

**Proudly Serving the
Following East TN
Counties:**

- Blount
- Cocke
- Hamblen
- Jefferson
- Knox
- Sevier

**RC&D:
Making Things
Happen**

OUR MISSION

The Mission of the Smoky Mountain Resource Conservation & Development Council is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the area by promoting sustainable development and utilizing natural and cultural resources wisely.

Annual Report 2009

Looking Back...and Looking Forward to the Future!

The Smoky Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council was founded October, 1997 thanks to the hard work of many community and government leaders from the region, as well as with the support of the USDA Forest Service and other USDA departments.

The Council has had several significant accomplishments and strongly desires to plan for even greater successes in the future as it serves its six member counties.



SMOKY MOUNTAIN RC&D

The Smoky Mountain RC&D Council has commissioned a strategic planning document for its review. This plan is used for benchmarking, identifying, and understanding needed projects and programs in our communities.

As the Smoky Mountain

RC&D Council has an important leadership position in the communities it serves, we recognize the importance of discussing our goals and objectives with the six county region we serve. This Annual Report illustrates many of the accomplishments our Council is most proud of.

Our Achieved Goals for 2009

Our FY09 Smoky Mountain RC&D Council Goals:

- To expand sustainable economic development while conserving the area's natural resources.
- To promote new and innovative entrepreneurial opportunities to individuals within the Area.
- To educate individuals within the area on the importance of clean drinking water, as well as on the value of improving water quality.
- To reach 25% of the RC&D Area's population with educational programs by 2010, thus empowering them with the knowledge and desire to improve their quality of life.

Turn the page for a breakdown of how we achieved each of these goals.

2009 Goals

A. To expand sustainable economic development while conserving the area's natural resources.



Provided training to planning commissions, local governments, and developers in order to educate them on the importance of economic development. This course also taught them when considering starting up a development that conserving the natural resources of the area should be a major component of the development project. This training was a one day training at the Sarah Simpson building in Knoxville, TN on May 6th, 2009. A total of 63 people attended the training.



This Natural Resource Center in Cocke County was constructed December of 2009 in order to provide a place to train and educate individuals in the Natural Resource arena. NRCS staff provided their expertise to protect the stream below the building from erosion and interference during construction. This stream will be used to educate students about the importance of water quality.

Save the Date!

EXPANDING YOUR BUSINESS  **Around the Globe**

Sarah Simpson Professional Development Technology Center
Thurs., April 23rd - 8 AM to 12:30 PM- Knoxville, TN

ATTN BUSINESS OWNERS:
Globalization is real, and foreign companies are competing in your domestic markets; so, why are you limiting your companies sales to local and national markets? If you are interested in learning more about exporting, you are invited to attend this FREE event, which begins with a continental breakfast sponsored by SunTrust Bank.

This half-day interactive symposium will review the many products and services available from SunTrust Global Trade Solutions Division, Export-Import Bank of the United States, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), U.S. Small Business Administration Export Assistance Office, and the Department of Commerce.

Sara Simpson Technology Center
901 Tipton Avenue, Knoxville, TN
Pre-arranged one-on-one consulting time are available after the formal event. Appointments can be made through the online registration.

Hosted by:

- TENN Rocky Mountain Resource Conservation and Development
- Kingsport Chamber of Commerce Office of Small Business Development & Entrepreneurship
- State County Government Supplies Diversity
- State of Tennessee EDC/SEDC

Other agencies participating in the event:

- ETIP Innovation Lab
- Knoxville Chamber of Commerce
- Innovation Valley, Inc.
- SBA Tennessee District Office

Pre-registration is required!
Register online at: <https://www.commerce.com/tnosbaexport>
For more information call Toll Free: 1-888-936-1221

B. To promote new and innovative entrepreneurial opportunities to individuals within the RC&D Area.

Partnered with Small Business Administration, Business Enterprises Resource Office to conduct a training workshop on how to become an entrepreneur and do business around the world. It was also used to expand upon existing businesses as well. This workshop provided individuals with the necessary knowledge to increase or start a business. One on one opportunities were provided by some of the featured companies to communicate with small businesses on expanding their enterprises. The training was held at the Sarah Simpson building in Knoxville, TN on April 23rd, 2009. A total of 72 people attended the training.



Conducted a workshop and invited the president of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to discuss the burgeoning Hispanic population and the opportunities presented to immigrants as well as the community as a result of their migration to our area. Some of the topics discussed were the expanding Hispanic workforce and how to engage them in new fields of employment as well as how the community can benefit from skills developed since relocating, such as building and construction. This workshop was conducted at the Knoxville Area office in August of 2009.

C. To educate individuals within the area on the importance of clean drinking water, as well as on the value of improving water quality.

Utilize Ruby Raindrop and Sammy Soil to explain the importance of water quality. This event took place 9/28/09 at Earth Fare store. Although this was at an urban setting in Knoxville, Tennessee we were able to connect urban to rural by explaining and providing a model that identified urban and rural water runoff and its effects to water quality. By using these two mascots allowed us to reach out to both children and adults. We also explained to them where our drinking water source come from and how we as good stewards of our communities can play a major role in protecting our drinking water source.

Carpenter Elementary in the rural of Blount County obtain acreage next to the school in order to develop a natural wetland in order to educate kids within the area in water quality. This area will touch on many different natural resources. Partners such as University of TN, Natural Resources conservation Services, US Fish and wildlife services, TN Valley Authority and Blount County Soil Conservation District are participating. The project is goal to be completed in 2010.



D. Reach 25% of the RC&D Area population with educational programs by 2010 which will empower them with the knowledge and desire to improve their quality of life.

The Smoky Mountain RC&D held a fundraiser at the Earth Fare Store in Knoxville, Tennessee on September 28, 2009. Part of the fundraiser consisted of using the Enviroscape (a nonpoint source pollution watershed model) to identify what a watershed is, point out nonpoint source pollutants such as stormwater runoff, fertilizers, litter and pet waste, and provide training on urban and rural water quality issues. The Enviroscape is a great educational tool to engage and educate individuals from ages 5 and older in the area of water quality and natural resources. It engages participants and emphasizes how to be mindful of the environment. The training was given by Amy Mann, a Council member of the Smoky mountain RC&D.



On a yearly basis the Council conducts a local Envirothon. The Envirothon consists of students from various schools within a six county area coming together to compete in natural resources curriculum. In 2009 we had a total of 11 teams participate. This contest took place on April 21st in Dandridge, Tennessee at the Filed of Dreams park. The Envirothon is a signature educational event of the Smoky Mountain RC&D. Students study for weeks to prepare for a challenging series of tests in various subjects including Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife and a current issue subject (in 2009, the current issue subject was Water). The team who scores the highest on all of the tests moves on to the regional Envirothon competition. Jefferson County High School won the 2009 local Envirothon.



**SMOKY
MOUNTAIN
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION &
DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL**

Smoky Mountain RC&D
9737 Cogdill Road
Suite 152B
Knoxville, TN 37932

Phone: (865) 671-3830
Fax: (865) 671-4852

Email:
eston.williams@tn.usda.gov

Eston Williams, Coordinator

**SPECIAL THANKS TO
OUR PARTNERS...**

USDA—NRCS
US Fish & Wildlife Service
E.TN Quality Growth Forum
Community Economic
Development of East TN
Earth Fare
Water Quality Forum
Blount County SCD
Cocke County SCD
Hamblen County SCD
Jefferson County SCD
Knox County SCD
B&W Y-12
Little River Watershed
Assoc.

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Russell Harris, Chairman
Justin Teague, Vice-Chair
Sonya Ricker, Secretary
Amy Mann, Treasurer
Charlene DeSha
Bettye Carver
Sami Barile
Belinda Jones
Broadus Hubbs
Bob Rusk

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND
DEVELOPMENT
COUNCILS
RECOGNIZES BILL
WILLIAMS OF SMOKY
MOUNTAIN RESOURCE
CONSERVATION AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

Bill Williams received the national RC&D award for outstanding council member. He is a great example of a committed RC&D Council member who has been able to make great things happen for his council and community. He has worked with the RC&D Council since 1998, as a two-term president and now an active member. Throughout this time, he has been a great leader with deep connections in the region and expertise in how to manage a nonprofit organization. He is a long-time supporter of conservation and rural economic development: he is chairman of the Tennessee Forestry Commission, co-founder of Partners of Cherokee National Forest, and chairman of the University of Tennessee Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries Advisory Council.

Mr. Williams brought this wealth of knowledge and experience to his council and led the creation of new programs to improve the environment, grow local environmentally friendly businesses, and help underserved community members improve their lives. He is a model for council leadership: he is always looking for new initiatives that his council can become involved in; he stresses the need to keep doing hard work in the face of all difficulties; and he shares responsibilities and recognition with others. Bill Williams has proved himself to be truly outstanding through his work with Smoky Mountain RC&D Council, and the NARC&DC was proud to present this award to him.

The Smoky Mountain Resource Conservation & Development Council

<u>Blount</u>	<u>Hamblen</u>	<u>Knox</u>
Justin Teague	David Purkey	Broadus Hubbs
Charlene DeSha	Sami Barile	Amy Mann
John Davis	Sonya Ricker	Russell Harris
<u>Cocke</u>		
Betty Carver	<u>Jefferson</u>	<u>Sevier</u>
Charlotte Liebrock	Belinda Jones	Greg Patterson
Jay Carver	Alan Palmieri	Bob Rusk
Bill G. Williams	Vacant	Wayne Loveday

All programs and services of the Smoky Mountain Resource Conservation & Development Council are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital or familial status, political beliefs, or disability. Outreach programs and activities are planned to inform minorities, women and handicapped persons of RC&D programs and services. Parity in services provided to women and minorities to non-minorities will strive to be maintained.