

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



A Brief Look Back With A View To The Future

The year just completed was a wonderful one for The Energy Co-op. And as we enter 2020, each of us on your cooperative's staff remains committed to helping you, its members, continue to affordably and sustainably buy, use, and understand energy. But having closed the books on last year, the start of the new one gives us an opportunity to briefly take stock of where we are and where we are headed.

In 2019, The Energy Co-op's goals were straightforward ones. We wanted to engage our members more often and in more meaningful ways. Plus, we sought to grow our cooperative by expanding our existing programs and adding new ones. Finally, we had as a goal to improve The Energy Co-op's current and future financial well-being.

So, how did we do?

In addition to our monthly newsletters and blog posts, early in 2019 we held lunch and dinner discussions with several dozen members who accepted our invitation. As a result of those conversations, we convened a member volunteer committee, which led to several speaking engagements and many other great suggestions, including one that resulted in The Energy Co-op renewing its ties with our founder, Weavers Way. Our annual meeting at the Friends Center in June was well-attended by members and other partners. And many more in our community joined us at WHYY in November to celebrate The Energy Co-op's 40th anniversary.

In 2020, we're planning even more member engagement. Meryl Sands, an experienced, thoughtful, and dynamic renewable energy professional, joined our staff last month to work with our member volunteers and to fire up The Energy Co-op's most effective competitive advantage—members like you! See below for more about Meryl and our invitation to all members to meet with us.

We also worked in 2019 to expand current programs and to initiate new ones. In October, we launched our renewable natural gas (RNG) program in PGW's service territory. As a

result, those in Philadelphia who heat their homes with natural gas can now do so with more environmentally friendly landfill methane. In addition, we entered into a cooperation agreement with Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA) to offer our members energy efficiency audits and to support ECA's work in training at-risk populations to participate in the green economy. Also, because many members depend on The Energy Co-op's vendor network for reliably affordable home heating oil, we filled in gaps in our service territory.

That member outreach and those program efforts resulted in a modest increase in Energy Co-op membership. More importantly, our goal was not just to add new members, but also to become more for our loyal members by doing more for them and for our community. 2019 was just a start. We are committed to doing better in 2020.

A large part of doing better will come through more member engagement. In February, we plan to organize the initial meeting of our first Energy Co-op member neighborhood volunteer group in Mount Airy/Germantown. We are also working on several strategic partnerships with mission-driven organizations like ours to both advance their and our shared goals as well as offer Energy Co-op members more opportunity to learn more about energy issues of interest to them. We expect to announce those affiliations later this winter.

Finally, although definitive numbers are not yet available, early indications are that 2019 financial results, once finalized, will be positive and that The Energy Co-op's financial position will have improved during the year.

In closing, on behalf of your Energy Co-op staff and in the hope of having the opportunity to meet each of you in the coming year, we wish you all a healthy and happy New Year!

-Ronald Fisher, Executive Director



The staff and Board of Directors of The Energy Co-op celebrating our 40th Anniversary.

Join us for lunch or dinner to talk about energy, cooperatives, and how The Energy Co-op can better serve you!

The Energy Co-op has over 5,000 members (and growing), and we are entering the New Year with a renewed commitment to member engagement.

To that end, meet Meryl Sands, our new Member Recruitment and Business Development Lead, who brings six years of renewable energy sales and management experience to The Energy Co-op. Their focus is to engage our members by organizing member neighborhood volunteer groups, developing partnerships with local like-minded organizations and businesses, and running educational trainings and workshops that further The Energy Co-op's mission.

If you are interested in joining us for a lunch or dinner gathering with other members and making your voice heard, please complete [this survey](#) to let us know your availability. We'll follow up with set dates and locations later in January once we've heard from interested members.

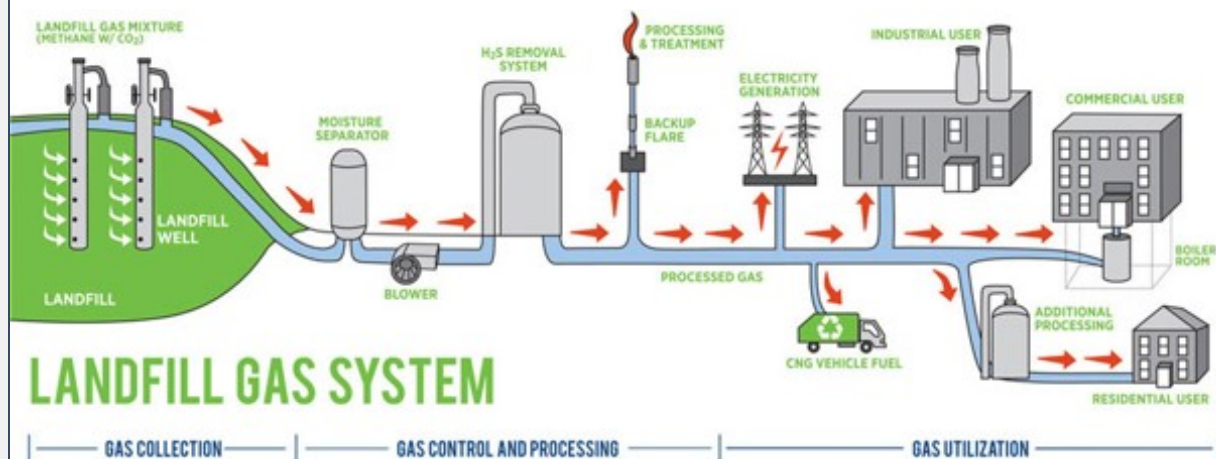
We look forward to getting together with you in 2020!

Other Ways to Give Us Your Feedback

If you can't make it to an in-person gathering with us this year, consider making your voice heard through online reviews! A rating and short comment would go a long way towards telling us, and the rest of the world, how you feel about your Energy Co-op. You can review us on [Facebook](#), [Google](#), or [Yelp](#).

We look forward to hearing your thoughts!

Concerned About Natural Gas Drilling and Fracking? Heat Your Home With RNG!



The Energy Co-op offers a renewable alternative to conventional natural gas that is accessed through harmful methods like hydraulic fracturing and drilling. Our Renewable Natural Gas, or RNG, program supports landfill methane recovery. No drilling. No fracking. Which means heating your home through our RNG program reduces the need for recovery methods that harm our water and air. If you haven't already, [enroll online](#) or contact us at info@theenergy.coop or (215) 413-2122.

Energy Efficiency

Energy Co-op members who participate

in our renewable energy programs are now eligible for comprehensive home energy efficiency audits! Our partnership with the Energy Coordinating Agency, a nonprofit organization based in North Philly, will allow our members to save the environment—and their money—by cutting down on energy waste. Energy audits are available at a discounted rate through this winter, so act now! [Enroll online](#) or contact us at info@theenergy.coop or (215) 413-2122.



Our Newest Blog Posts

[Community Impacts of Energy Efficiency](#)--Learn more about how choosing to be energy efficient can have big, positive impacts on your community.

[Co-op Faces: Georgia Mae Lively](#)--Meet our new Member Services Associate, Georgia Mae!



THE ENERGY CO-OP
Leading the Energy Evolution

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