

September 2025

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



In This Month's Newsletter:

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Energy Efficiency for Fall

Heating season is upon us! Save money on your energy bills this fall by signing up for an [ECA Home Energy Audit](#)! The full cost of the comprehensive audit can be applied to upgrades and repairs costing at least \$1,000 and can **save you up to 60% in energy bills annually!**

On the fence? See what our member Linda, who **reduced her natural gas usage by 18%** as a result of her audit, had to say!

"The work was performed by well-trained professionals who were respectful and friendly. They educated us about the energy-saving practices and went above and beyond in providing high-quality work. We are very pleased with the results that have been achieved!"

The Energy Co-op's Referral Program

We're inviting our members to participate in our Member Referral Program, a community-powered effort to grow our clean energy cooperative and expand renewable energy in Pennsylvania.

As a special offer, from now through November 30, refer your friends and neighbors to The Energy Co-op, and **you'll both get \$25 plus the chance to earn free tickets to the 2026 PHS Flower Show!**

Every referral is like:



Planting 3.6 acres of trees!



Driving 9,194 fewer miles!



Recycling 307 bags of waste!

Source: EPA

Here's how it works:

- **Refer new members to enroll in one of our clean energy programs.** Be sure they write your name in the referring member field on their [enrollment form](#).
- You and each new member you refer will receive a **\$25 bill credit** when they stay enrolled for 60 days. Heating oil and PGW members will receive a \$25 gift card for each referral.
- The member with the **most referrals by November 30, 2025** will win **two tickets to the 2026 PHS Flower Show!** (Don't worry, each referral will still result in a bill credit after November 30 per our Referral Program!)

Note: You must have at least five successful referrals to qualify for the grand prize. The winner will be selected on January 31, 2026 and announced the week of February 2.

Renewable Energy Classroom: Sand Batteries Provide a Huge Boost to Energy Storage Systems

A new technology is emerging as a way to cleanly store renewable energy and balance the grid: sand batteries. The long-duration energy storage system [offers a solution to renewables' intermittency](#) by storing excess energy in times of high supply and releasing it as heat during times of high demand, all without any harmful byproducts.

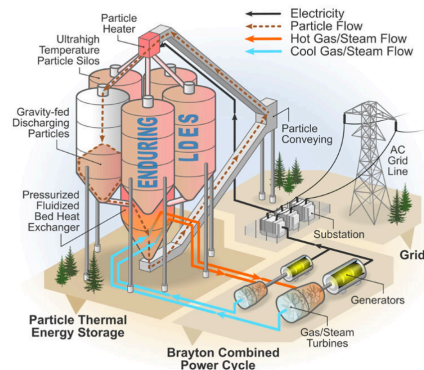


Image Source: NREL

The batteries work by using surplus renewable electricity to heat sand and discharging hot air to generate steam or power turbines for centralized heating systems or industrial

applications.

Sand offers a cleaner and cheaper alternative to lithium batteries, which demand a large physical and environmental footprint but can only cope with limited amounts of excess power. In contrast, sand provides larger-scale, longer-duration, and lower-cost storage, since it can withstand multiple heating and cooling cycles and can be sited anywhere, including retired coal- and gas-fired power plants.

Two sand batteries have already been [commercially deployed in Finland](#), and another is [undergoing demonstration in a U.S. Department of Energy-backed initiative](#) in Colorado. Scaled nationwide, the batteries could provide critical grid stabilization and storage services to support renewable buildout, navigate extreme weather events, decarbonize industrial processes, and achieve a fully reliable clean energy grid.

Blog Post: PJM Capacity Update

You've probably heard that energy prices are projected to rise next year, largely due to the most recent PJM capacity market auction. Learn about why and how this will impact energy consumers, as well as what Pennsylvania and The Energy Co-op are doing to help, in our latest blog post update by Energy Programs Director Nora Fulvio.

[Check it out!](#)

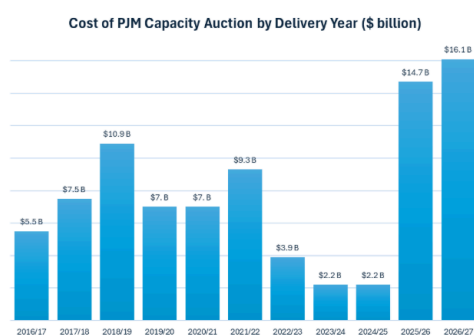


Image Source: Nora Fulvio

Upcoming Events!

Member Happy Hour

You asked, we listened! Join us for a [Member Happy Hour](#) on **September 23, 2025 at 5:15pm at Harper's Garden!** Come chat with fellow members and The Energy Co-op staff while enjoying complimentary food and drinks.

Planning to attend? Let us know by replying to this email so we can reserve enough tables. Don't worry, **walk-ins are always welcome!** We hope to see you there!

Mt. Airy Village Fair

Spend your Sunday in Mt. Airy with The Energy Co-op and other sustainable organizations and enjoy great food, live music, and family-friendly fun at the [Mt. Airy Village Fair!](#) The event will be held on **September 21 from 11am-4pm at Greene St and Carpenter Ln.**

Stop by our booth to say hello to our staff and learn more about The Energy Co-op!

What We're Reading

[How Can I Get Clean Energy Tax Breaks Before They Vanish?](#)

Brad Plumer, *NYT Climate*

[A major solar installer in Philly is ceasing most operations amid federal tax credit rollbacks](#)

Sophia Schmidt, *WHYY*

[As Trump Pushes Liquefied Natural Gas Exports, Residents in Pennsylvania Towns Push Back to Stop a Proposed LNG Terminal](#)

Nina Sablan, *Inside Climate News*

[Utilities Want to Regain the Ability to Build Power Plants in PJM. Consumer Advocates Say That's Probably a Bad Idea](#)

Dan Gearino, *Inside Climate News*



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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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