

March 2025

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



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Women in Energy

This Women's History Month, we are celebrating the achievements of women across all industries, with an emphasis on the critical role women play in the energy sector. Representation matters, and from women-owned and operated commercial entities to trailblazing leaders driving change, it is vital that women in energy are recognized for their contributions and leadership. At The Energy Co-op, we are proud to have a dynamic team, with women and gender diverse individuals making up a significant portion of our staff.



As we highlight these remarkable women, it is important to consider how we can support and celebrate them not only this month, but every day. Whether through mentorship, advocacy, or investing in women-led businesses, there are numerous ways to champion women's voices and ensure they continue to thrive in this dynamic industry.

Let's unite this month to honor and empower women in energy.

In the News: Episode 6- Corporate Sustainability

Check out our latest In the News episode! In our sixth episode, we examined the status of corporate sustainability initiatives and how they have been affected by the current federal administration.



Air Quality and Environmental Justice in Philadelphia

By Lilly Price

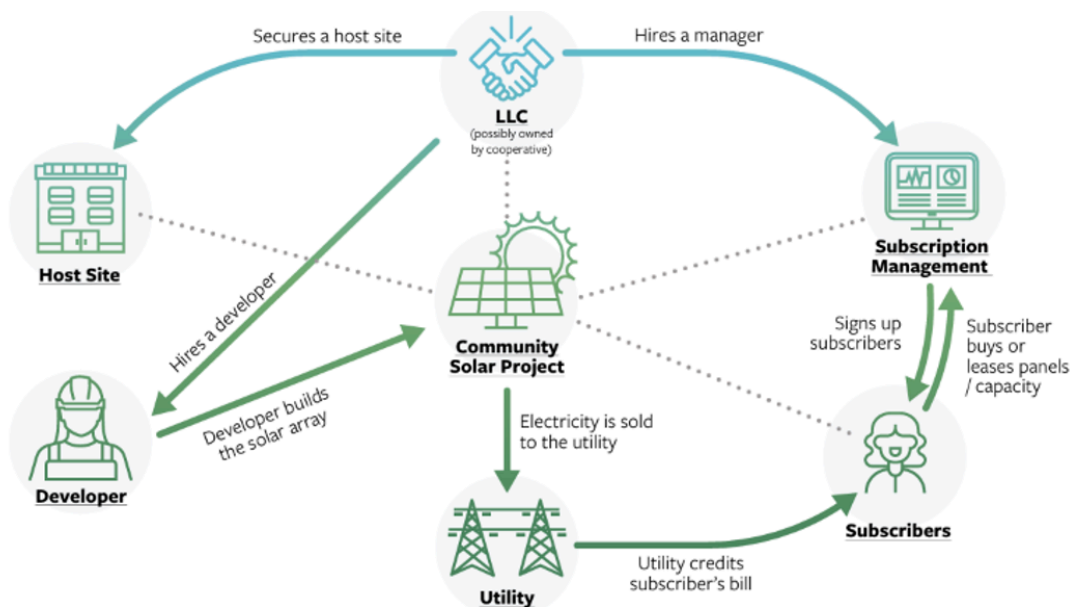
This blog post will be part of a series exploring current events in environmental justice in the Greater Philadelphia area.

For many consumers, a key factor in choosing the right energy sources is their impact on nearby communities. In Philadelphia, a historic industrial hub, the public health challenges tied to fossil fuel production have shaped the city's landscape and fueled a strong tradition of community advocacy.

The site of the former Philadelphia Energy Solutions (PES) refinery exemplifies both phenomena. The site occupies a tract of land larger than Central Park, adjacent to predominantly Black and working-class neighborhoods in South and Southwest Philadelphia. The plant began operations during the Civil War and once processed one-third of all U.S. petroleum exports. It operated as a refinery until 2019 when an explosion released 5,000 lbs. of a particularly lethal industrial chemical called hydrofluoric acid into the air. This incident bankrupted PES Holdings and served as something of a wake-up call for Philadelphia, highlighting the long-term and devastating impacts of fossil fuel production that marginalized communities have endured here and fought against for decades...

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

Renewable Energy Classroom: Community Solar



Community solar represents a critical yet underutilized resource in the clean energy transition. Despite its potential to deliver substantial energy savings to consumers and generate millions in annual economic benefits, community solar remains unviable in Pennsylvania. Lawmakers must take action to enact policies supporting the development of community solar to reduce energy costs for consumers, foster local economic growth, and advance a sustainable energy future.

What is Community Solar?

The US Department of Energy (DOE) defines community solar as "any solar project or purchasing program, within a geographic area, in which the benefits flow to multiple customers such as individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and other groups." Community solar democratizes the energy grid by enabling individuals to collectively invest in

solar energy, making it accessible for renters and those unable to afford the high upfront costs of installing a solar array.

Community solar arrays typically operate at a nameplate capacity of 5MW and below and can serve up to 1,000 households. Because of their relatively small size, arrays can be built where utility-scale solar cannot. Accordingly, common sites for community solar arrays include brownfields, public or donated land, rooftops, or low- and moderate-income (LMI) neighborhoods, where residents can economically benefit the most.

Community solar is a critical resource for nearly half of Philadelphians and 50% of households and businesses nationwide who cannot host their own solar arrays because they rent or have unideal rooftop conditions. For these households, community solar is the only way to directly participate in solar generation and access the environmental and economic benefits of local, clean energy.

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

Green Philly "Sustainability in Motion" Event

On March 18, Green Philly will be hosting "Sustainability in Motion", a free, interactive event giving you the chance to collaborate with like-minded individuals and take a dive deep into local issues, from waste reduction to climate change. Green Philly is bringing together sustainability leaders and local experts, to facilitate thoughtful discussions around solutions focused on policy, business, and communities that impact our everyday lives.

Learn more and reserve tickets [here](#)!

Upcoming Event: Market Update/Town Hall

Keep an eye out for more details on our upcoming Market Update/Town Hall, where members of The Energy Co-op team will provide key insights into the current state of the energy market, what to expect in the coming months, and answer any questions you may have. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available so stay tuned!

What We're Reading

[Trump's tariffs on Canada could make US power bills even pricier](#)

By Laila Kearney, *Reuters*

[Trump's tariffs could raise onshore wind turbine costs by 7%, slow development: WoodMac](#)

By Emma Penrod, *Utility Dive*

[How the global solar industry is making strides in gender equality](#)

By Claire Jenns, *Power Technology*

[Robie Halip on Indigenous leadership in renewable energy transition](#)



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