

January 2025

# THE CURRENT



*Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond*



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### **In this Month's Newsletter:**

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## **Happy New Year!**

The Energy Co-op staff wishes you a happy holiday season! Thank you for your membership and for your continued commitment to Pennsylvania's clean energy future - we look forward to continuing to lead today's sustainable energy evolution in the new year!

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## **Reducing Your Carbon Footprint in 2025**

2025 is a great year to take meaningful steps toward sustainability and reduce our carbon footprints. With temperatures dropping, many of us are looking for ways to keep energy bills in check this winter. A simple and effective way to save on heating costs is by installing weatherizing strips on doors and windows. This small upgrade helps seal in warm air and improve your home's insulation, boosting energy efficiency. There are other easy ways to be more energy-efficient this year too: try adding a programmable thermostat, sealing gaps around pipes, or insulating your attic. Whether you're a homeowner or business owner, saving energy is always a win! And if you're seeking expert advice, The Energy Co-op's partnership with The Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA) offers a comprehensive home energy audit to help you identify even more ways to save. Learn more about the audit [here](#) and explore ECA's services [here](#)!

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## **Welcome, Rachel Gass!**

The Energy Co-op is excited to introduce our newest team member, Membership Coordinator, Rachel Gass. Rachel works to create a demand for clean energy generation by supporting and growing the Energy Co-op's membership base. Prior to joining the Energy Co-Op, they worked in member services for a community-supported fishery and in environmental education, where they developed their passion for connecting with people and the environment. Rachel also worked as a researcher of cooperative organizing, which cemented their interest in advancing the missions of community- and value-driven organizations like the Energy Co-op. They are excited to both use and grow their knowledge about cooperative organizing and clean energy to advance environmental justice in Philadelphia.

Read Rachel's ["Faces of The Co-op" blog](#) to learn more!

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## Renewable Energy Classroom

Welcome back to the Renewable Energy Classroom, where we dive into various aspects of renewable energy each month. In January, we'll look at decentralized energy systems and their increasing attractiveness to communities around the globe.

Decentralized energy systems are smaller-scale microgrids powered by smaller, local energy generation, rather than large scale energy generation facilities. Decentralized energy production can be owned and operated by local governments, neighborhoods, or community groups. In recent years, the idea of developing decentralized energy systems has gained popularity due to its resilience; a reliance on large, centralized energy production puts a much larger population of energy consumers at risk to the impacts of natural disasters, geopolitical conflicts, and market fluctuations that impact the energy sector. Localizing energy production minimizes the external factors that can impact a community's energy supply. Decentralized energy production can be especially beneficial in remote communities that are not easily serviced by more centralized energy systems, because they enable local communities to take control of their own energy supply.

To implement decentralized energy systems on a larger scale, more small-scale, local energy production facilities must be developed first, which will require more investment in renewable energy and increased cooperation from communities, governments and private companies. Currently, there are regulatory barriers that impede the development of decentralized energy systems in many places. For example, in the U.S., much of the energy transmission grid is owned and operated by large corporations that do not allow integration with independently-operated systems. Despite these challenges, it is likely that we will see an increased push for decentralized energy systems, as ongoing geopolitical conflicts and increasingly frequent natural disasters continue to destabilize many communities' energy supply.

Read more about decentralized energy systems and the future of renewable energy [here](#).

## STAYING BIG OR GETTING SMALLER

Expected structural changes in the energy system made possible by the increased use of digital tools

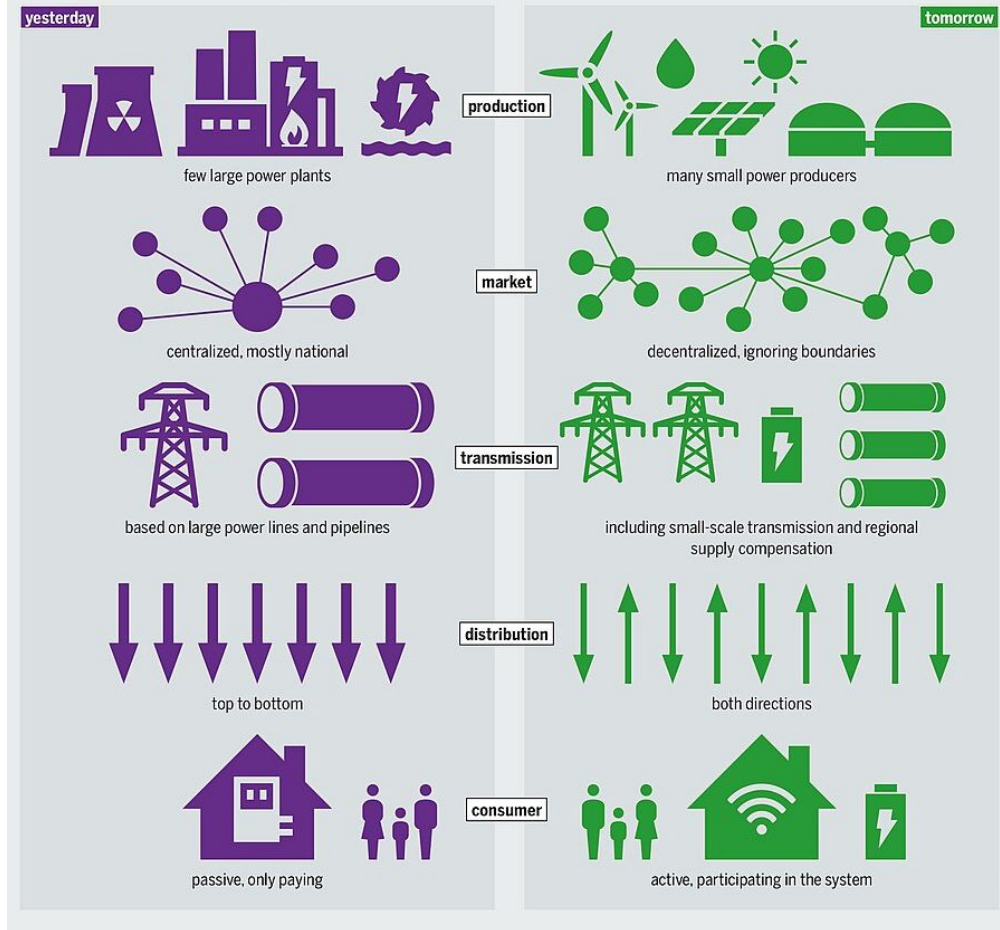
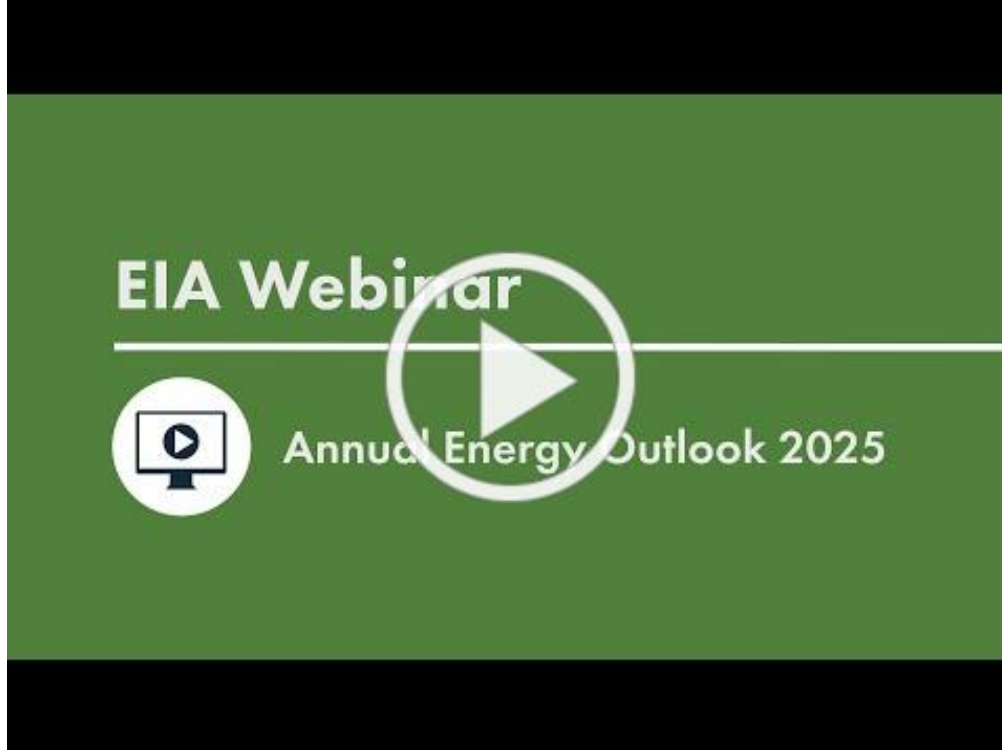


Image: [energytransition.org](http://energytransition.org)

## Annual Energy Report 2025

Check out the following video where members of the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) share the latest information on model improvements being worked on for the Annual Energy Outlook (AEO) 2025. It will provide a comprehensive analysis of projected energy trends and market conditions for the year 2025, including details on energy sources like oil, natural gas, and renewable electricity generation across different sectors.



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## What We're Reading

[9 US electric power sector issues to watch in 2025](#)

Robert Walton, Ethan Howland, Diana DiGangi, Larry Pearl, Brian Martucci,  
*Utility Dive*

[A new solar project in Brooklyn could offer a model for climate justice](#)

Maria Gallucci, *Canary Media*

[Solar is riding high. Will Trump take it down?](#)

Jason Plautz and Arianna Skibell, *Politico*

[Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro Files Lawsuit Against PJM to Prevent Energy Price Hikes, Fight for Pennsylvania Consumers](#)

*Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*

[The fate of Biden's unfinished green agenda](#)

Arianna Skibell, *Politico*

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