

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



You're Invited!

Fellow member,

You are our cooperative.

So, I begin each year by inviting you and all of our other members to join me for either lunch or dinner. In this way, I've been fortunate to meet many members and learn a lot about our cooperative community. I always like to hear your thoughts about The Energy Co-op, and in many cases I and the staff have put member suggestions into action. Our Member Ambassador program initiated last year is just one of them.

This new year is no different—except we'll have to meet virtually through Zoom. (You'll also have to prepare your own lunch or dinner!) But, you'll still have the opportunity to meet other members, hear more about The Energy Co-op and our plans for 2021, ask me questions, and share your ideas about our cooperative, its mission, and its work.

If you're interested in joining me for one of these roundtable events during the next couple of months, please [click here to let me know your schedule preferences](#). I'll get back to you in the next few weeks with a few options.

I look forward to seeing you later this year.

Ronald Fisher
Executive Director

Building our Cooperative Community

The Energy Co-op community is growing! We're waiting for final numbers, but it looks like our renewable energy membership grew by 20% during 2020. Overall, membership grew by about 12%.

So, our staff was busy. We participated in or presented at 40 different events over the course of the year—most virtually, of course—with Member Recruitment Lead Meryl Sands out front for that effort. In addition, we initiated successful strategic partnerships with Weavers Way, Clean Air Council, and the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia. These helped spread the word about your cooperative and its mission.

With all the new members, there was plenty of new work. [Hillary Bedeian](#) joined our staff in August as Office Manager, assisting Operations Director Divya Desai and helping to ensure that we have in place the resources needed to address your needs. And last month, Nora Fulvio and Noah Swistak became our newest staff members. Nora is our new Energy Programs Analyst, working with Energy Program Director Alexandra Kroger, among other things, to identify and develop more cost-effective ways to purchase renewable electricity and renewable natural gas for you while appropriately managing commodity risk. Noah is our new Member Services Lead and is currently focused on developing an exciting new program that we will announce a little later in the year to both upgrade your experience as a member and educate our community about our programs.

Easy, Social, Fun!

Even before the pandemic, we realized we had to do a better job of staying in touch with you. But during this period when we have so little in-person contact with our community, even our family members and friends, it's even more important.

First, on February 11th, we're inaugurating our Member-to-Member Webinar program, an engaging series of talks prepared and presented by Energy Co-op members for Energy Co-op members. Member Ambassador Bob Groves is passionate about the need to address climate change and, next month, he will discuss elements of the proposed Green New Deal and other actions we can all support and take. [Please take a moment to register](#), and we'll see you next month.

Then later in the month, we'll hold the first of our New Member Orientation sessions for, well....for new Energy Co-op members, of course. This year, we'll continue our work to accelerate society's [transition from fossil to renewable sources of energy](#). But this year, we're going to try to make that transition easy, social, and fun. Changing the world is serious business, but that doesn't mean

we can't enjoy ourselves while doing it. The sessions will be co-hosted by Meryl and Noah and will include both important, interesting information for those of you who are new members and some tomfoolery too. Keep an eye out for more details about this fun member orientation event in next month's newsletter.

What We're Reading

[What We Learned From the U.S.'s Bold Plan to Make Solar Cheaper](#)

What worked, and what didn't, in the SunShot Initiative, the Department of Energy's plan to drastically cut the cost of solar power.

Bloomberg

[Solar, Wind 70 Percent of New Power Generation in 2021](#)

A breakdown of expected, newly operational electricity generation this year.

Power Engineering

[Biden Set to Supercharge Clean Energy Push](#)

A look at the Department of Energy and the essential role it is poised to play as the Biden administration looks to leverage clean energy investments.

POLITICO

[Massachusetts to Require All New Cars Sold to Be Electric by 2035](#)

Other plans over the next decade include retrofitting 1 million homes to use electricity for heating instead of gas and oil, cutting commuters' driving miles by 15%, and dramatically increasing offshore wind power generation.

Boston Globe

Coming Events

[Member-to-Member Webinar Series: Bob Groves](#)

Thursday, February 11 @ 6:30pm

Free for Energy Co-op Members

This year, join The Energy Co-op for a series of Member-to-Member webinars, where our members share their expertise on diverse topics with members of our cooperative community.

To kick things off, join Member Ambassador Bob Groves for a one-hour program on the Green New Deal. Bob is zealous about informing folks about the true scale of what is needed to address climate change. Whether it's called a Green New Deal or something else does not really matter, but those proposals, in his view, offer the best description of the various initiatives that are needed if our nation is serious about addressing the realities the whole world is facing.

[Register today, and we'll send you a personalized link to join the webinar on February 11.](#)

Member Orientation Webinar

Tuesday, February 23 @ 5:30pm

Free for Energy Co-op Members

Welcome Energy Co-op members! This webinar will highlight the benefits associated with Energy Co-op membership, and explain how to best take advantage of them. The live presentation will allow for questions and answers from attendees. While new and recently renewed members will find the webinar most helpful, all current Energy Co-op members are welcome to attend.



THE ENERGY CO-OP
Leading the Energy Evolution

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