

December 2025

# THE CURRENT



*Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond*



## In This Month's Newsletter:

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## Virtual Winter Market Update and Town Hall

Dec 10 @ 1pm



From rising PJM capacity costs to looming deadlines for clean energy tax credits, this fall has brought significant shifts to the energy landscape. Want to make sense of it all? Join us on December 10 at 1pm for our virtual Winter Market Update and Town Hall!

Bring your lunch as our staff breaks down the latest market changes and answers your most pressing questions.

Register today!

## Give the Gift of Clean Energy!

Looking for a meaningful gift for someone on your holiday list?

Spread joy by giving the gift of clean energy through The Energy Co-op!

Now through the end of January, when you refer friends and neighbors to The Energy Co-op, you'll both get \$25 off your bill **plus the chance to earn free tickets to the 2026 PHS Flower Show!**

Here's how the special referral contest works:

- **Invite a friend to join one of our clean energy programs.** Make sure they write your name in the referring member field on their [enrollment form](#).
- **You and your friend will each receive a \$25 bill credit** when they stay enrolled for 60 days. Heating oil and PGW members will receive a \$25 gift card.
- Each referral through January 30, 2026 will get **one entry into a raffle to win two tickets to the 2026 PHS Flower Show!** (Don't worry, you'll still earn \$25

**Give the gift of clean energy!**  
It's like...

- Planting 3.6 acres of trees!
- Driving 9,194 fewer miles!
- Recycling 307 bags of waste!

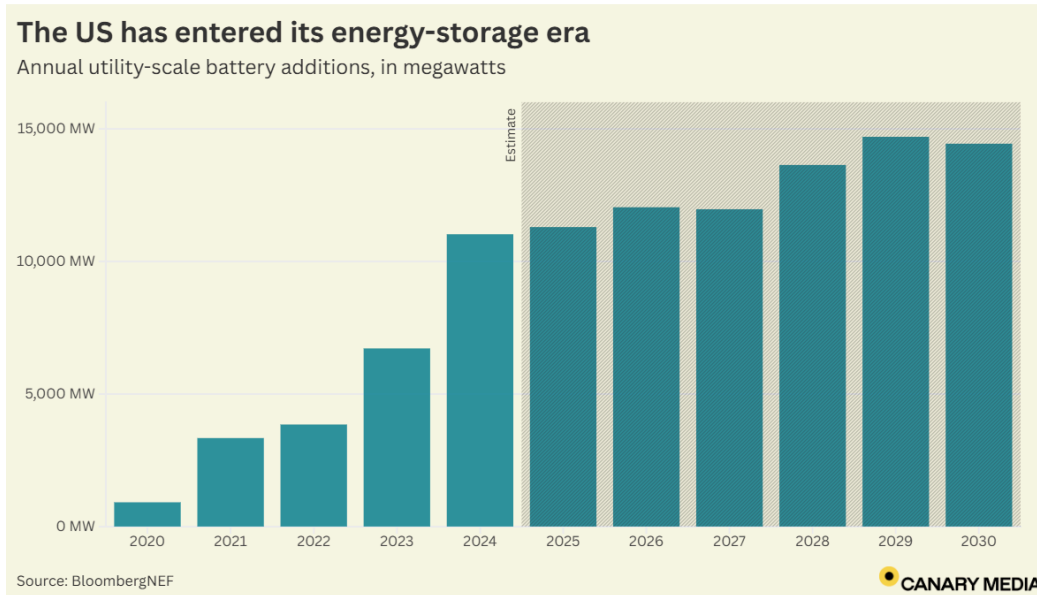
THE ENERGY CO-OP  
Source: EPA

for each referral after January.)

**Start gifting today**—because clean energy is even better when it's shared!

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## Renewable Energy Classroom: Batteries Offer Renewable Solution to Data Center Strain



Two new [10-MW, four-hour batteries](#) in Virginia show how states are turning to mid-sized renewable projects to manage rising electricity demand from data centers. Occupying one acre each and built in just one year, the batteries will ease strain on the local electric co-op and, once connected to PJM, charge when prices are low and sell power back during peak periods to lower customer bills.

By discharging during periods of high demand, these fast-to-build systems can reduce reliance on costly, inefficient gas peaker plants and decrease both demand-related charges and future transmission costs through [“peak shaving.”](#) The result is more stable electric rates at a time of burgeoning demand from data centers and rapidly electrifying households.

These projects represent what some call the “missing middle” of the energy transition: storage that is quicker and cheaper to build than large utility-scale projects but bigger than home batteries. Their moderate scale delivers much-needed grid relief faster, which is especially crucial in areas with backlogged interconnection queues like PJM. With federal tax credits available through 2033 and [demonstrated cost savings from existing projects](#), mid-sized storage has emerged as a practical near-term tool for meeting growing data center demand with clean, reliable power.

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## In The News: PJM Grid Reliability Q&A



You've probably heard a lot about PJM, the grid operator in our region, recently. In our latest *In The News* episode, we interview The Energy Co-op's Executive Director Divya Desai and Energy Programs Director Nora Fulvio to **learn what's going on in PJM and what The Energy Co-op is doing to advocate for a more equitable energy market and cleaner electric grid.** [Watch now!](#)

## Advocate for Distributed Energy Resources with POWER Interfaith

Build a **Fair, Clean, Smart Grid** for PA  
Advocate for Distributed Energy Resources with POWER Interfaith

**What are DERs?**  
Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) are small-scale energy generation, storage, and control devices located close to where the electricity they generate is used.  
DERs include **rooftop solar panels, wind turbines, fuel cells, battery storage,** and even controllable loads like **electric vehicles and smart thermostats.**

The **Public Utility Commission (PUC)** is writing new rules under **FERC Order No. 2222** that would **allow communities to sell the energy they produce from DERs back to the grid.**  
But entrenched interests will push for rules that prioritize fossil fuel industry profits, not communities.

**Generate power locally** and send it to the grid, keeping money local and building community wealth.  
**Cut costs and emissions** with smaller, smarter grids that require less infrastructure and **deliver cleaner energy at lower costs** to consumers.

**Take Action!**  
**Contact your legislators** and ask them to put communities first by signing onto a letter urging the PUC to pass rules that advance energy equity.  
**Attend upcoming events** held by POWER to gather public input and tell the PUC why DERs are important for our communities!

**Communities could...**

THE ENERGY CO-OP | POWER INTERFAITH

The Energy Co-op is partnering with POWER Interfaith to offer our members local advocacy opportunities! POWER is a grassroots organization committed to lifting up the voices of everyday Pennsylvanians from all walks of life to advance racial and economic justice on a livable planet.

*Want to get involved? Join POWER in campaigning the PA Public Utility Commission to allow community-produced renewable energy to be sold back to the regional grid! [Read more here](#), and stay tuned for upcoming ways to get involved.*

## Blog Post: Why Global Climate Finance Matters

Have you heard about COP30 in the news recently? Are you curious about why climate summits and global climate finance matter? [Revisit our earlier analysis](#) by

Membership Coordinator Rachel Gass to explore why robust climate finance remains essential to addressing the climate crisis.



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## What We're Reading

[Pennsylvania to leave RGGI as part of an overdue budget deal](#)

Jon Hurdle, *Inside Climate News*

[PGW residential customers will see monthly bills jump by about \\$6 on average starting in December](#)

Susan Phillips, *WHYY*

[PJM weighs proposals to manage data center impact on electricity affordability and reliability](#)

Peter Hall, *Pennsylvania Capital Star*

[PA households can apply for heating bill assistance after monthlong delay](#)

Sophia Schmidt, *WHYY*

[Feel the cold? Offshore wind alleviates grid woes in winter, study says](#)

Clare Fieseler, *Canary Media*

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**LEADING THE ENERGY EVOLUTION**

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