

JANUARY 2022

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



In this month's newsletter -

- **Join us to discuss The Energy Co-op's near- and long-term future**
- **Share your expertise at a 2022 Member-to-Member webinar**
- **The Energy Co-op is hiring Member Services Interns**
- **Inform yourself about slamming**

Help Shape the Future of Your Cooperative

A new year begins, which means it's time for Energy Co-op members to plan to get together with other members and staff to talk about new ways for our cooperative to advance the cause of affordable, sustainable energy.

To that end, as I have every year since 2019, I would like to invite each of you to join me, other members, and other Energy Co-op staff members a little later this year for a lunch, dinner, or other festive event. Past gatherings have resulted in many meaningful initiatives in recent years. As an example, our Member Ambassador program was proposed by several members who wanted a way to learn more about how to speak to their friends and neighbors about The Energy Co-op. The quarterly [Member-to-Member webinar series](#) inaugurated this past year, during which members shared their

sustainability expertise, was also suggested by members. These and other ideas offered by members have had a meaningful impact on our cooperative community's growth.

But we don't get a chance to meet or hear from you unless all of us make a special effort. So, please consider doing so. [Fill out this form](#) and let us know what kind of member/staff get-together you're most interested in. With that information in hand, we'll be back in touch during February to formally invite you to a few fun and informative events during this spring (assuming conditions permit us to do so safely, of course).

Thanks to each of you for your continued support of The Energy Co-op. And Happy New Year to all!

Ron. Fisher
Executive Director

We Can't Wait to See You This Year!

We're ringing in 2022 with more than just fireworks and confetti – in fact, Energy Co-op members can look forward to twelve months of opportunities of social and educational engagement with the cooperative and fellow members. While there are plans to continue some virtual programming this winter, as mentioned above, if the circumstances allow, we also hope to present in-person member events in the not-too-distant future.

Those seeking a fun and easy way to develop the skills to connect The Energy Co-op to their neighborhoods and communities can look forward to our Member Ambassador program. Not only will your participation help grow our local, green energy economy, but you'll get to meet other members of our cooperative community. Details on the next round of ambassador trainings will be announced shortly.

We'll also continue to educate through recently launched series like our Member-to-Member webinars and [New Member Orientations](#). In less than a year since their debut, both series have evolved into important pieces of The Energy Co-op's programming, providing members free and fun ways to learn about new topics.

The Member-to-Member webinar series not only offers a chance to learn about renewable energy and sustainability, but for members to share their expertise with others. If you would like to present this year on a topic related to environmental justice, home electrification, home energy efficiency measures, product efficiency rating systems, Pennsylvania's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act, or another subject, please write to Member Services Lead Noah Swistak at noah@theenergy.coop.

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!

Stay Alert and Avoid Getting Slammed

Recently, the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission (PAPUC) [lifted restrictions on door-to-door, public event and in-person energy sales and marketing activities](#). One unfortunate consequence of this is that some bad actors are afforded more opportunities to practice slamming. The term refers to the practice some electricity suppliers use to take customers' information and enroll them in their service without the customer's knowledge or permission. Despite the PAPUC offering compliance reporting and training sessions to electricity and natural gas suppliers, energy users need to be cautious of slammers.

With the recent lifting of door-to-door restrictions, some slammers may pay you a visit, while others will contact you on the phone. Slammers may say they are calling from your utility or from your current supplier and ask you for your account information. Some slammers may also make bold claims about saving you money.

To protect yourself from slamming:

1. Avoid giving out your utility account number or any other personal information if you haven't decided to switch your supplier.
 2. Ask to see a 24-month pricing history, which suppliers are legally required to provide.
 3. Carefully read all documentation you are asked to sign.
 4. Read The Energy Co-op's [Buyer Beware! Electricity Slamming Could Happen to You](#) blog post to learn even more about how to avoid getting slammed this year.
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Holiday Celebration!

The Energy Co-op's staff and board gathered in Center City last month to toast to a successful 2021. Here's to another year of helping southeastern Pennsylvanians sustainably and affordably buy, use, and understand energy.



Coming Events

[New Member Orientation](#)

Thursday, February 10 @ 6:00pm

Virtual Event

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

What We're Reading

[Building Electrification Momentum Grew in US cities in 2021](#)

Cities are imposing stricter decarbonization policies that target new and old buildings.

Utility Dive

[Renewable Natural Gas Facility Opens in Dunmore, PA](#)

Opened by Archaea Energy, the facility has the world's highest operational RNG capacity.

Pennsylvania Business Report

[Governor Wolf's Carbon-Pricing Plan Encounters New Legal Hurdle](#)

Under the cap-and-trade program, dozens of power plants fueled by coal, oil and natural gas would be forced to buy hundreds of millions of dollars in credits that the state could then spend on clean energy efforts.

U.S. News & World Report

[Philly's Next Crop of City Buildings Will Be Greener under Bill Passed by Philly Council](#)

The bill increases the requirements for new construction or major renovations of large city buildings, pushing them toward elements such as on-site renewable energy, optimized energy performance, and sustainable materials.

WHYY

[Philadelphia's One Liberty Place Gets Lighting Makeover](#)

The owner of the third-tallest building in the city has overhauled its iconic

zigzagging lights with energy-efficient LED fixtures.
Axios

Blog Entries

[Philadelphia Energy Authority Grows the City's Clean Energy Economy](#)

By Energy Program Director Alexandra Kroger

[PA Climate Action Plan Provides Framework for Reducing Emissions](#)

By The Energy Co-op Staff, Edited by Member Services Intern Michelle Herzberg

[Faces of The Energy Co-op: Claire Glidden](#)

By Executive Director Ronald Fisher



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