

JUNE 2021

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



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Know a Business Interested in Renewable Energy? Put Us in Touch!

My fellow members,

Most people think of Energy Co-op members as individuals. But did you know that businesses and organizations can also be members of The Energy Co-op?

Lots of businesses already are members of The Energy Co-op – maybe even some that you know well, like your grocery store (shout out to [Weavers Way](#) and [Mariposa!](#)) or your congregation.

Just like residential membership growth is an important part of strengthening our cooperative, building our commercial membership increases our cooperative's impact – on the environment and in our community. We have exciting plans for this summer to expand our reach to local organizations, making now a great time to think about the businesses and organizations in your life.

If you live in a condo or multi-family building, why not talk to your condo board or landlord about choosing renewable electricity with The Energy Co-op for the common areas in your building? Your mail room could be powered with 100% wind and solar!

Does your workplace have goals for sustainability? We would love to help! Our Renewable Electricity and Renewable Natural Gas programs have helped make offices all over southeast Pennsylvania that much greener.

Speaking of sustainability goals, lots of our members are active with their local [Environmental Advisory Councils](#). If your township is taking steps towards 100% renewable energy, we know a local nonprofit that can help.

At least a dozen religious organizations, from churches to meeting houses, are already members of The Energy Co-op. So, whether your congregation has a "Green Team," an "Environmental Action Team," or just a few members who want to get involved, we're happy to help your spiritual home align its budget with your community's values.

Finally, as the world slowly opens back up, what if we envision a world where every business is using renewable energy? It's possible – and you can help. From neighborhood breweries to local coffee shops, are there any local businesses you frequent that you think should become a member? Introduce us!

As a member-owned cooperative, our reach into our community can have a measureless impact. Because of you, our 5,000+ members, we can innovate based on your demands for sustainable, affordable energy, spread the word through your connections to our shared community, and work together to grow our local green economy and our cooperative's market power for renewable energy in Pennsylvania – all while remaining accountable with 100% transparency.

Ready to connect us with one of the organizations in your community? I'd love to talk to you. Just send me an email at meryl@theenergy.coop to get the ball rolling. I'm happy to help, wherever you are in the process.

As always, thank you for being a member of The Energy Co-op. Your membership makes it possible for us to support cleaner air, and the local green economy right here in Pennsylvania. And that's worth celebrating!

Thanks for reading,

Meryl Sands

2021 Annual Member Meeting!!!

June is upon us, which means it's time for The Energy Co-op's Annual Member Meeting! Join us on Thursday, June 24 at 6:00pm.

This is your opportunity to exercise your vote as a member-owner, learn about your cooperative's affairs, and engage with other Energy Co-op members, staff, and Board members.

This year, following the Board member elections, we are planning an interesting series of breakout rooms where you'll get to meet other members of the cooperative community. We hope you'll join virtually on June 24!

Energy Co-op members can vote in our Board election and RSVP to attend the meeting [here using this online proxy form](#). Online voting is open to all members, including those who cannot join us for the virtual meeting.

Engaging M2M Webinar on Electric Vehicles

Thank you to our outstanding panelists and the over 50 attendees who joined us last month for the latest installment in The Energy Co-op's new Member-to-Member webinar series - *Electric Vehicles: Opportunity and Challenge*.

Panelists Lee Berger, Amy Bernknopf, David Dlugosz, and Rob Graff covered a wide range of subjects relevant to electric vehicle owners in southeastern Pennsylvania and those who are considering purchasing an EV. The group of experts and advocates fielded questions from attendees on subjects such as charging infrastructure, battery life, and parking concerns.

Also, save the date for Thursday, September 16, when we'll present our next M2M webinar on passive houses and sustainable building and design. And if you'd like to share your expertise with your fellow Energy Co-op members and have an idea for another future Member-to-Member webinar, please let us know at info@theenergy.coop.

Ronald Fisher to Speak at Chester Springs Library

At 4:00pm this Saturday, June 5, Energy Co-op Executive Director Ronald Fisher will [present as part of a speaker series](#) hosted by [Chester Springs Library](#) and [West Pikeland Township Environmental Advisory Council](#).

Taking place outdoors at Township Amphitheater in Chester Springs, PA, the event is the first of three Community Conversations to feature experts in renewable energy, sustainability, and conservation, and will explore how renewable energy can be an integral part of West Pikeland's future. Also presenting on Saturday is Dennis Rowan, whose recent work has focused on supporting the development of a 100% renewable energy EV charging network.

The event continues The Energy Co-op's collaboration with EACs throughout

southeastern Pennsylvania. Earlier this year, we worked closely with Swarthmore EAC to [power the borough's municipal buildings with renewable natural gas](#). Catch up with more of the work our members are doing with their local EACs in our [recent blog post](#).

Center City Proprietors Association Discount

We are proud to partner with [Center City Proprietors Association \(CCPA\)](#) to bring you a special event, taking place on Zoom at 10:00am on Thursday, June 24. CCPA's continuing Sustainable Philadelphia Series features two local organizations that are helping to improve the quality of our precious rivers.

Presenting are Nathan Boon, Senior Program Officer of Watershed Protection at the William Penn Foundation, and Marc J. Cammarata, Deputy Commissioner of the Planning and Environmental Services Division at the Philadelphia Water Department.

The event includes a panel discussion, time for Q&A, and networking. Members of The Energy Co-op can receive a \$10 discount with promo code **10off**. [RSVP here!](#)

New Sustainable Options From Weavers Way

Our friends at [Weavers Way](#) are now offering homemade soups in returnable, Earth-friendly, quart-size glass jars. A \$2 deposit is added to the cost of the soup at checkout and refunded when the clean jar is returned. Get more details [here](#). Other fresh foods will be available in refundable containers in the coming months as part of the food cooperative's plastic reduction efforts. From bulk shopping to zero waste catering, Weavers Way is a great place to go for environmentally friendly shopping!

Coming Events

[Chester Springs Library & West Pikeland Township Environmental Advisory Council Present: Renewable Energy, Tips & Opportunities](#)

Saturday, June 5 @ 4:00pm

In-Person Event

Township Amphitheater - [1645 Art School Road, Chester Springs, PA](#)

Executive Director Ronald Fisher will present as part of this new speaker series featuring experts in renewable energy, conservation, and sustainability.

[Sustainable Philadelphia: Protecting Our Rivers](#)

Thursday, June 24 @ 10:00am

Virtual Event

Presented by Center City Proprietors Association. Energy Co-op members use code **10off** to receive a \$10 discount on registration.

[Annual Member Meeting](#)

Thursday, June 24 @ 6:00pm

Virtual Event

Hear about the past year's progress from staff and elect new members to The Energy Co-op's Board of Directors.

[Renewable Natural Gas Webinar](#)

Tuesday, July 13 @ 5:30pm

Virtual Event

Join us to learn about the consequences of drilling and fracking, the benefits of Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), and what you can do to get involved!

[Member Ambassador Training Series](#)

Fridays, July 16 – 30 @ 12:00pm

Virtual Event

Meet other members of our cooperative community, learn about renewable energy, and help grow our local, green energy economy.

What We're Reading

[Vineyard 800 MW offshore wind farm first US utility-scale facility to get federal construction approval](#)

Vineyard Wind and the 3,600 jobs it will create is a step toward the Biden administration's goal of deploying 30 GW of offshore wind by 2030.

Utility Dive

[Green Bank funds leveraged \\$1.69 billion in clean energy projects during 2020](#)

The American Green Bank Consortium added five new green banks and said that market actors across 22 states were actively exploring or taking steps to develop green banks.

pv magazine

[Renewable Energy Growth Rate Up 45% Worldwide In 2020; IEA Sees 'New Normal'](#)

In 2020, renewable power was "the only energy source for which demand increased ... while consumption of all other fuels declined," says the IEA, whose mission is to make the world's energy supply more reliable, affordable and sustainable.

NPR

Blog Entries

[Faces of The Energy Co-op: Nora Fulvio](#)

By Staff Accountant Bryan Hutchinson

[Electric Vehicles – Accelerating Toward a Cleaner Future](#)

By Member Services Lead Noah Swistak

[How a Book Inspired Me to Change My Energy Choices](#)

By Energy Co-op Member Vivian Lehrer Stadlin



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