



If you have done any business with ARiES Energy, there's a good chance that you know Harvey Abouelata. He's the loud one of the group, and we love him for that. But, as you get to know us, you'll get to know Mary Shaffer Gill, ARiES's co-owner and Vice President. She's a bit quieter than Harvey, but is quickly becoming a powerful and influential voice in renewable energy.

Mary's hard work is deserving of attention. She is responsible for over \$7 million in clean energy grant funding for Tennessee, including \$1.5 million for AGC Flat Glass North America and a \$250,000 grant for Wampler's Farm Sausage Company, the largest USDA Rural Development energy grant in Tennessee. Her grant writing recently resulted in 3 of the 17 Clean TN Energy Grant awards administered by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. In 2010, Mary was voted to serve on the inaugural board for Tennessee's chapter of the Solar Energy

Industries Association, TenneSEIA, where she continues to represent the Tennessee solar industry and helps develop sustainable solar policies at the state level. Mary serves on the steering committee for Knoxville Energy Alliance and Partnership for Green Jobs. Outside of work she serves as President of the Knoxville Chapter of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association. Not a bad resume for someone who is turning 27 this week.

In June, Mary was recognized as a leading lady in renewable energy when she served on the panel for the "Women in Energy" luncheon in Charleston, West Virginia. This luncheon is the region's premier forum on energy policy, economics and employment opportunities for female executives. Mary was the primary representative of the renewable energy industry at the roundtable discussion, which included engineers, lawyers, business executives and other female professionals from the natural gas and coal industry.

On July 25, Mary will be speaking about the challenges and opportunities in growing an energy-related business to the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) in Nashville. This luncheon will focus on energy efficiency, where leaders in business, energy and manufacturing sectors will discuss energy management best practices, experiences with renewable energy projects and the challenges and opportunities for energy-related businesses. [Click here](#) to find out more information, or sign up to attend this talk at the [Nashville NAWBO website](#).