

SEPTEMBER 2020

# THE CURRENT



*Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond*



## **Announcing our Member Ambassador Program!**

Dear Fellow Members,

Today, I am thrilled to announce The Energy Co-op's Member Ambassador program, an exciting way for you—our members—to connect your neighborhood, friends, and community, with your cooperative.

For me, being an Energy Co-op member means knowing that my dollars are going not just towards affordable renewable energy, but towards growing sustainability locally, in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. It means that I'm part of a community of people who share my values and are working for a better future. It means that when The Energy Co-op grows, it isn't just my energy supplier that extends its reach—it's *my cooperative* community.

Why is it so important for us to grow? First of all, it gives The Energy Co-op more market (or purchasing) power. More importantly, more members means that we can have an even bigger impact on the environment and in our local, green energy economy. As our presence in the community increases and more people know about what we do, we can help even more people affordably and sustainably buy, use, and understand energy.

So, why should you join dozens of other members who are already participating as Energy Co-op Member Ambassadors?

First, it's a great way to learn more about energy matters generally and renewable energy in particular. As a Member Ambassador, you'll have the opportunity to attend our upcoming renewable energy training series and learn about:

#### Our Renewable Electricity and Renewable Natural Gas Programs

- *Learn how energy deregulation and renewable mandates have made renewable energy choice possible and how climate change has made renewable energy a necessity*

#### The Power of the Cooperative Advantage

- *Learn why and how The Energy Co-op is a different kind of energy supplier and how our cooperative model allows us to innovate in ways that corporations won't*

#### The Power of Storytelling to Grow a Sustainable Future

- *Learn how to use the power of storytelling and conversation to connect with your community on the environmental and energy issues you care about – to grow your cooperative and the local green economy*

You'll get to meet other members of your cooperative community while actively getting involved in growing our local, green energy economy. With just a bit of time, you'll become smarter about renewable energy and more comfortable talking to your friends and neighbors about the energy issues that matter to *you*. And you'll be able to – literally! – give the gift of renewable energy to your friends and neighbors.

The Member Ambassador Program and Training Series came directly out of *your* ideas. You joined us for lunch, for dinner, or over Zoom, and we asked what we could do better to help you spread the word about The Energy Co-op. You told us you needed training about how our cooperative and its programs work. After months of planning, we're ready to bring your idea to life.

Our first Member Ambassador training series will take place later this month. To learn more – and sign up! – join us for [Happy Hour](#) or [Coffee Hour](#) next week. As a bonus, you'll get a sneak preview of material we have been working on *and* a chance to have an impact on the final product. Please be sure to sign up by this Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup> to be eligible for our first training sessions.

You'll need to register in order to receive a Zoom link to join the Happy Hour or Coffee Hour, so don't forget to RSVP!

[Click Here to RSVP for Happy Hour](#) on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 5pm  
[Click Here to RSVP for Coffee Hour](#) on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 10am

If you have any questions about our Member Ambassador Program, or the training series, feel free to send me an email at [meryl@thenergy.coop](mailto:meryl@thenergy.coop). I have spent my entire professional life talking to people about renewable energy and helping them take small steps that have a big impact on the environment. It is a joy to do this work, and I can't wait to share that joy with you!

See you soon!

Meryl

## Clean Air Council to Host First Virtual Greenfest!

The Energy Co-op and Clean Air Council have been strategic partners for years, working together to advance our shared missions. Clean Air Council is hosting their 15<sup>th</sup> annual Greenfest this month, taking the biggest environmental festival in the region virtual. Events will include a film screening of “The Story of Plastic,” live Green Quizzo, education and advocacy webinars and live streams, and children’s environmental programming presented by Mom’s Clean Air Force. And best of all, the entire festival is completely free!

Greenfest events run from 9/12-9/26/2020 and registration is now open. You can view online programming, RSVP ahead of time [here](#), and learn more about this year’s festival [here](#).

## September RNG Webinar—9/8/2020

Our next [Renewable Natural Gas Webinar](#) is on 9/8/2020 at 5:30p! Register for this or any of our other RNG webinar dates [here](#) to learn about The Energy Co-op’s sustainable alternative to conventional natural gas.

Already attended an RNG Webinar? We still need your help to get the word out! Your RNG program has tripled in size so far this year. And your cooperative is the only RNG supplier in the region. We’re doing everything we can to see to it that everybody in southeastern Pennsylvania learns about RNG this fall. Perhaps you’ve already heard some exciting announcements about RNG on WHYY programs like “Radio Times” and “Marketplace”. But spreading the word to our community starts with you: our members!

So, please copy and share the link to our [RNG Webinar Registration Page](#) by email or social media! When you do, be sure to tag us at **The Energy Co-op** on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and **@theenergy\_coop** on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). This is a great way to get the word out to your friends, family, and professional networks about The Energy Co-op and RNG. Plus, you’re helping your friends and family source renewable energy!

## Beware Scammers and Slammers

We want to help our members consume energy as affordably and sustainably as possible. Unfortunately, there are suppliers out there that only care about the bottom line, and some of them resort to intentionally misleading practices to trick as many consumers as possible into signing up with their service. One way they do is called “[slamming](#)”, and it can happen to anyone if you’re not paying close attention.

Anytime you are contacted about your renewable energy supplied by The Energy Co-op, make sure you can verify that you are being contacted either by us or by your utility before giving out any personal information, agreeing to any change in your service over the telephone, or signing anything. The Energy Co-op almost never reaches out to our members by telephone. So, if someone contacts you by telephone claiming to be with The Energy Co-op, before agreeing to any change in your service, please check with us first by sending an email to [info@theenergy.coop](mailto:info@theenergy.coop) anytime or calling us at (215) 413-2122 during weekday business hours to confirm that we have reached out to you by telephone. Learn more from our blog post [here](#), and stay safe!

## What We're Reading

[Senate Minority Leader Costa Announces Senate Bill 15 as Cornerstone of Pennsylvania's Energy and Climate Policy](#) by Mandy Warner, Director of Climate and Clean Air Policy, Environmental Defense Fund

[Report: Clean energy jobs among fastest-growing in state from 2017-2019](#) by Rachel McDevitt, StateImpact Pennsylvania

[Transitioning to Renewable Energy Isn't So Simple. Just Look at California.](#) By Alex Trembach and Zeke Hausfather, Slate

## Blog Posts

- [Come to The Energy Co-op's RNG Webinar!](#) By Meryl Sands
- [How To Shop for Renewable Electricity in Pennsylvania](#) by Meryl Sands and Ronald Fisher
- [11 Home Energy Efficiency Improvements You Can Do Yourself During Quarantine!](#) by Bethany Bender



**THE ENERGY CO-OP**  
Leading the Energy Evolution

215.413.2122 | [info@theenergy.coop](mailto:info@theenergy.coop) | [www.theenergy.coop](http://www.theenergy.coop)