

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



In this month's newsletter -

- **Three Earth Month webinars presented by The Energy Co-op**
- **Several more Earth Month events offered in coordination with our partners**
- **Next installment in Member-to-Member webinar series: Electric Vehicles**
- **What we're reading this month**
- **Three recent blog entries authored by Energy Co-op staff**

April is Earth Month!

For a second consecutive year, communities, organizations, and individuals across the globe will celebrate Earth Month in a decidedly different fashion from what they're accustomed to. With many reasons to feel hopeful for our planet's future, The Energy Co-op is excited to offer seven different events to connect with fellow members and learn about renewable energy. Community engagement is central to The Energy Co-op's efforts to help our members buy, use, and understand energy, and we hope you'll be able to join us for some or all of these virtual gatherings.

In coordination with our partners [Weavers Way](#), [Clean Air Council](#), [Mariposa Food Co-op](#), [Green Philly](#), [Center City Proprietors Association](#), [Philadelphia OIC](#), and [WXPN](#), our lineup of virtual events and other engagement provides easy, social, and fun opportunities to learn more about renewable energy this April. All but the April 26 webinar are open to the general public, so please

share with your neighbors that aren't Energy Co-op members just yet.

Tuesday, April 13 @ 5:30pm – [Renewable Natural Gas Webinar](#)

Concerned about drilling and fracking? [Join The Energy Co-op for a webinar on an alternative - Renewable Natural Gas \(RNG\)!](#)

Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) is comprised primarily of methane that forms naturally from the decomposition of organic waste in landfills and other waste treatment facilities. It's often flared, reducing it to CO₂ and wasting the energy content of its methane component. However, RNG can also be used like conventional natural gas—but without any drilling or fracking.

Join us on April 13 to learn about what RNG is, the benefits of RNG, and what you can do to get involved! [Register here!](#)

Friday, April 16 @ Noon – [How to Choose a Truly Green Electricity Supplier in Pennsylvania](#)

Did you know that 79% of Philly's carbon emissions come from our buildings? Although you can't totally change that number on your own, there's one small step you can take for a big impact: Choosing a renewable energy supplier. But you have to cut through the noise because a lot of companies don't show their true colors in their endless mailers or solicitations.

How do you actually know your energy provider is sustainable? How do you choose an energy supplier that matches your values? Join Green Philly for a special presentation by The Energy Co-op with the Mayor's Office of Sustainability to learn:

- How energy affects the city's carbon footprint and climate change (OOS)
- What to look for in a sustainable electricity supplier
- Insider tips about the energy industry & renewable electricity
- How cooperatives impact our local communities & other benefits of joining

[Register Here!](#)

Thursday, April 22 @ 6:00pm – [Earth Day Webinar: The Power of Cooperative Sustainability](#)

You buy local and organic food from your local food co-op whenever you can, to help create a robust local economy, grow a healthier environment, and support sustainability.

You want to go further to grow the local green economy, and you know there's one small step you can take for an even bigger impact: choosing a renewable electricity supplier.

But how do you know your electricity provider is sustainable? How do you choose an electricity supplier that matches your values? Join Weavers Way Co-

op and Mariposa Food Co-op for a special presentation by The Energy Co-op to learn:

- How cooperatives impact our local community
- What to look for in a sustainable electricity supplier
- Insider tips about the energy industry & renewable electricity

[Register Here!](#)

In addition to these three webinars presented by our Meryl Sands, we're also partnering with other like-minded organizations to celebrate Earth Month and our common commitment to sustainability in a number of different ways. See "Coming Events" below.

Member-to-Member Webinar - May 2021: Electric Vehicles - Opportunity and Challenge

Join us next month when we'll continue our yearlong series of Member-to-Member webinars with a panel discussion on electric vehicles. With so many of our members owning or considering purchasing EVs, we welcome the entire Energy Co-op community to this conversation addressing both the opportunities and challenges presented by EVs both in southeastern PA and around the country. Panel members include Energy Co-op members from the Philadelphia Streets Department and Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. Date and time to be announced in May 2021 newsletter.

Coming Events

In addition to our three Earth Month webinars, we are also partnering in April 2021 with a number of partners and other organizations on the following events:

Wednesday, April 14 @ 4:00pm – [Solar PPAs in Pennsylvania: A WRISE presentation](#)

In recent years, Pennsylvania has been GOING SOLAR in a big way. With government initiatives like Governor Tom Wolf's recent commitment for the state to purchase half of all electricity used by Pennsylvania's government buildings from solar energy arrays, and similar commitments by the government and agencies of Philadelphia, there's a lot of solar installation on the way!

This month, the Philadelphia Chapter of WRISE is fortunate to have a special speaker who is an expert on a specific financial structure that is enabling this significant expansion of solar energy in our state. Rebecca Collins, Director of Sustainability at Temple University, will be speaking about her experiences introducing the concept of the solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to leadership, balancing economic goals and carbon emission goals, and negotiating both Virtual and Physical PPA contracts. Rebecca's renewable energy portfolio includes a 3 MW onsite solar project in Philadelphia and a 40 MW off-site solar project in Franklin County.

Saturday, April 17 – [40th Annual Run for Clean Air](#)

2021 is a huge landmark for the Run for Clean Air, commemorating the 40th anniversary of the race. The Run for Clean Air is one of the region's longest-running charity races and its largest Earth Day event. The Run is a celebration of sustainable and healthy neighborhoods, clean air, and improvements in the region's overall environmental health. Year after year, sponsors, volunteers, runners, walkers and families choose to celebrate Earth Day with Clean Air Council.

For a second year, the Run for Clean Air will be a [virtual race](#), giving runners the freedom and flexibility to run their race when and where they like. All virtual runners and walkers will receive a race shirt and finisher medal.

Members of The Energy Co-op can receive a \$10 discount on their registration with promo code [RUNCOOP](#), so what are you waiting for? [Register Now!](#)

Friday, April 23 @ 10:00am – [Sustainable Philadelphia](#)

Featuring [Christine Knapp](#), Director, Philadelphia Office of Sustainability

We are proud to partner with the Center City Proprietors Association to bring you a special event. CCPA's new Sustainable Philadelphia event series features experts in municipal government; our rivers - the Delaware and Schuylkill; Philadelphia's Urban Conservation Initiatives; and will explore the next generation climate changers. It will highlight the important initiatives affecting sustainable change and offer the opportunity to meet those leading the charge.

We will kick off the series with Christine Knapp, Director of Philadelphia's Office of Sustainability, *and an Energy Co-op member*, as she discusses the city's initiatives and goals for a sustainable future. We will learn about the implementation of Greenworks Philadelphia, the City's comprehensive sustainability plan: offering clean and efficient energy; accessible food and drinking water; healthy outdoor and indoor air; quality natural resources; accessible, affordable, and safe transportation; Zero Waste; and engaging students, stewards, and workers.

Members of The Energy Co-op can receive a \$10 discount with promo code [10off](#).

[RSVP Here!](#)

Monday, April 26 - [Philadelphia OIC Smart Energy Class](#)

Energy Co-op Executive Director Ronald Fisher and Energy Programs Director Alexandra Kroger will present on renewable energy to a [Philadelphia OIC Smart Energy class](#). Philadelphia OIC is dedicated to the elimination of poverty, unemployment, and illiteracy through education and job training. Its [Smart Energy program](#) offers customized job training and job placement services for those who are interested in energy-oriented careers.

All Month Long – Listen for The Energy Co-op on [WXPN](#)

We're excited to announce a new underwriting partnership with [WXPN](#) that will include mentions of The Energy Co-op's programs on their airwaves. Tune in at 88.5 FM throughout April!

And later this year, we're planning for the following Energy Co-op member events:

Member-to-Member Webinar: Electric Vehicles

May TBD @ 6:00pm

Check back in the May 2021 newsletter for more details.

[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.

2021 Annual Member Meeting

Thursday, June 24 @ 5:30pm

Hear about the past year's progress from staff and Board and elect new members to the Board. In interest of members' safety, the 2021 Annual Member Meeting will take place virtually on Zoom. More details to come next month.

What We're Reading

[Solar makes up majority of new resource additions for 2nd year in a row, reaching record 19.2 GW](#)

Utility solar had its largest year on record, installing nearly 65% more annual capacity additions than in 2019. Residential solar deployment also reached a record in 2020, up 11% from 2019.

Utility Dive

[Gov. Wolf Announces Largest Government Solar Energy Commitment in the U.S.](#)

A major Pennsylvania clean energy initiative that will produce nearly 50 percent of state government's electricity through seven new solar energy arrays totaling 191-megawatts to be built around the state.

PA.gov

[Pennsylvania lifts moratorium on pandemic shutoffs and allows utilities to resume terminations March 31](#)

Citing an improved economic outlook and expected influx of aid under the federal stimulus package, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission allows resumption of service terminations, while adding protections for low-income customers.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Blog Entries

[Energy-saving Tips from Energy Co-op Partner ECA](#)

Two DIY workshops to teach you how to weatherize your home, conserve energy, and save money.

By Energy Programs Director Alexandra Kroger

[The Energy Co-op Celebrates Earth Month](#)

Details and registration links for all of The Energy Co-op's Earth Month events.
By Member Services Lead Noah Swistak

[Could What Happened In Texas Happen Here?](#)

A discussion of the differences between that state's electricity grid and ours,
and why not all third-party suppliers are the same.
By Executive Director Ronald Fisher



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Leading the Energy Evolution

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