

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS  
1979-2009

ENERGY COOPERATIVE

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

A newsletter of The Energy Cooperative, your member-owned, nonprofit energy supplier since 1979.

## Our Mission

To provide energy cost savings, education and advocacy on behalf of our members.

To promote the efficient use of energy and the use of renewable energy.

To support cooperative concepts and participate in the cooperative movement.

## About Us

Our members save money and use renewable energy. As a nonprofit cooperative, we are owned and controlled by the consumers who use our services in Southeastern PA. For over 30 years we have forged the relationships and expertise to bring our members:

**Heating Oil:** Group buying power saves you money without sacrificing quality or service. As a member, you can choose from an array of options, including renewable bioheating oil.

**Electricity:** EcoChoice100 is 100% renewable, real, and local electricity available to members in PECO's service territory.

**Biodiesel:** Fleets benefit from industry-leading expertise coupled with attentive member service and attractive pricing options on cleaner-burning, renewable biodiesel blend deliveries.

## The Staff

### Jossi Fritz-Mauer

Director of Biodiesel Distribution

### Shoshanna Grunwald

Member Services Associate

### Angela Kassahun

Director of Heating Oil

### Dan O'Toole

Administrative Assistant

### John Wieme

Biofuels and Renewables Associate

## Winter 2009-2010



## Winter Energy Saving Tips

from the US Department of Energy

[www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)

This winter, save money and stay warm. Keep your energy bill and your pollution output low this winter by taking a whole-house approach to heating.

- Properly maintain and clean heating equipment.
- Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable when home.
- Replace furnace filters regularly.
- Weatherize your home—caulk and weatherstrip any doors and windows that leak air.
- By resetting your programmable thermostat from 72 degrees to 65 degrees for eight hours a day (for instance, while no one is home or while everyone is tucked in bed) you can cut your heating bill by up to 10 percent.
- During the heating season, keep the draperies and shades on your south facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter your home and closed at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.
- Check the insulation in your attic, ceilings, exterior and basement walls, floors, and crawl spaces to see if it meets the levels recommended for your area.

## Inside this issue:

Two New School Districts Getting Biodiesel	2
The 2010 B2 Mandate	2
Bioheating Oil Comes to Philadelphia County	3
It's All Pennsylvanian	3
Looking Back on 2009	4
Thank You Stephen and Dennis!	5

1528 Walnut Street, Suite 2100, Philadelphia, PA 19102 [www.TheEnergy.Coop](http://www.TheEnergy.Coop)

(p) 215 413 2122 (f) 215 413 2140 (e) [ecapstaff@TheEnergy.Coop](mailto:ecapstaff@TheEnergy.Coop)

## Two New School Districts Getting Biodiesel Through The Co-op

At the start of the 2009-10 school year, The Energy Cooperative's Biodiesel Distribution program found itself in a familiar place: helping local school districts fulfill their commitment to buying biodiesel blends. Area school districts have been drawn to our initiatives, attracted in part by the idea of buying biodiesel from a nonprofit cooperative and moreover by our expertise on the state's Alternative Fuels Incentive Grants (AFIG) which cover the cost of the switch to this domestic, environmentally-friendlier fuel. This year, we are supplying more biodiesel to more fleets than ever before.



The two new converts to biodiesel this year are Owen J. Roberts and Tredyffrin-Easttown School District, both located in Chester County. **Owen J. Roberts** made the switch to B20 for their 94-vehicle fleet of school buses that serves 6000 students in seven public schools and 69 private schools. With a district encompassing seven townships and

stretching 110 square miles, cleaning up the air was a natural extension of Owen J. Roberts' commitment to being a good steward of the land. "We wanted greener fuels for the Owen J. Roberts schools," says Transportation Coordinator Gail Ann Gola. "The big thing for us is that because of the infrastructure of so many parks and recreation spaces, we will be able to protect and enhance that environment through our use of biodiesel. That's the key here: we're advocates of clean, greener fuels so we can protect our open spaces and park infrastructure."

***"I am proud to say that our school district has joined the fight to promote cleaner air and reduce emissions that other diesel fuels release into the atmosphere."***

### Biodiesel is...

- **Vegetable oil or animal fat-based diesel fuel**
- **Biodegradable and less toxic than table salt**
- **Used in any diesel engine or oil burner with little to no modifications required**
- **Not all biodiesel is created equal!**  
**The Co-op's goal is to offer waste oil-derived biodiesel sourced, produced, distributed, and used right here in Southeastern PA**

And that's not just lip service. Owen J. Robert's school buses average about 8150 miles just in day-to-day use, equaling nearly 1.5 million miles per year. The Energy Cooperative's Biodiesel Distribution program will help Owen J. Roberts reduce its annual use of petroleum by thousands of gallons.

The switch to biodiesel blends was also a logical and easy transition for the 73 school buses of the **Tredyffrin-Easttown** School District. Toni Pulcini, Supervisor of Transportation, remarked, "I am proud to say that our school district has joined the fight to promote cleaner air and reduce emissions that other diesel fuels release into the atmosphere. Along with our bus contractor, George Krapf Jr. and Sons, and the help of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, we are looking to make a difference not only in the way our students, but the community as a whole, breathes." With their switch to biodiesel, over 6000 students in 58 schools and countless citizens in two districts will notice drastic reductions in the emissions of carcinogens and toxic diesel exhaust.

Between these two school districts alone, about 2.5 million vehicle miles will be biodiesel-powered over this coming school year. We're grateful to these districts for showing the initiative and leadership to make the transition to biodiesel. Talk to your township or school district today about making the switch, and contact our office to learn more about how the Co-op can help.



## Bioheating Oil Comes to Philadelphia County



Residents in the Delaware Valley can breathe a little easier now that The Energy Cooperative has added Cardinal USA Fuel Oil to our list of heating oil suppliers. Cardinal is delivering a B5 blend of bioheating oil (5% biodiesel, 95% conventional heating oil) to all of Philadelphia and Delaware Counties, and parts of Montgomery and Chester

Counties, giving many of our members who haven't previously had access to bioheating oil the ability to save money *and* go green.

Ed McCulley, Controller at Cardinal USA Fuel Oil, touched on some the reasons he feels people will be excited once they learn that bioheating oil is an option in their area, one of which is that it supports our local economy. "It's a product that's made right here in the Pennsylvania, not shipped from overseas, which is great for reducing our reliance on foreign petroleum."

In terms of environmental stewardship, bioheating oil decreases unhealthy air emissions, including particulates that contribute to asthma. In fact, according to the National Biodiesel Board, if every household that uses heating oil switched to a B5 blend, that would reduce our petroleum consumption by 500 million gallons a year, which is equivalent to removing 700,000 cars from America's roads.

This agreement marks the first time a heating oil company is buying the biodiesel portion of their bioheating oil from the Energy Cooperative's Biodiesel Distribution Program, which is committed to purchasing and distributing biodiesel produced from the most sustainable and local feedstocks available. Now more members can save money while supporting our local economy and the environment— a major milestone for the Co-op and for our members.

### Cardinal USA Fuel Oil

- Will-Call or Automatic Delivery
- Minimum delivery of 125 gallons on will-call deliveries
- Discount on service contracts and emergency service
- Accepts all major credit cards, COD, standard billing, budget billing and LIHEAP payments
- Delivering to Philadelphia and Delaware Counties, plus parts of Montgomery and Chester

Visit [www.TheEnergy.Coop](http://www.TheEnergy.Coop) for more details



*Our main source of renewable electricity: the certified, low-impact facility of the Raystown Hydroelectric Project, Juniata River, Huntingdon County, PA (photo courtesy of [www.lowimpacthydro.org](http://www.lowimpacthydro.org))*

## It's All Pennsylvanian

According to LocalEnergy.org, most of the money spent on electricity in Philadelphia, like in many other cities in the US, leaves our community. PECO, a subsidiary of the Chicago-based Exelon Corporation, remains the only distributor available to local consumers; however, electric generation deregulation has enabled consumers to choose the source of their electricity. And fortunately for PECO customers, there is a local energy supplier that serves local energy needs without draining dollars from the local economy.

By purchasing their power through The Energy Cooperative's 100% renewable electricity program, EcoChoice100, members are choosing to buy electricity that is being produced right now, rather than simply buying renewable energy credits (RECs) towards future projects. EcoChoice100 comes from a low-impact hydroelectric plant in Central PA (left), already established wind farms, and even the solar panels on members' rooftops.

Members purchasing electricity through The Energy Cooperative are also supporting the local economy. According to the Sustainable Business Network of Philadelphia, buying locally creates more good jobs, helps the environment, and makes more efficient use of taxes/public services. Moreover, 45% of the money spent locally goes back into the community, compared to only 15% of the money spent at non-local entities.



1528 Walnut Street, Suite 2100, Philadelphia, PA 19102 [www.TheEnergy.Coop](http://www.TheEnergy.Coop)

(p) 215 413 2122 (f) 215 413 2140 (e) [ecapstaff@TheEnergy.Coop](mailto:ecapstaff@TheEnergy.Coop)



## Looking back on 2009

What a year!

In 2009, The Energy Cooperative:

- Grew our membership to over **5600** households and businesses in Southeastern PA!
- Bid farewell to a long-time employee and two long-time board members
- Welcomed three new staff members
- Moved from 1218 Chestnut St to 1528 Walnut St
- Changed our membership dues structure and renewal schedule
- Produced a strategic plan for 2010-2011
- Revamped our website
- Added Cardinal USA Fuel Oil to our list of heating oil suppliers
- Began offering bioheating oil in Philadelphia County
- Got new school districts for the Biodiesel Distribution Program
- Wished BlackGold Biofuels (formerly Philadelphia Fry-o-Diesel) well as it officially set off on its own
- Re-elected the incumbent Board of Directors

Here's to 2010 being another great year!

## The 2010 B2 Mandate

Beginning in May 2010, there will be a change in the air – literally. Pennsylvania will require each gallon of diesel fuel sold to have 2% cleaner-burning biodiesel in it, which will provide a boost to the state's economy *and* air quality with little to no impact on the price at the pump. Act 78, passed in July 2008, mandated a blend of B2 (2% biodiesel, 98% diesel fuel) once in-state biodiesel production topped 40 million gallons per year. That threshold was reached in the Fall of 2008 and the infrastructure is now being put in place.

As in-state biodiesel production continues to ramp up, the percentage of biodiesel at the pump will also climb—all the way to 20%. Pennsylvania is one of only a handful of states that has taken the lead in adopting mandated biodiesel legislation.

Although the mandate only applies to diesel fuel sold at the pump, Co-op members who are already using #2 home heating oil may benefit as well. The expansion of biodiesel-capable infrastructure throughout Pennsylvania will increase the availability of biodiesel.

As a result, we expect to increase our ability to provide cost-competitive bioheating oil blends up to B20 to more members in more places. If you are already using bioheating oil offered through one of The Energy Cooperative's suppliers, you might see your cost go down. Our goal is to provide all of our members with the access to this premium quality fuel without having to pay a price premium!

For members who get bulk biodiesel blend deliveries delivered by The Energy Cooperative, the blends you have been getting through us already meet and exceed the requirement for biodiesel blends. As biodiesel usage becomes more widespread, we will continue to work to bring down the price while ensuring the same access to quality, sustainable biodiesel.

## Thank you Stephen and Dennis!

This Fall saw the retirement of two long-time Board members, Stephen Bartlett and Dennis Winters.

Stephen, who retired from the City Planning Commission in 2001 where he acted as Senior Transportation Planner, was a past president and the longest serving Board member in the history of The Energy Cooperative, having joined us in 1989. Dennis joined the Board in September 2001 and continues in various capacities a number of other nonprofits including the Sierra Club and the Green Woods Charter School.

Both represented residential consumers of the Co-op, with Stephen in the role of Board Vice President and Dennis jointly acting as Treasurer and Secretary. On behalf of the thousands of Co-op members they represented for so many years, we offer a heartfelt thanks Stephen and Dennis for their years of commitment to The Energy Cooperative!

## 2009 Annual Membership Meeting

The 2009 Annual Membership Meeting was held on November 16 from 3:00 - 5:00 pm at the Co-op's office. The incumbent Board of Directors was re-elected by the attending members and in absentia ballots. Thanks to all who participated!

