

June 2026

# THE CURRENT



*Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond*



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## **2026 Annual Member Meeting Next Tuesday!**

**Tuesday June 23, 5:30pm. The Capital Grille.** You are cordially invited to our [2026 Annual Member Meeting](#)! Join us as we celebrate our community, discuss the future of our cooperative, and hear from two special guest speakers: [Susan Phillips](#), Senior

Vote & RSVP

And remember to vote! As a member-owner of The Energy Co-op, **your vote is one of the most important ways to help shape the future of our cooperative.** Voting only takes a few minutes and ensures your voice is represented in decisions that guide our organization.

Please visit the [event page](#) to view audited financials, Energy Co-op bylaws, and meeting minutes from the 2025 AMM.

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## Clean Energy is for Everyone

At The Energy Co-op, we believe no one should have to choose between staying cool in summer and keeping the lights on. Access to safe, affordable, and reliable energy is essential to health, safety, and quality of life, and should be treated as a basic right for every community.

Energy justice is a key component of sustainability, and means ensuring that all communities, regardless of income, zip code, or background, have fair access to affordable, reliable, and clean energy solutions, and a meaningful voice in shaping the energy systems that affect them. **That's why this year's AMM theme is [Powering Independence](#).** We'll be spotlighting the work of community leaders who are helping bring these issues to light, and sharing resources that keep us informed about the challenges and opportunities facing the communities that need support most.

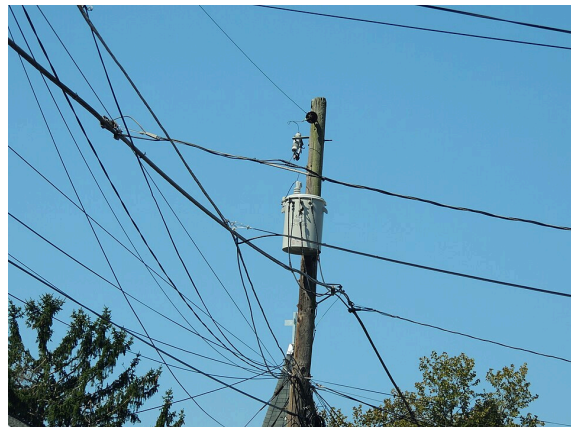
As we continue building a sustainable future, it is important that the benefits of clean energy reach everyone, especially communities that have historically faced the greatest environmental and economic burdens. Through innovation, community investment, and equitable access, we can create healthier neighborhoods and power a more resilient future for all. ***Clean energy is for everyone!***

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## Blog Post: Utility Profits Partially to Blame for Rising Customer Bills

**Have you been wondering why electricity bills are rising across Pennsylvania?** Energy prices often get the blame, but another major factor gets far less attention: [utility profits](#).

Learn about the hidden drivers of your utility bills and which reforms can make bills more affordable in our [newest blog post](#) by Membership Coordinator Rachel Gass.



# Renewable Energy Classroom: 24/7 Renewables Could Happen Sooner Than Expected

Figure 2 Firm LCOE trajectory for solar PV and BESS at 95% reliability, 2020-2035

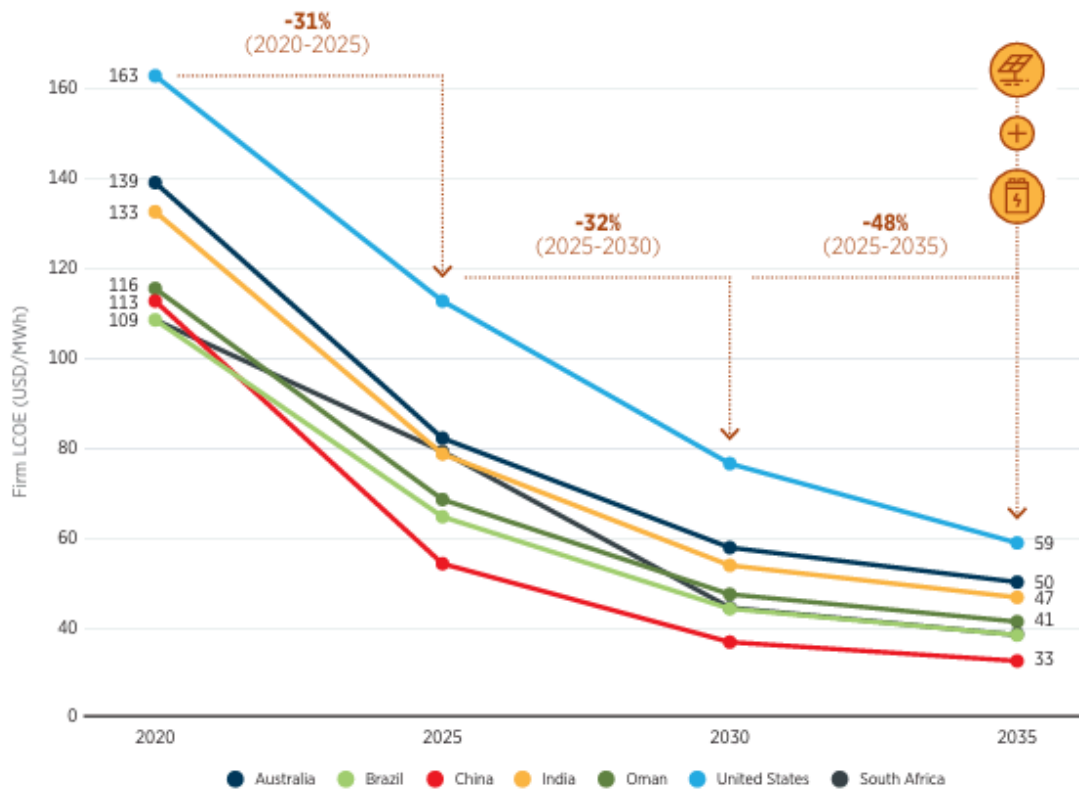


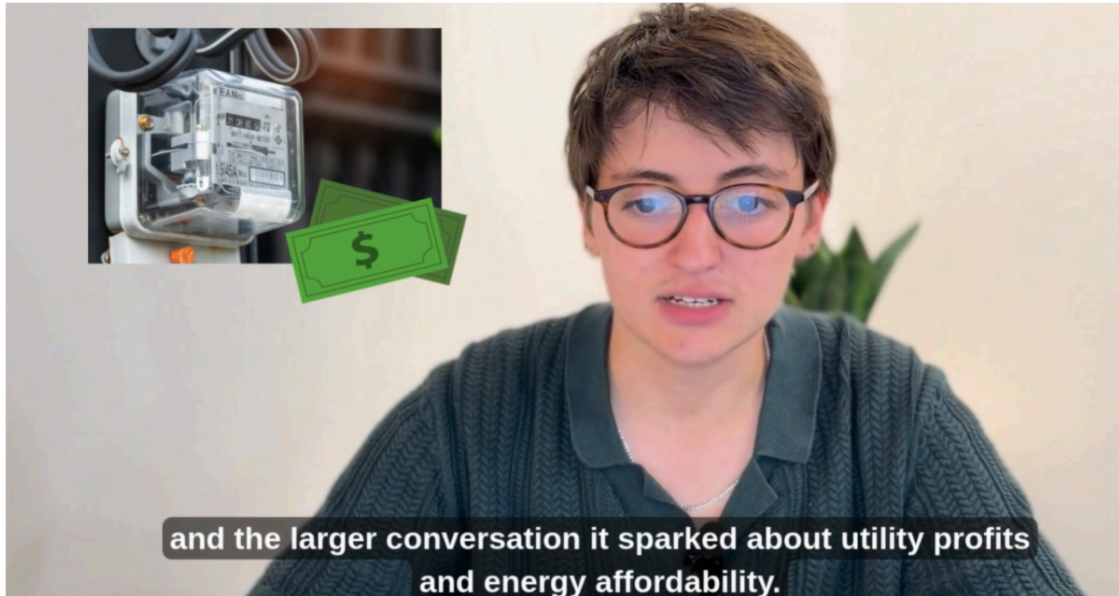
Image Source: International Renewable Energy Agency

A new kind of clean energy megaproject could make around-the-clock renewable energy a reality sooner than many expected. [According to a recent report](#) by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), large-scale combinations of solar, wind, and lithium-ion battery storage can already deliver “firm power” at costs competitive with new gas-fired plants in many locations, including some parts of the United States.

The report analyzed 252 solar projects that came online in 2024 and found that many could be strengthened with additional solar capacity and battery storage to provide electricity for less than the \$100/MWh benchmark associated with new gas-fired plants. Nearly all could beat that cost with firm, clean power 90% of the time. Even at a 99% reliability threshold, almost half remained cost competitive, with the lowest-cost projects reaching just \$46/MWh.

Intermittency is considered one of the biggest obstacles to a fully renewable grid. Wind and solar can generate electricity cheaper than fuel-burning sources, but presently, grid operators must pay extra for fossil fuel energy to fill the gaps between clean energy production and demand. IRENA’s study shows that pairing renewable generation with existing battery storage can close reliability gaps, delivering clean affordable energy 24 hours a day.

## In the News: PECO Rate Hike Case Sparks Outrage over Utility Profits



**Did you hear that PECO withdrew a proposed \$429 million rate hike?** Learn about the pushback the case received and what the unprecedented reversal shows about utility accountability in our latest [In The News](#) video.

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### Summer Fridays

Starting Friday, May 29 through Friday, September 4, The Energy Co-op will be observing Summer Fridays. To give our staff more time to enjoy the summer season, our office will close early at 3:00pm every Friday. Regular office hours will resume Mondays at 9:00am.

Please plan accordingly for any assistance you may need during this time. Thank you for your understanding, and we hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer!

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### What We're Reading

[A Philly lawmaker's bill would rein in utility profits: 'The entire system is out of whack'](#)

Susan Phillips, *WHYY*

[Many Americans want stronger utility oversight](#)

Brian Martucci, *Utility Dive*

[Philadelphia Gas Commission rejects PGW's expanded Port Richmond LNG plant until further study](#)

Susan Phillips, *WHYY*

[Trump administration abandons fight against wind energy as clean energy output surges](#)



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