

# THE CURRENT



*Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond*



## Our Changing World

We begin by sending our most sincere wishes to all our members that this Earth Month newsletter finds you safe, healthy, and able to adapt to the terrible changes our planet has experienced over the last few weeks due to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

As you know, your cooperative's staff continues to remotely operate its business. Each day, we speak to each other, to many of you, to prospective members, to our strategic partners, and to the vendors who comprise our cooperative community.

Like you, we are concerned about what the future holds. Not only for our own safety and health and that of those whom we love and for whom we care. But also, for the dreadful effects this outbreak has had and will continue to have on the many families and households that have suffered illness or worse, job loss, wage cuts, and other major disruptions in their lives.

Like you, we sometimes feel helpless in the face of these challenges.

But what calms us each day is this thought—although we are not fortunate enough to be counted among those whose expertise permits them to work at mitigating and perhaps one day eliminating the terrible impacts of COVID-19,

we are lucky enough to be able to continue working at mitigating and perhaps one day eliminating the terrible environmental changes to our world caused by inefficient energy use, carbon emissions, and destructive drilling and fracking operations.

So, we are thankful for that as we adapt and prepare to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day this month with informative member Webinars and introduction of a fun, new member contest. And we are thankful for you, our members, whose support makes our work possible.

## **It's Earth Month!**

In honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, The Energy Co-op and its partners—Weavers Way Food Co-op, the Clean Air Council, and the Philadelphia Energy Authority—are celebrating Earth Month with three FREE educational Webinars for our members and our community! Keep reading for times, dates, and descriptions of the Webinars and instructions for registration:

### **4/22/2020 – *The Power of Cooperatives in Renewable Energy Webinar, presented by The Energy Co-op, 6:30pm***

The Energy Co-op was founded by Weavers Way in 1979, during the height of the Oil Crisis, to help Philadelphians heat their homes *affordably* by purchasing as a group. In 1998, it became clear that there was a new energy crisis to address, and so we became the first supplier of renewable electricity in Pennsylvania. Join Weavers Way members this Earth Day for a free Webinar featuring The Energy Co-op's Ronald Fisher and Meryl Sands. Ron. and Meryl will bring new insight about the energy industry, renewable energy (including renewable natural gas), and how the cooperative model allows for innovation that benefits our members and our community. You'll also learn about what you can do to get involved! Join us—Everyone is welcome. And it's FREE. Register [here](#).

### **4/24/2020 – *Commercial Property-Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Webinar, presented by Philadelphia Energy Authority (PEA), 11:00am***

Commercial Property-Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) is a financing structure that allows commercial property owners to borrow money for energy and water efficiency improvements and renewable energy installations through a special assessment. Philadelphia's C-PACE program can help property owners achieve significant savings on their utility bills while reducing their carbon footprint. This Earth Month, the Philadelphia Energy Authority and The Energy Co-op invite you to join a webinar to review the Program Guidelines for the new Philadelphia C-PACE program. This will be a broad overview of program basics including project eligibility. Join us—Everyone is welcome. And it's FREE. Register [here](#).

### **4/27/2020 – *Renewable Natural Gas Webinar, presented by The Energy Co-op and the Clean Air Council, 5:30pm***

Are you concerned about drilling and fracking? In this Earth Month Webinar, the Clean Air Council and The Energy Co-op are joining forces to present an

alternative—Renewable Natural Gas! RNG is a compound comprised primarily of methane that forms naturally from the decomposition of organic waste in landfills and other waste treatment facilities. It's often flared, reducing it to CO<sup>2</sup> and wasting the energy content of its methane component. However, RNG can also be used like conventional natural gas—but without any drilling or fracking. Join us to learn more about Renewable Natural Gas and what you can do to get involved! Everyone is welcome. And it's FREE. Register [here](#).

### **Run for Clean Air!**

The Clean Air Council is offering Energy Co-op members a discount on registration for its Run for Clean Air, which has now been converted to a virtual run beginning April 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Run for Clean Air began in 1981 as Philadelphia's largest Earth Day celebration and is proud to celebrate Earth Day's 50th anniversary. In an effort to keep everyone involved healthy and safe, the Clean Air Council has made the 2020 Run for Clean Air a virtual race only. All registered runners are encouraged to switch their registration to the Virtual Run to continue their celebration of Earth Day and support of the Clean Air Council.

Never run a virtual race? [Here's how it works](#). All virtual runners and walkers will receive a medal and race shirt. And this year, Energy Co-op members are eligible for \$10 off their registration fee using the promo code CooperativeEnergy at checkout. Energy Co-op members who have already signed up with our discount code can donate their registration fee to Clean Air Council or defer their registration to the 2021 Run for Clean Air if they don't want to switch to this year's Virtual Race.

### **Energy Co-op Member Volunteers are Back and Better Than Ever!**

Thank you to everyone who made the time to get lunch or dinner with Ron. and Meryl in February! We really enjoyed hearing from everyone about how they envision working with us to grow The Energy Co-op. Among the ways identified by our member volunteers that members can help are:

- Tell a friend about The Energy Co-op,
- Invite Energy Co-op staff to present a Webinar or, later, speak in-person to your neighborhood association, congregation, or community or social organization about renewable energy in Pennsylvania, and
- Connect us to like-minded organizations that you are involved with to discuss a strategic partnership like those we have with the Clean Air Council and Weavers Way.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had planned more member events this spring. We've had to put that on hold. But look for news soon about virtual Zoom get-togethers in early May for those interested in discussing how we can all work together to grow our sustainable energy community.

**Annual Member Meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup>—Save the**

## Date!

The Energy Co-op's Annual Member Meeting is fast approaching, so mark your calendars! The Energy Co-op is member-owned, which means our members are our bosses. And we're democratic—one member, one vote. No hostile takeovers allowed. Our Annual Member Meeting is when members have the opportunity, not only to hear about our progress in the past year from our staff and Board, but importantly to elect new directors to the Board.

Due to current social gathering restrictions, this year's annual member meeting is now scheduled to take place in the virtual universe. If that changes, you'll be the first to know. For now, the meeting is scheduled to take place from 5:30-7:30pm on June 25, 2020. We look forward to seeing you on Zoom! Details will follow during May 2020.

## The Energy Co-op in The News

[One Man's Trash](#)—Courtney DuChene, *The Philadelphia Citizen*. Discusses our Renewable Natural Gas program.

[Live a Greener Life](#)—Josh Green, *The Philadelphia Citizen*. “11. Go the Clean Energy Route!” recommends switching to renewable electricity supplied by The Energy Co-op.

[Renewable natural gas? Yes, it's a thing, and now Philly residents can get it](#)—Catalina Jaramillo, WHYY. Announces our RNG program in the PGW service territory.

## Recent Energy Co-op Blog Posts

[Buyer Beware! Electricity Slammer Could Happen to You](#)—Learn what slammering is and how you can prevent your electricity service from being changed without your knowledge or consent. By Meryl Sands and Georgia Mae Lively.

[Clean Jobs In Pennsylvania? Growing Fast With More To Come](#)—Pennsylvania's green energy sector is growing, according to a new study on 2019's clean job landscape. By Georgia Mae Lively.

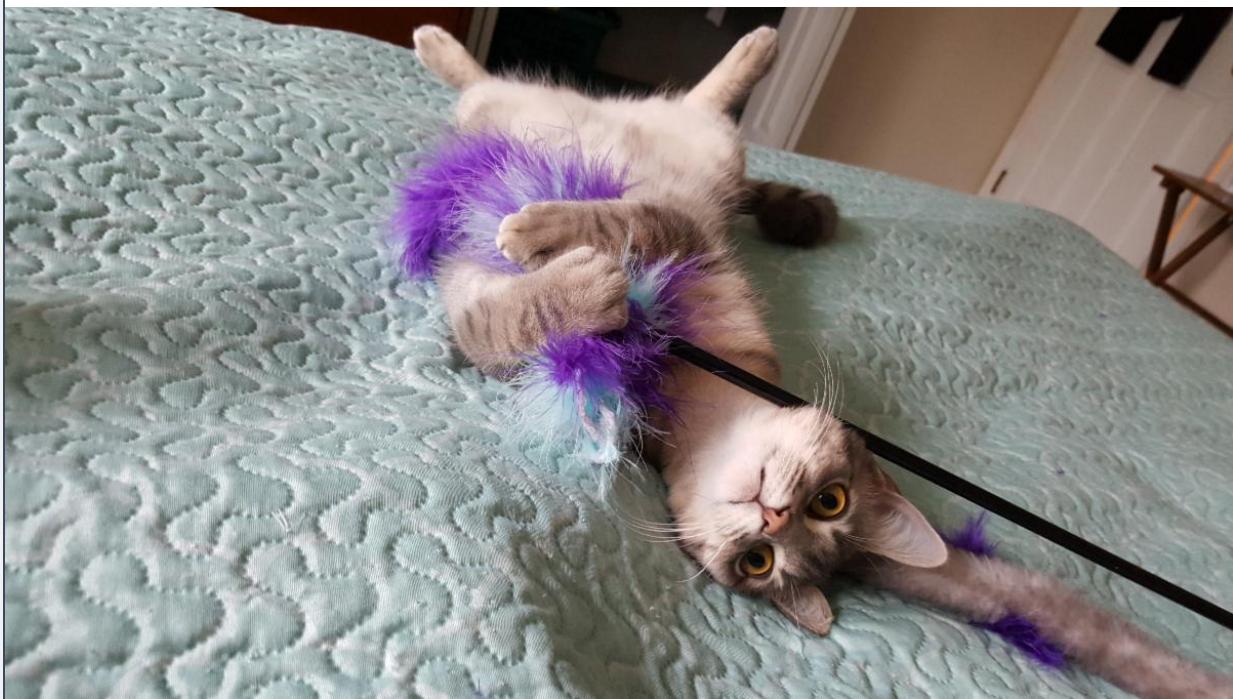
## What We're Reading This Week

[E.P.A., Citing Coronavirus, Drastically Relaxes Rules for Polluters](#)

[Nearly \\$2T stimulus package omits direct renewable sector aid](#)

[Utilities beginning to see the load impacts of COVID-19 as economic shutdown widens](#)

## Introducing: Cats of The Energy Co-op Caption Competition



Now that the staff of The Energy Co-op is doing all our work from the safety of our homes, we are spending a lot more time with our feline friends and, of course, taking even more pictures of them than usual. Many of us feel that being with our pets during this uncertain time is helping us get through our workdays. And we want to share that fun with our members by starting a caption contest for the Cats of The Energy Co-op!

First up, we have Bella, whose owner, Bryan, is our accountant. Submit your caption ideas [here](#) by April 15, 2020! Our unbiased panel of judges will review the entries, select the most amusing caption, and reward the winner with a mention in May's newsletter and a suitable token of their victory. Good luck to all!



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Leading the Energy Evolution

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