



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members
FROM: *Lynnisse* Lynnisse Roehrich-Patrick
Executive Director

DATE: 2 September 2015

SUBJECT: Reviews of Community-Based Best Practices

University of Tennessee faculty member, Dr. Bruce E. Tonn, research fellow at the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy and professor in the Department of Political Science, will discuss findings from a study of community-based best practices that he completed with four colleagues from the university. The study, partially funded by TACIR, was motivated by a desire to identify technologies, innovations, tools, and programs to address the numerous difficult, complex, and inter-related challenges facing Tennessee's communities as a result of globalization, declining economies, and the need to increase services and revenues while reducing costs. Topics profiled in the study include

- rural community preservation,
- local food self-sufficiency,
- wastewater treatment and reuse,
- energy efficiency and renewable energy,
- sustainable home technologies,
- innovation in public finance,
- pay for success models,
- empowerment and community decision-making, and
- sentient (aware) communities.

Study findings address the following questions with an emphasis on creative solutions to multi-faceted challenges, innovative public-private partnerships, and regional initiatives:

- How can communities increase their quality of life and protect the character of their communities when seemingly at the mercy of a globalized economy?

- How can local governments continually increase services while reducing costs?
- How can economically distressed rural communities raise revenue and attract jobs when seed funds needed to achieve these goals are few and far between?

The report's executive summary is attached. The full report is available online from the University of Tennessee at <http://bakercenter.utk.edu/2015/08/18/new-report-on-reviews-of-community-based-best-practices/>.