Livability report for East Tenn. released Friday


Plan East Tennessee is a partnership made up of many groups from local governments to non-profits.

The 2013 report card showed that East Tennessee is strong in areas like commuting and house affordability, but this area needs to work on air quality and job growth.

In 2014, the group found that region's overall air quality is improving, with 88 percent of days with good air quality. Also in 2014, there were fewer obese and overweight children, which is down from 42 percent in 2008 and 38 percent in 2013.

When it comes to the economy, the unemployment rate is approaching pre-recession levels.

Another piece of goods news, the region is emerging as an outdoor recreation area. One-third of all greenway miles in the state are located in our region.

The report also detailed areas where East Tennessee needs to improve.

- Water pollution is getting worse: more than 2,000 miles of waterways were affected.
- Even though the number of overweight and obese children are declining, the number of obese and overweight adults isn't changing.
- While the unemployment rate is dropping, the total amount of household income is declining.

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