

NOVEMBER 2021

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



In this month's newsletter -

- **What you need to know about rising energy prices**
- **Home energy efficiency tips to save you money**
- **New Member Orientation Webinar 11.16 | Member Town Hall 11.17**
- **Present a Member-to-Member Webinar in 2022**

Making Sense of a Volatile Energy Market

Supply chain issues have caused natural gas prices to double since last spring. Because the price of natural gas impacts that of electricity, even wind and solar power, those prices have increased too. [Our Executive Director, Ronald Fisher, explains these current conditions in this blog article, which all members are encouraged to read.](#)

The good news is that there are reasons to believe that energy markets will stabilize by spring 2022. In the meantime, as we approach the start of a winter when [everyone is expected to pay more to heat their home](#), there are a few things Energy Co-op members can do:

- Use less energy. Do what you can to seal your residence's envelope—ceilings,

walls, windows, and doors. Turn down the thermostat when you're at home. And when you're out, turn it down even more.

- Consider using your utility's budget billing plan. [PECO](#), [PGW](#), and [PPL](#) all offer payment plans that allow you to average out your high winter month bills over several months.
- Please be patient and remain committed to our shared goal even though that commitment will require a greater investment this winter.

To learn more about what to expect this winter, join Ron and other staff members at a virtual Town Hall on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, during which we will answer member questions about these extraordinary circumstances. [Use this Zoom link to join us at 6:30pm.](#)

Winter Energy Efficiency Tips

Temperatures are falling, and as noted above, energy costs are rising. Whether your home is large or small, centuries-old or brand new, there are steps you can take to prepare for the colder months ahead.

This [DIY home energy efficiency improvements blog post](#) was authored last year and has a bevy of helpful ideas to consider. The article makes suggestions for sealing your building envelope, smartly using energy-intensive appliances, and includes energy-saving habits to practice at home.

[This piece focuses on energy savings during the winter months](#), and features a number of tips and statistics on just how much you can reduce your usage. For example, simply turning your appliances off when you're not using them can lower your energy costs by 5%-10% and switching from incandescent to LED or CFL lights can lower the electricity you use for lighting by 75%.

Members in Philadelphia can also look into the [Energy Coordinating Agency's Weatherization Assistance Program](#). The federally funded initiative is free for eligible homeowners and tenants and provides air sealing and energy efficiency improvements at no cost.

New Member Orientation Webinar - Nov. 16

Member Services Lead Noah Swistak will present a cheery and engaging review of the benefits available to Energy Co-op members like yourself, along with how to best use all that is available to you. Attendees will learn The Energy Co-op's history, as well as where we're heading, about our energy programs, how to use the online portal, and how they can get involved to help grow our cooperative community. The live presentation will allow for questions and answers from attendees.

[Registration is open now](#) for this fun and informative program designed for newer members and those looking to reacquaint themselves with the work of the cooperative.

Learn about Environmental, Social, and Governance Investing - Dec. 7

The Energy Co-op's Member-to-Member webinar series continues next month with its fourth and final installment of 2021. On Tuesday, December 7 at 6:30pm, member and Board member Ethan Birchard and member Margaret Thompson will lead a discussion on Environmental, Social, and Governance, or ESG investing—what it means, how it developed, and its importance in advancing sustainability.

The hourlong discussion is your opportunity to learn about how more and more investors are making investment choices that align with their values. No investment advice, of course. But please come with your questions and insights as much of the program will be dedicated to hearing from participants.

Mark your calendars today and [use this link to join us on December 7.](#)

Share Your Expertise with Fellow Members

Not only does The Energy Co-op draw together thousands of southeastern Pennsylvanians to purchase affordable, sustainable energy, but the cooperative also facilitates exchanges of knowledge. Education is central to our mission, and we're grateful for members that are so willing to enlighten others about topics that are familiar to them.

Now, we need your help to develop our 2022 Member-to-Member events. If you would like to present to your fellow members on a topic that relates to renewable energy, sustainability, or any facet of The Energy Co-op's work, we want to hear from you! Please send an email to Member Services Lead Noah Swistak at noah@theenergy.coop with a description of the topic you have in mind and your related credentials or experience.

Some 2022 Member-to-Member events are likely to take place in-person or in a hybrid in-person/virtual setting. Our staff will handle all the logistics, including technical guidance, invitations, and the support needed to help you present an engaging and informative session.

Coming Events

[New Member Orientation](#)

Tuesday, November 16 @ 6:00pm

Virtual Event

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

[Energy Co-op Member Town Hall](#)

Wednesday, November 17 @ 6:30pm

Virtual Event

Learn about recent fluctuations in energy prices, the reasons behind these impactful changes, and how The Energy Co-op is responding. [Use this link to](#)

[join us.](#)

[Member-to-Member Webinar: How to Invest for a Sustainable Future](#)

Tuesday, December 7 @ 6:30pm

Virtual Event

Join us to learn more about evaluating sustainable investments, and ensuring your investments truly reflect your values. No prior registration required. [Use this link to join us.](#)

What We're Reading

[Winter heating bills set to jump as inflation hits home](#)

Nearly half the homes in the U.S. use natural gas for heat, and they could pay an average of 30% more this winter compared with a year ago.

Associated Press

[White House announces plans for massive expansion of offshore wind farms](#)

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management said the new projects could create nearly 80,000 jobs.

Huffington Post

[Frankford High School's new lab aims to prepare students for solar energy jobs](#)

The lab will provide training in solar and battery installation, sales, design, weatherization and construction basics.

Philly Voice

[Philadelphia will shift its fleet to EVs to meet carbon goals](#)

Officials believe they can purchase at least 1,600 light- and medium-duty electric vehicles by 2030, which would eliminate 11,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide tailpipe emissions annually.

Government Technology

Blog Entries

[Making Sense of a Volatile Energy Market](#)

By Executive Director Ronald Fisher

[Uncommon Common Area Energy](#)

By Member Recruitment & Business Development Lead Meryl Sands + Member Services Lead Noah Swistak

[The Vital Role of Renewable Energy in Sustainable Design](#)

By Member Services Lead Noah Swistak



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