

OCTOBER 2020

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



Ch-ch-changes!

Fall is taking its time arriving this year. But slowly, during all the rain, leaves are changing to yellow and orange hues even as the energy world becomes more and more green, day after day.

The Energy Co-op is changing too! We recently welcomed new staff member, Hillary Bedeian, as our Office Manager. Hillary, a native Philadelphian, is settling into her new role, learning about our energy programs and cooperative model, and putting her organizational skills to work for our members. She will be working with Operations Director, Divya Desai, to identify and carry out improvements to the ways we work together, both on staff and with the many suppliers who make it possible for us to serve our members each day.

In addition, we posted last week two new staff positions: [Energy Programs Analyst](#) and [Member Services Lead](#). We are very fortunate. Despite everything, our membership has grown over 10%. We have every reason to believe that this trend will continue into 2021 and beyond. As our cooperative grows, we need additional experienced hands to help us understand the complex markets in

which The Energy Co-op operates and to better serve you, our members. As a cooperative, we count on our members for help too. So, please pass along these job postings to those whose experience and interests align with our needs.

Speaking of members who help, Meryl Sands, our Member Recruitment Lead and also an Energy Co-op member, kicked off the first couple of training sessions for our Member Ambassadors this week. It doesn't take a math wizard to calculate how quickly we could grow The Energy Co-op's buying power if each of our 5,000+ members took the time just once a year to recruit a friend or neighbor to one of our energy programs. Our three-module training program is designed to give our members the knowledge needed to understand and to feel comfortable talking about the what, the why, and the how of renewable energy. Plus, as anyone who has attended one of our webinars knows, Meryl is a very engaging and entertaining person to learn from—even in a Zoom meeting.

Finally, starting this week, we put into place a few changes for our members who heat their homes with affordable heating oil delivered by the cooperative's network of reliable vendors. At The Energy Co-op, all of us are committed to advancing the transition of our economy from 20th century fuels to those cleaner sources that are destined to power this century. That said, The Energy Co-op was founded as a heating oil cooperative over 40 years ago and many Philadelphians depend on us to be able to affordably heat their homes in the winter. We believe in the transition to cleaner energy. But we also believe in being loyal to the members who have been loyal to The Energy Co-op.

Member Ambassadors

The first class of Member Ambassadors will graduate in a few weeks, and we are accepting registrations for the next series to begin in early November 2020. Keep an eye out for a message toward the middle of this month with more details. Learn the what, the why, and the how of renewable electricity, Energy Co-op-style, in three easy lessons.

Meanwhile, check out this informative [video](#) produced by our friends at the [Kleinman Center for Energy Policy](#) at the University of Pennsylvania. Thanks again to Member Ambassador Simon Richter for connecting us to his world.

October Events

This month's RNG webinar will take place on October 13th at 5:30 pm. Get the word out to your friends and neighbors. By now, we're pretty sure all of our members know about renewable natural gas. But there are still a lot of Philadelphians who furrow their brows when those three words appear together. This informative 45-minute program, presented at the same time on the second Tuesday of every month, is designed to smooth those creases. Over the past six months, we've had participants from four different continents Zoom in to learn about RNG. But we're looking for more members to join us right here in southeastern Pennsylvania! Folks can [register here](#) to join us on the 13th.

What We're Reading

[Walmart Sets Goal to Become a Regenerative Company](#) by Doug McMillon,
President and CEO, Walmart

[Utilities aren't rewarded for saving money. FERC now has a chance to fix this](#)
by Jigar Shah, President, Generate Capital and Rob Gramlich, Founder and
President, Grid Strategies

[It's Official — Consumer Reports Confirms EV Owners Spend Half As Much On
Maintenance](#) by Steve Hanley, Senior Writer, CleanTechnica.com

Blog Posts

- [Impacts of the EPA Office of Environmental Justice in Philadelphia](#) by
Georgia Mae Lively
- [Come to The Energy Co-op's RNG Webinar!](#) by Meryl Sands
- [How To Shop for Renewable Electricity in Pennsylvania](#) by Ronald Fisher
and Meryl Sands



THE ENERGY CO-OP

Leading the Energy Evolution

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