

MAY 2021

# THE CURRENT



*Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond*



## **In this month's newsletter -**

- **Next installment in Member-to-Member webinar series: Electric Vehicles**
- **Looking back on a busy Earth Month**
- **The Energy Co-op sponsors PA IPL's 2021 Bike Trip for Climate Justice**
- **Help us craft future issues of *The Current* by completing our survey**
- **New monthly column: Ask The Energy Co-op!**
- **Two recent blog entries authored by Energy Co-op staff and members**

## **May Member-to-Member Webinar: Electric Vehicles – Opportunity & Challenge**

Over the past decade, there's been perhaps no more noticeable change on the nation's roadways than the increase in electric vehicles. Estimates put [6.9 million electric vehicles on the market](#) in the United States by 2025. The rate of growth here in Pennsylvania has been remarkable. In November 2020, more than [29,000 electric passenger vehicles](#) were registered in the state, which more than doubled the total from 2017.

We continue to hear from many Energy Co-op members who own or are

considering purchasing an electric vehicle. Following the successful launch of this new series in February, we have decided to make EVs the focus of our [second Member-to-Member webinar, coming up on May 20](#). We'll welcome a distinguished panel of experts and enthusiasts, including several Energy Co-op members, to discuss electric vehicles. Join us for a spirited and engaging conversation on the opportunities and challenges of EVs nationwide and here in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Panelists include Energy Co-op member Lee Berger, who has been driving all-electric cars for the past eight years, Amy Bernknopf, Energy Co-op member and Associate Manager of the Office of Transit, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Planning at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), David Dlugosz, Energy Co-op member and Traffic Engineer at the Department of Streets and founding member of the [Philly EV Club](#), and Rob Graff, Manager of the Office of Energy and Climate Change Initiatives for DVRPC.

Please check out our [recent blog post](#) by Member Services Lead Noah Swistak for an overview of some available EV resources, including programs and publications at the local, regional, and national level.

[Register here](#) for the May 20 webinar and share the [Facebook event](#) with your friends!

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## **Save the Date: Annual Member Meeting – June 24**

The Energy Co-op's Annual Member Meeting is happening soon, so mark your calendars for Thursday, June 24 at 6:00pm! The Energy Co-op is member-owned, which means our members are our bosses. And we're democratic - one member, one vote.

Our Annual Member Meeting provides members the opportunity to hear about our progress during the past year and plans for 2021, and to elect new directors to the Board. And this year, we plan to organize separate Zoom rooms where you will be able to meet and speak with other members as well as Energy Co-op staff.

Keep an eye out in the next few weeks for a link to register. In the interest of members' safety, this year's Annual Member Meeting will again take place virtually on Zoom.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, we will also share materials that will allow you to record your vote.

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## **Looking Back on Earth Month 2021**

The Energy Co-op and its members celebrated Earth Month throughout April, engaging the community and helping southeastern Pennsylvanians sustainably and affordably buy, use, and understand energy. Meryl Sands was particularly busy, leading three different webinars alongside our partners, including [Weavers Way](#), [Mariposa Food Co-op](#), and [Green Philly](#), while Ronald Fisher

and Alexandra Kroger presented to a [Philadelphia OIC](#) Smart Energy class. Energy Co-op members also took advantage of member discounts to participate in the [Clean Air Council](#)'s Run for Clean Air and [Center City Proprietors Association's Sustainable Philadelphia: A Healthy Urban Environment](#) presentation.

If you weren't able to tune in for Meryl's presentation during the April 16 *How to Choose a Truly Green Electricity Supplier in Pennsylvania* webinar, you can find a [recording on our website](#). Thanks to everyone who joined us for a virtual event last month!

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## **The Energy Co-op Sponsors PA IPL's 2021 Bike Trip for Climate Justice**

The Energy Co-op is thrilled to announce our participation as a [bronze sponsor](#) of [Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light's Bike Trip for Climate Justice](#), kicking off Saturday, May 8. The annual PA IPL Climate Advocacy Bike Ride to the US Capitol has been re-imagined as a bike tour of Pennsylvania. The various bike routes will bear witness to our extractive past and present while nurturing and rooting hope for a cleaner future to grow across our state.

Following this weekend's Opening Ceremonies, participants are encouraged to ride one hundred miles on a [prescribed route](#) or one of their own. May 22-23 is the Advocacy Weekend of Action, before the May 30 Closing Ceremonies when PA IPL will gather again to share a video montage of the riders' reflections, and thank riders, supporters, and sponsors. [Register to ride!](#)

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## **What's Next for *The Current*? Please Provide Your Feedback!**

At The Energy Co-op, we strive to provide thoughtful and engaging content to help our members sustainably and affordably buy, use, and understand energy. We want to know what topics and what types of content you would like to see more of in our monthly newsletter, *The Current*.

[Please take a moment to complete this survey](#) and share your thoughts. Your feedback is valuable to us and will help shape future issues of our most widely distributed publication.

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## **Questions About Energy? Ask The Energy Co-op!**

Introducing a new section to *The Current* this month! With such an inquisitive and curious community of members, we're welcoming your questions about energy for a Q&A column - Ask The Energy Co-op.

Have something to ask our staff? Please send your question to [info@theenergy.coop](mailto:info@theenergy.coop) with Ask The Energy Co-op in the subject line. Next month's newsletter will feature answers to some of this month's submissions.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

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## Coming Events

### [Member to Member Webinar: Electric Vehicles - Opportunity & Challenge](#)

Thursday, May 20 @ 6:30pm

[Register Here!](#)

Join our four distinguished panelists for a discussion on what's happening and what's to come for electric vehicles and charging infrastructure in southeastern Pennsylvania.

### [Member Orientation Webinar](#)

Tuesday, May 25 @ 6:00pm

[Register Here!](#)

This webinar will highlight the benefits associated with Energy Co-op membership and explain how to best take advantage of them.

### **Annual Member Meeting**

Thursday, June 24 @ 6:00pm

Hear about our progress during the past year and plans for 2021, and elect new directors to The Energy Co-op's Board of Directors.

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## What We're Reading

### [Step one to lowering your carbon footprint at home: Pick a sustainable energy supplier](#)

Pennsylvania residents can choose how their homes are powered. Here's why that matters.

*Green Philly*

### [Americans want more renewable energy. Can 'community choice' help them get it?](#)

Frustrated by slow uptake of renewable power sources, some communities are taking their power needs into their own hands.

*National Geographic*

### [Biden unveils sweeping climate goal](#)

President Biden pledged to slash U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases in at least half by 2030, a goal the White House insists the U.S. can meet even if Congress rejects Biden's calls for trillions of dollars in green infrastructure spending.

*Politico*

### [Cities Confront Climate Challenge: How to Move from Gas to Electricity?](#)

Ending the use of fossil fuels to heat homes and buildings is a key challenge for cities hoping to achieve net-zero emissions, as is evident in Philadelphia, where technical and financial hurdles and utilities stand in the way of decarbonization.

*Yale Environment 360*

[Job Opportunity: Senior Associate, Philadelphia Green Capital Corp \(PGCC\)](#)

The PGCC is the recently-formed “green bank” affiliate of the Philadelphia Energy Authority. The Senior Associate’s primary responsibility will be to develop, launch and manage multiple financial products that aim to expand the clean energy economy in Philadelphia.

*Philadelphia Energy Authority*

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## **Blog Entries**

[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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Leading the Energy Evolution

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