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## **Morgan County Honored for Excellence in Education Program**

To recognize an outstanding program in local school systems, TSBA offers an award to a board of education that has an innovative and successful program operating within their districts. The award is based upon nominations submitted by members of the TSBA Board of Directors, local school boards, superintendents, school board members, or school system representatives. The 2011 Award for Excellence in Education Program winner is the Green Power Projects developed by the Morgan County School System.

The Green Power Projects at the Morgan County Career and Technical Center (MCCTC) have been identified as the only high school in Tennessee, which has students constructing and fabricating small wind and solar components and installing them. Other school systems have green power projects, but students did not build them. Career and Technical Education stresses the importance of academic integration in meeting the goals of increased rigor and relevance of the Tennessee Diploma Project. More than 200 students have been involved with these projects including Math, Physics, Business Technology, Carpentry, Geometry, Welding, Agriculture Education, machine Technology and Collision Repair. Students have demonstrated a genuine sense of pride because they are actively engaged in relevant work, which will benefit the community and the environment. Some students worked on erection of one of the windmills during their summer vacation.

These students are also preparing themselves for careers in these new and emerging fields. Tennessee could gain 4,233 full time jobs in wind and nearly 400 in solar by 2015. There are three solar companies that Morgan County students could possibly gain employment. Since these projects benefit the school and community in many ways, it has been easy to get the community involved, the primary benefit being the engagement of students in meaningful learning. Secondly, the Obama administration has brought to our nation's attention the need to put more importance into developing clean, renewable energy sources. Thirdly, such green projects have the potential to reduce the cost of energy for our schools.

To highlight the program and share its success with other school systems, the Morgan County Green Power Projects was the subject of a clinic session offered during the 2011 TSBA Annual Convention.

*The Tennessee School Boards Association, a statewide, nonprofit organization, is a federation of the state's local school boards. The mission of the Tennessee School Boards Association is to assist school boards in effectively governing school districts. Through the years, TSBA has helped school boards and their members reach their highest potential through association programs, meetings and services. TSBA also provides school board members a collective voice in matters of legislation and public education concerns. To learn more about TSBA, visit our website at [www.tsba.net](http://www.tsba.net).*