage anyone interested to go to our website. Persons with disabilities are especially welcomed.”

Smith says they are excited to be in Tennessee and are working to increase the people they serve. He is firm in his belief that recycling has to be convenient and sustainable, and his company works toward that goal. For more information, go to <https://recyclops.com/locations/tennessee/rutherford/>

### Recycle Rutherford Membership Form

I enclose my annual dues to support Recycle Rutherford and receive the newsletter.

\$25.00 supporter                       \$15.00 student                       \$100.00 patron

I am contributing \$\_\_\_\_\_ in addition to dues.

I prefer the newsletter to be emailed and am providing my email address.

**PLEASE PRINT:**

name \_\_\_\_\_ amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_-

address \_\_\_\_\_

city, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_

telephone: day \_\_\_\_\_; evening \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_; volunteer interest \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable and mail to Recycle Rutherford, P.O. Box 1804, Murfreesboro, TN 37133-1804**

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### MoreTreesBoro Is New Organization

If the loss of old established trees and/or the lack of new ones concerns you, there is a new local organization addressing this issue. **The mission of MoreTreesBoro is to advocate for and protect the existing canopy in our community, to foster partnerships for native tree planting, and to educate the community further about the benefits of trees.**

Founded by Dr. Molly Taylor-Poleskey, an assistant professor in the MTSU History Department, the group's initial project to address is the loss of about forty mature trees in a public housing development under construction adjacent to Oaklands Mansion. Some of these trees are more than seventy years old.

"A lack of tree canopy leads to lots of health issues and higher death rates," says Taylor-Polesky, who learned about the correlation between green spaces and a healthy community at an early age from her landscape architect father.

To help address these issues, MoreTreesBoro will contact city council members and others in government, post content on social media, provide education and awareness about mature trees, and develop other projects and partnerships as appropriate.

More information is available on the group's Facebook page at <https://m.facebook.com/Moretreesboro-103338082072156/#>

### Dates to Remember

#### Fall Meeting—Recycle Rutherford:

Monday, October 25, 7:00 p.m.  
Speaker Todd Suddoth, "Make the Green Switch for Sustainability"

Go to [www.recyclerutherford.org](http://www.recyclerutherford.org) for link

#### Household Hazardous Waste Collection:

Saturday, November 6, 2021, 8 a.m. – 12 noon  
Murfreesboro Solid Waste Department  
4765 Florence Road, Murfreesboro

### 2020-22 Officers and Board

*Recycle Rutherford holds elections each April at the annual meeting; in general, officers and part of the board are elected in even years for two-year terms, and approximately half the board is elected in uneven years, providing for staggered terms.*

*The officers are listed below with the board members, who are elected each April and serve staggered terms. The date indicates when the term of each ends. The board meets monthly on first Mondays at 6:15 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 210 N. Spring Street.*

Rachel Cornett, president  
Bonnie Black, vice president  
Suma Clark, secretary  
Rick Racker, treasurer  
Glenn Himebaugh, past president

#### Board Members:

Linda Hardyman, 2022  
Diane Parker 2022  
Beth Spivey, 2022

**Reminder: To renew your membership, please see the form on page 3. Dues are only \$25 per year. We don't want to lose you!**

**For more information, go to [www.recyclerutherford.org](http://www.recyclerutherford.org)**

**Like us on Facebook!**

*Printed on paper with recycled content.*



P.O. Box 1804