

AUGUST 2021

# THE CURRENT



*Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond*



**In this month's newsletter -**

- **Power the common areas of your apartment or condo with renewable energy**
- **Learn about how to utilize your membership - August 24**
- **The Energy Co-op staff & Board - reunited!**
- **The Energy Co-op is hiring Member Services Interns**
- **Mark your calendars for Greenfest Philly - September 25**

## **Uncommon Common Area Energy!**

Dear fellow members,

A couple of days ago I took a phone call from someone, who told me that their friend, who just happens to be a member of The Energy Co-op, had suggested reaching out to ask me a question. (I love questions!)

“Can The Energy Co-op provide renewable electricity to my condo building’s common areas? Like the hallways, elevators, lobby – you know, that sort of thing?”

My answer? “Absolutely, we can!”

In fact, The Energy Co-op works with landlords and condo boards all the time to help their buildings become more sustainable.

[Quad Philly](#) is a local management company with small apartment buildings in Center City. This past spring, they decided to join The Energy Co-op's renewable electricity program because they "believe that the transition to renewable energy sources is extremely urgent and critical."

"Our hope," they continued, "is that other people will make a similar choice to purchase clean energy for their homes and businesses."

Here at The Energy Co-op, we couldn't agree more.

So, if you have a business, a rental property, or are a member of a condo association, give me a call. Let's turn those hallway lights on to [100% wind and solar power](#). While we're at it, let's heat your hallways sustainably this winter with [100% renewable natural gas \(RNG\)](#).

Cheers to our renewable energy future!

Meryl

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## [New Member Orientation Webinar August 24](#)

Staff members Meryl Sands and Noah Swistak will present a cheery and engaging review of the benefits available to Energy Co-op members like yourself, along with how to best use all that is available to you. Attendees will learn The Energy Co-op's history, as well as where we're heading, about our energy programs, how to use the online portal, and how they can get involved to help grow our cooperative community. The live presentation will allow for questions and answers from attendees.

[Registration is open now](#) for this fun and informative program designed for newer members and those looking to reacquaint themselves with the work of the cooperative.

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## [The Energy Co-op Staff & Board Reunites](#)

July brought many happy reunions as several staff members returned to the office for the first time since March 2020. The Energy Co-op team enjoyed a celebratory lunch together, and newer staff members made their long-awaited first visits to the office in Center City.



Additionally, the first in-person Board of Directors meeting since February 2020 was held last week. Following the election of six [Board members](#) at June's [Annual Member Meeting](#), the group gathered for a productive initial session before a lively happy hour spent reconnecting with fellow Board members and staff.

We're grateful for the opportunity to again work alongside one another safely, and to continue to help southeastern Pennsylvanians sustainably and affordably buy, use, and understand renewable energy.

And, if the circumstances allow, we look forward to presenting in-person member events in the not too distant future.

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## Unique Opportunity for College Seniors & Recent Grads

Help us spread the word that The Energy Co-op is hiring! Recent college graduates and graduating seniors are encouraged to apply for a [Member Services Intern position](#) with The Energy Co-op. Interns will gain valuable training and professional experience while supporting our thousands of member households and businesses. Our Member Services Internship program is ideal for someone early in their career with an interest in developing an extensive understanding of renewable energy markets, procurement, and supply. [Share the opportunity](#) with someone you know!

The position openings come as we say farewell to Fanta Koita and Zach Lytle, our Member Services Interns who have provided invaluable help to our cooperative members over the past several months. It's been a joy having you with us Fanta and Zach, and we look forward to you remaining friends of The Energy Co-op as you continue your professional journeys.

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## Greenfest Philly Returns September 25

Greenfest Philly, the region's largest environmental festival, is back again this year on Saturday, September 25 from 10am to 4pm at Headhouse Square. Presented by The Energy Co-op's strategic partner the [Clean Air Council](#), the event features over 100 exhibitors and vendors, and is the place to learn about living sustainably while having fun! Greenfest is free to attend and all are welcome!

The Energy Co-op is thrilled to be exhibiting at the event, and our staff will be present to inform about our renewable energy programs and how to support the local, clean energy economy. Check the September newsletter for complete details on The Energy Co-op's involvement this year. In the meantime, more info can be found at [cleanair.org/greenfest](https://cleanair.org/greenfest).

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## Coming Events

[New Member Orientation](#)

*Tuesday, August 24 @ 6:30pm*

*Virtual Event*

This webinar will highlight the benefits associated with Energy Co-op membership and explain how to best take advantage of them.

### [Member-to-Member Webinar – Passive House + Zero Energy 101: Design/Build FAQ for Homeowners & Realtors](#)

*Thursday, September 16 @ 6:30pm*

*Virtual Event*

We would like to invite any members who live in passive or DOE Zero Energy Ready homes to participate in our discussion. If you're interested, please reach out to Noah Swistak at [noah@theenergy.coop](mailto:noah@theenergy.coop).

### [Sustainable Philadelphia: Building a Clean Energy Economy and Sustainable Communities for Future Generations](#)

*Friday, September 17 @ 10:00am*

*Virtual Event*

Presented by Center City Proprietors Association. Energy Co-op members use code **100ff** to receive a \$10 discount on registration.

### [Greenfest Philly](#)

*Saturday, September 25 from 10:00am-4:00pm*

*In-person Event - Headhouse Square (2<sup>nd</sup> & Lombard St.), Philadelphia, PA*

Meet The Energy Co-op staff and learn about our renewable energy programs at the region's largest environmental festival. Presented by the [Clean Air Council](#).

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## **What We're Reading**

### [The Energy Co-op is now offering biogas sourced from landfills](#)

Energy Programs Director Alexandra Kroger interviewed about The Energy Co-op's Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) program.

*Grid*

### [Bucks County leaders unveil first steps in 'Ready for 100' clean energy plan](#)

The announcement follows the approval of a resolution based on the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 plan. The resolution aims to have county facilities running on 100 percent renewable electricity by 2035.

*Bucks Local News*

### [What Pennsylvania's move toward a clean energy future means for the region](#)

Pennsylvania's move to tackle carbon pollution now will help the state prepare to be a leader in the zero carbon future and protect the communities that are impacted by the energy transition already underway.

*Environmental Defense Fund*

### [As Climate Concerns Rise, What Role Will Natural Gas Play? \(Podcast\)](#)

Peter Fraser, head of the International Energy Agency's gas division, discusses the outlook for natural gas as global efforts to address carbon emissions intensify.

*Kleinman Center for Energy Policy at the University of Pennsylvania*

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## Blog Entries

### [Faces of The Energy Co-op: Fanta Koita](#)

By Executive Director Ronald Fisher

### [Faces of The Energy Co-op: Zach Lytle](#)

By Executive Director Ronald Fisher

### [The Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan: What It Means for Clean Energy, Climate Change, the Green Economy, and Environmental Justice](#)

By Operations Director Divya Desai

### [Carbon Offsets: Helpful or Hinderling?](#)

By Member Services Intern Zach Lytle



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