

January 2026

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



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Happy 2026 from The Energy Co-op!

As we enter the new year, we would like to **thank you for your commitment to clean energy and helping create healthier communities in 2026!**

As a reminder, January is your final chance to win tickets to the 2026 PHS Flower Show! Refer friends and neighbors to The Energy Co-op, and you'll both **get \$25 off**

your bill and the chance to win free flower show tickets! Don't miss out--start the new year strong by inviting a friend to choose clean energy today!



Renewable Energy Classroom: Researchers at Penn Design Low-Carbon Concrete

Concrete is responsible for nearly 8% of global emissions annually. Researchers at the [University of Pennsylvania](#) are trying to change that by using 3D printing and alternative concrete mixtures to reduce building sector emissions and help combat climate change. Their approach combines lattice-like, nature-inspired designs with more porous concrete to create strong, lightweight structures that use less material, require less energy, and absorb up to 42% more CO₂ than traditional concrete.

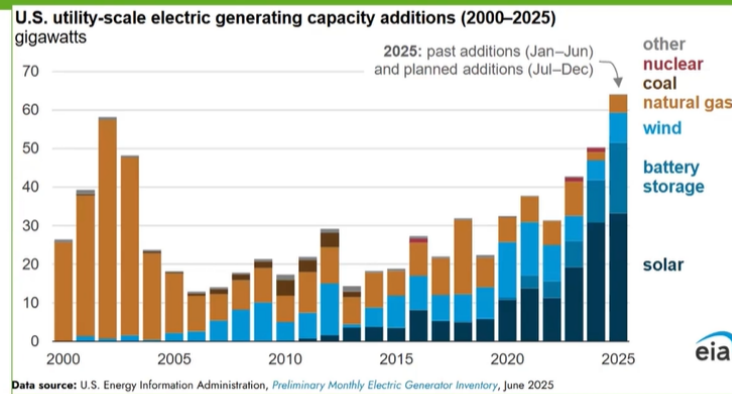


Image Source: Polyhedral Structures Laboratory

Their design also reduces construction time and reliance on steel, improving recyclability at the end of a structure's life. Researchers hope that combining concrete with hyper-efficient building designs can create buildings that are carbon-negative by the end of their lifecycles. The project recently secured approval to [build its first bridge in France](#), bringing the innovation one step closer to reality.

ICYMI: Winter Energy Market Update

Impacts: Clean Energy Progress



(EIA Today in Energy: U.S. developers report half of new electric generating capacity will come from solar, August 20, 2025)

Couldn't make it to our Winter Market Update? We've got you covered! [Watch our recording](#) to hear from our Energy Programs Director about the state of the energy market and what's next for renewable energy development in 2026.

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.

Communities could...

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!



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: Goodbye RGGI, Hello Lightning Plan

Wondering what's next for clean energy policy now that Pennsylvania left the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative?

Learn how the Lightning Plan could cut emissions and boost the economy in our [latest blog post](#) by Membership Coordinator Rachel Gass.



NEW: Energy Co-op Lawn Signs!

You asked, we listened!

Several members said they wanted a lawn sign to display their commitment to clean energy with The Energy Co-op, so we made some!

Supplies are limited--be one of the first 25 members to reply to get your free sign!



Want a lawn sign?

Yes, put me on the list for a free lawn sign!

No, I don't want a lawn sign

What We're Reading

[New financing is available for Philadelphia homeowners seeking to install rooftop solar](#)

Susan Phillips, *WHYY*

[PJM's capacity costs hit record as grid falls short on supply](#)

Jeff St. John, *Canary Media*

[Is data center flexibility a 'regulatory fiction'?](#)

Maeve Allsup, *Latitude Media*

[Twenty years into fracking, Pennsylvania has yet to reckon with its radioactive waste](#)

Kiley Bense and Peter Aldhous, *Inside Climate News*

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