

AUGUST 2024

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



In this Month's Newsletter:

- **Insider Tips on Home Electrification**
- **Learn about Solar Geoengineering in our Renewable Energy Classroom**
- **Energy Efficiency Home Audit Program**
- **Join us for a Member Happy Hour!**

Insider Tips on Home Electrification

Electrifying your home has never been more affordable, thanks to billions in federal subsidies and numerous state and utility incentive programs. Electrification is a crucial piece of the puzzle when it comes to fighting climate change, however, the process can be complex, involving intricate government programs and the challenge of finding suitable contractors.

Check out this great panel by Canary Media where experts discuss the best ways to electrify your home. The panel, moderated by Alison F. Takemura, features Nica Mendoza from Generation180, DR Richardson, CEO of Elephant Energy, and Bob Soule, a volunteer electric coach with Rewiring America. They delve into the importance of home electrification and provide practical advice on navigating subsidies, choosing the right equipment, and managing the overall process. With their insights, you can better understand how to make the transition to a fossil fuel-free home!



Renewable Energy Classroom

Welcome back to the Renewable Energy Classroom, where we highlight various aspects of the generation, purchase, delivery, or use of renewable energy with a new video or article each month. In this month's edition, we will discuss the challenges and potential of solar geoengineering.

In 1991, Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines erupted, causing global temperatures to drop by about half a degree Celsius for almost two years. This phenomenon has led scientists to explore solar geoengineering as a potential way to combat global warming by reflecting sunlight away from Earth. However, this approach poses significant risks, such as altering precipitation patterns and worsening extreme weather. Critics argue that solar geoengineering could become an excuse for fossil fuel proponents to delay decarbonization, while advocates believe researching these technologies is crucial to mitigate climate risks.

The debate around solar geoengineering is complex. Supporters advocate for robust international scientific assessments and controlled experiments to understand the potential benefits and risks. Critics call for a ban on climate

experiments and emphasize the ethical concerns of manipulating our climate. Despite the uncertainties, it's clear that exploring these technologies requires careful consideration and international cooperation to ensure any deployment would be safe and equitable. This ongoing tension highlights the need for thoughtful and rigorous approaches to address climate change. To learn more, check out this great video from Vox!



Energy Efficiency Home Audit Program

The Energy Co-op is excited to partner with the [Energy Coordinating Agency](#) (ECA) to provide high-quality home energy audits to Energy Co-op members. As part of our partnership with ECA, Energy Co-op members will also have the opportunity to learn more about energy efficiency at upcoming virtual and in-person events.

An ECA energy audit provides an in-depth evaluation of your home's energy efficiency. Unlike more surface-level assessments, the ECA Energy Audit is performed by a certified Building Performance Institute (BPI) energy auditor over the course of two to three hours. This comprehensive audit includes the installation of energy-saving LED bulbs and a series of thorough tests designed to identify and address energy inefficiencies. Additionally, the auditor will provide thermostat education to help you optimize your settings for maximum savings and deliver a personalized report with detailed recommendations for energy efficiency improvements, including cost estimates and expected return on investment. As part of our partnership, Energy Co-op members are eligible for an exclusive offer to apply the cost of the audit towards additional energy efficiency services purchased through ECA totaling \$1,000 or more.

Following ECA's audit recommendations could yield substantial results, with tips and strategies potentially saving you up to 60% on energy costs annually. This cooling season be sure to take advantage of this new member benefit to maximize your home's energy efficiency and reduce energy usage while maintaining a comfortable indoor climate. Click the button below to learn more or sign up for an energy audit!

Audit Program

Upcoming Events

[Summer Member Happy Hour - Center City, Philadelphia](#)

Tuesday, August 20, 5:30pm – 7:00pm

[Iron Hill Brewery and Restaurant](#), 1150 Market St, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Come meet your fellow members and The Energy Co-op's staff while enjoying complimentary drinks and appetizers!

What We're Reading

[An optimist's guide to the EV battery mining challenge](#)

The electric vehicle transition is going to require a lot of mining and materials but possibly a lot less than everyone thinks, a new report argues.

Julian Spector, *Canary Media*

[Trendline: The Energy Transition to Renewables](#)

The U.S. energy sector is undergoing a fundamental transition to a cleaner and more distributed future, but the pace of new installations is being hampered by a number of obstacles, including interconnection delays, permitting bottlenecks and workforce challenges.

Larry Pearl, *Utility Dive*

[35% Clean Energy by 2035: PA Lawmakers Hold Hearing on PRESS](#)

Lawmakers are starting to debate Gov. Josh Shapiro's proposal to increase renewable energy in the state.

Kara Jeffers, *Erie News Now*

Blog Posts

[Why We Developed a Strategic Plan and How We're Doing](#)

By Divya Desai and Hillary Bedeian

[PACER vs. RGGI: Charting Pennsylvania's Path to a Clean Energy Future](#)

By Eric Miller

[Interview: Energy Justice in Philadelphia](#)

By Guest Columnist, Nidhi Krishen, Deputy Director of Climate Solutions at the City of Philadelphia Office of Sustainability



THE ENERGY CO-OP

Leading the Energy Evolution

215.413.2122 | info@theenergy.coop | www.theenergy.coop

The Energy Co-op | 50 S 16th Street Floor 17 | Philadelphia, PA 19102 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!