



Rural Development • Business Programs • Rural Energy for America Program

## Brownfield Site Turned “Green”

To combat a diminishing manufacturing base and steady decline in population, the City of Humboldt decided to focus its efforts on developing an industrial area to attract new business to Humboldt. Initiative and foresight has brought together a variety of partners to join together to remove an old “eye-sore” from an industrial area and replace it with modern renewable energy technology that represents an eye to the future to other businesses viewing the region.

USDA Rural Development assisted with a Rural Energy for America Program grant that provided 25 percent of the funding necessary for Scott, Black, Inc., an Illinois corporation, to install a 750kW ground-mounted solar PV electric generating facility. The solar array installation will create 1,083,320 kWh annually, which is enough energy to power 100 households each year.

“Without the REAP grant, this project does not have financial feasibility and would not be considered,” SBI President Robb Oldfield said.

Completed in December 2015 on a brownfield site vacant since 2004, the solar facility brings new life to a portion of an old dilapidated factory building that once housed Humboldt Hermetic Motor Corporation. Additionally, the project injected more than \$500,000 into the local economy utilizing local contractor labor.

Forging a partnership in the region by bringing city, county, private and governmental resources together to reach a common goal shows that Humboldt, Tenn. is ready for business now and in the future.

USDA Rural Development is moving investments to rural America with housing, business and infrastructure loans and grants to create jobs and strengthen rural economies with an emphasis to assist areas of persistent poverty. Since 2009, the agency has assisted more than 1.5 million Tennessee families and businesses in 230 communities in all 95 counties of Tennessee, investing more than \$6.6 billion through affordable loans, loan guarantees, and grants.

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs available in Northwest Tennessee contact the Union City Area Office at 731-885-6480 x 4. Visit us online at [www.rd.usda.gov/TN](http://www.rd.usda.gov/TN).



*The USDA Rural Development REAP grant assisted Scott Black Inc. with funds needed to install a solar array in Humboldt, Tenn.*

**Obligation Amount:** \$388,573 Grant

**Date of Obligation:** July 31, 2015

**Congressional District:** Fincher, 8; Senators Alexander and Corker

**Partners:** TVA, Humboldt Utilities, City of Humboldt, Gibson County, Solar & Renewable Power Systems, Dadeni Solar, LLC

**Demographics:** Humboldt, Tenn.

**Impact:** Renewable Energy; 750kW Solar System; Producing enough energy to power 100 households each year.