

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



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Energy Efficiency

Summer is right around the corner! In preparation for warmer weather, we're sharing energy efficiency tips to help you save energy and keep your bills low:

- *Go for the grill!* Cooking with the oven can raise the temperature indoors, making your cooling system work extra hard. Consider cooking with a toaster oven, air fryer, or grill instead, and save money on cooling costs.
- *Evaluate your appliances!* When doing your summer home upgrades, be on the lookout for the ENERGY STAR label on new appliances and apply for a tax credit or rebate for reducing your emissions.
- *Weatherize your home!* Go for simple switches like installing weather strips, replacing old lightbulbs, or purchasing a programmable thermostat. Or, choose a

[home energy audit](#) and apply the \$500 cost to home upgrades totaling at least \$1,000! Stay safe: make sure substantial upgrades are done by a professional.

ICYMI: Earth Month Recap

This Earth Month, we highlighted change happening within our own community to inspire us about the present and future of clean energy and climate topics impacting energy justice. Let's keep this momentum going and continue to build demand for clean energy in Pennsylvania in 2025 and beyond. In case you missed it, here's a recap:

- **Public Sector:** Check out our [timeline of key renewable energy and climate developments in Pennsylvania](#) to see how, even while climate progress lags on the federal level, meaningful change is still being made locally and state-wide—and find a cause you want to advocate for!
- **Community Organizations:** Watch our [three-part interview series](#) with sustainability professionals at PennEnvironment, Citizens' Climate Lobby, and Earthjustice to learn how other nonprofits are leveraging the power of community in the fight against climate change.
- **Private Sector:** Read our [blog about the latest advancements in clean energy](#) to learn how innovators across the globe are working to make clean energy more efficient, affordable, and widespread.

Renewable Energy Classroom: Agrisolar

As the price of renewables falls and water becomes scarcer, agrisolar has become an increasingly attractive form of land use for farmers. By installing solar panels on fallowed acreage, California farmers have increased their yearly revenue by an average of \$124,00 per hectare while saving enough water to support 27 million people and generating enough electricity to power 500,000 households annually.



To continue growing food, some farmers have planted sun-sensitive crops under the panels, whose shade limits evaporation and reduces the need for irrigation. The damp soil also cools the panels, increasing their efficiency. In some cases, farmers graze livestock among the panels, and their droppings naturally fertilize the soil to increase plant growth and support native pollinators. After the panels' 25-to-30-year lifespan, farmers who revert the land to primarily agricultural use find the soil refreshed with nutrients for another growing cycle.

To learn more about the exciting possibilities that agrisolar can provide for a collective food-energy landscape, check out [this article](#) on *Canary Media*.

Upcoming Events!

Philadelphia Office of Sustainability Webinar

Join us next **Tuesday, May 13, 2025 from 12pm-1pm** for a webinar with representatives of OOS about their latest greenhouse gas emissions report, and learn how individuals and businesses can contribute to energy justice in Philadelphia. [Register here!](#)

2nd Annual EcoFair

Visit The Energy Co-op table and check out other sustainability minded organizations at the 2nd Annual EcoFair sponsored by [Green Philly!](#) The event will take place at **Cherry Street Pier on May 17th from 12-6 pm**. Learn more about the event on [Instagram](#).

Energy Efficiency Series

Join us **at noon on May 28th** for the launch of our multi-part energy-efficiency series with the [Energy Coordinating Agency!](#) The first event will be a webinar explaining the home energy audit program for members, followed by an in-person DIY workshop on energy efficiency, and a visit to the ECA training facility. Stay tuned for more details!

What We're Reading:

[US solar, battery manufacturing to expand through 2027 despite uncertainty](#)
Brian Martucci, *Utility Dive*

[States sue Trump administration over halt on wind energy development](#)
Diana DiGangi, *Utility Dive*

[Need help with heat? You may be left in the cold](#)
Arianna Skibell, *Politico*

[Trump proposes slashing DOE budget by \\$19.3B](#)
Diana DiGangi, *Utility Dive*



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