

February 2026

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



In This Month's Newsletter:

- LOVE your Co-op? Leave us a Review!
- Blog Post: Support Black-Led Organizations in Philadelphia
- Renewable Energy Classroom: Plug-In Solar
- Meet the Staff Mini Series
- Upcoming Event: Advocate for Community-Based Energy
- What We're Reading

LOVE Your Co-op!

Loving The Energy Co-op? Please consider spending 2 minutes to [leave us a Google review!](#) Your feedback helps us reach more new members and achieve our mission of expanding renewable energy development in Pennsylvania.

Blog Post: Support Black-Led Organizations in Philadelphia

February is Black History Month!

Learn about Black-led organizations fighting for a healthier, more prosperous Philadelphia, including Philly Thrive, which won the permanent closure of the PES Oil Refinery in 2020, in our [newest blog post](#) by Marketing Director Colin Teague.

Renewable Energy Classroom: Plug-In Solar

Solar power has traditionally been limited to homeowners who can afford the high upfront costs; [plug-in solar](#) offers an alternative. These small, modular systems can be plugged directly into standard electrical outlets without contractor help and can generate enough electricity to power common household appliances and electronics, cutting utility bills by hundreds of dollars a year.



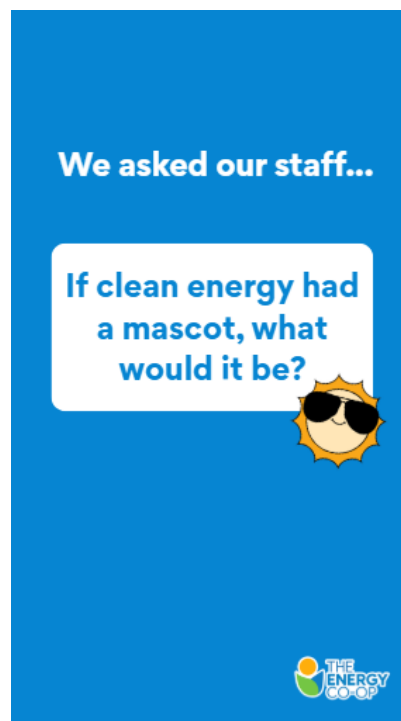
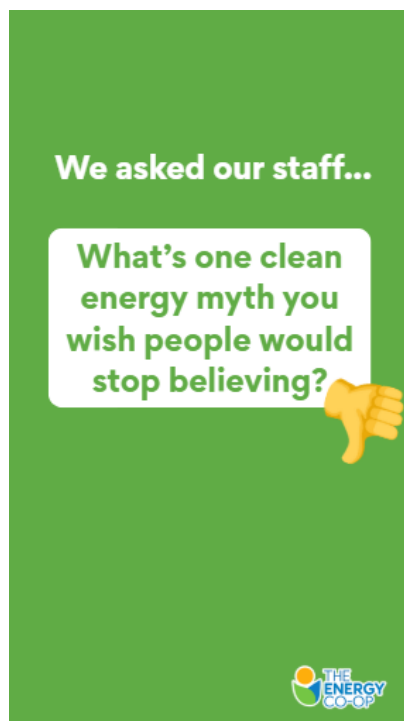
Image Source: Solar United Neighbors

In 2025, Utah became the first U.S. state to allow plug-in solar without requiring utility approval, following Germany's example, where millions of residents have installed similar systems on apartment balconies and in backyards. The Utah bill, passed with unanimous bi-partisan support, has become a model for over 20 other states, [including Pennsylvania](#). If passed, these bills would allow for systems up to 1.2 kilowatts, enough to offset a meaningful share of a typical home's daytime electricity use.

Plug-in solar [nonprofit Bright Saver](#) estimates that the technology could drop below one-quarter of its current \$1,000+ price tag if legalized by multiple states, putting clean energy in the hands of 60 million Americans by 2035.

Want to support plug-in solar in PA? [Contact your lawmakers.](#)

Meet the Staff Mini-Series



Curious about the faces of The Energy Co-op? Learn about our staff's favorites (and least favorites) when it comes to clean energy in our fun video shorts! Follow us on [TikTok](#) and [Instagram](#) for more!

Upcoming Event: Advocate for Community-Based Clean Energy

Build a **Fair, Clean, Smart Grid** for PA



Attend the **People's Hearing** to advocate for community-based, affordable clean energy

Join Energy Co-op partner **POWER Interfaith** to learn about community-based energy from local experts and share what matters most to you about clean energy!

Community feedback gathered during this event will be submitted to the PA Public Utility Commission – **don't miss this opportunity to influence how our electric system is run!**

Join us
Sunday, February 22nd, 2:30 - 5:15pm
Congregation Rodeph Shalom
615 N. Broad St., Philadelphia

Learn more and RSVP here!




Want to influence how our electric system is run?

POWER interfaith is campaigning for the PA Public Utility Commission to allow **community-produced renewable energy** to be sold back to the regional grid!

Join them on **February 22** for their **People's Hearing** to learn about community-based energy and make your voice heard! [Click here](#) to register and learn more!

What We're Reading

[The Energy Co-op's executive director looks toward the future of renewables in a changing political climate](#)

Jordan Teicher, *Grid Magazine*

[From firewood to solar: This Philly rowhouse has seen over 250 years of energy transitions](#)

Sophia Schmidt, *WHYY*

[Clean energy advocates criticize 'glaring' omission in White House plan to fuel data centers in PJM region](#)

Marianne Lavelle and Kiley Bense, *Inside Climate News*

[Map shows growing number of data centers planned across Pennsylvania](#)

Hannah Frances Johansson, *Spotlight PA*



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

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