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THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



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Member Happy Hour

Please join us for a Member Happy Hour at [Harp & Crown](#) on February 18, 2025 from 5:15pm-6:45pm. Come meet your fellow members and The Energy Co-op's staff while enjoying complimentary beverages and appetizers!

If you have any questions about the event, please reach out to info@theenergy.coop or give us a call at 215.413.2122. We hope to see you there!

Defending Cooperative Values through Consumer Choices

On January 20, The Trump Administration ordered the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement, and put forward several other executive orders promoting American fossil fuel production and rolling back on climate initiatives. The executive order, "[Unleashing American Energy](#)," claims to champion "true consumer choice," while simultaneously dismantling several key initiatives from the previous administration aimed at environmental protection and combating climate change. The new administration is expected to continue dismantling environmental regulations and abandoning sustainability goals, driven by an outward denial of climate change. There is concern that the administration's removal of environmental regulations will further accelerate the abandonment of corporate sustainability goals, a process that has already begun as corporations turn away from sustainability initiatives in response to the rising energy needs from artificial intelligence (AI).

In a disappointing move, the administration has also terminated all Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies in the federal government via executive order, characterizing them as wasteful and discriminatory against non-minorities. Corporations have followed suit in slashing internal DEI programs to cut costs and curry favor with the new federal administration.

Despite the current political climate, The Energy Co-op remains committed to leading today's sustainable energy evolution; no government policy will diminish our concerns about climate change and our support for the communities we serve.

As a member of The Energy Co-op, you have committed your support to the renewable energy transition, addressing climate change through your consumer choices. We hope that you will consider broadening that commitment by supporting other businesses that uphold our shared values of justice, equity, and sustainability. For a comprehensive list of businesses following science-based sustainability targets, visit [Science Based Targets](#). For an overview of how major corporations are treating DEI policies in the wake of the 2024 election, [read this article](#).

Changes in Energy Capacity and What They Mean for Pennsylvania Consumers

By The Energy Co-op Staff

What is Capacity?

Capacity refers to the maximum amount of electricity that a power plant, energy resource, or grid infrastructure can reliably produce or handle at any given moment. Capacity is usually measured in megawatts (MW). Generation capacity refers to the

total amount of electricity that power plants (whether renewable, natural gas, nuclear, etc.) can generate at peak output, while transmission capacity refers to how much electricity the grid's transmission lines can carry from power plants to consumers without becoming overloaded.

How Does Capacity Work?

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is part of PJM Interconnection, the grid operator that manages the regional electrical grid. Every PJM member that sells electricity to consumers is responsible for buying capacity on the PJM capacity market, called the [Reliability Pricing Model \(RPM\)](#), which is intended to ensure there is enough generation to reliably meet demand at any given time plus a buffer to cover uncertainty in times of [peak demand](#).

In this system, power supply resources are paid additional revenue from the capacity market in exchange for their ability to deliver electricity to the grid when needed or, conversely, are penalized should they fail to perform. In the context of continually rising demand, the capacity auction is intended to act as both an insurance policy against supply interruptions and a price signal to attract further power supply investment to ensure demand can be met in the long term. The cost of buying capacity is factored into the per-kilowatt hour supply rates suppliers like The Energy Co-op charge consumers for their electricity. Capacity cost is also included in utilities' prices to compare (PTCs).

To read the full blog post, [click here](#).

Renewable Energy Classroom

Welcome to the Renewable Energy Classroom, where we dive into various aspects of renewable energy each month. In November 2024, we wrote about the projected rise in U.S. energy consumption driven by the expansion of data centers and artificial intelligence (AI). In 2024 the U.S. Department of Energy predicted a 15-20% increase in total U.S. energy consumption in the next decade. In the past month, a new AI model from China called DeepSeek has emerged, which may significantly alter U.S. energy consumption forecasts. According to UPenn's Kleinmann Center for Energy Policy, DeepSeek has the potential to use "a small fraction" of the energy required by other AI models, which could result in a major reduction in the country's projected energy use in the near-term. This is good news for carbon emissions, as it could curtail PJM and other grid managers' plans to meet the growing energy demand with gas-fired electricity. Read more about how DeepSeek may alter the U.S. energy consumption outlook [here](#).



ECA Home Energy Audit

As a reminder, The Energy Co-op is once again partnering with the Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA) to provide high-quality home energy audits to Energy Co-op members.

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.

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What We're Reading

[Clean energy stakeholders descend on Capitol to lobby for IRA tax credits](#)

Diana DiGanji, *Utility Dive*

[Trump Tariffs Spark Fears of Clean Energy Supply Chain Chaos](#)

Benjamin Storrow, *Scientific American*

[Electricity is the next energy crisis](#)

Juan Macias, *Utility Dive*



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

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

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