

MARCH 2022

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



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Energy Market Conditions Update

Fellow Members,

We used to live in a world where it was reasonable to expect that two weeks from now would not be much different than today. That world disappeared in mid-March 2020. During our member Town Hall on February 15th, I reported that energy market conditions appeared to be stabilizing. Just two weeks later, as a result of the invasion of Ukraine, energy matters are again unsettled, not

least because the world economy remains hopelessly addicted to finite energy resources rather than aggressively transitioning to infinitely available ones like wind and solar.

Still, The Energy Co-op's near-term costs are now lower than earlier this winter. As a result, we eased all supply rates for March 2022 and re-opened the Renewable Natural Gas program to new enrollments in the PGW service territory.

In 2021, following a couple of years of steady growth, our cooperative sustained a significant financial hit due to supply chain challenges and resulting energy market disruptions. But **YOUR** commitment to our mission over the past few months has resulted in a stronger, more resilient Energy Co-op. As your fellow member and also on behalf of our staff, I and we very much appreciate your patience and support. We continue to monitor energy market conditions and, in keeping with the transparent manner in which we operate our cooperative, we will update you as those evolve.

Ronald Fisher
Executive Director

Pennsylvania's Renewable Electricity Future

Join us on Thursday, March 24, 2022, for the next installment in our Member-to-Member webinar series. This month, we welcome renewable electricity member Ron Fisher (who is also The Energy Co-op's Executive Director), with a presentation titled, ["Renewable Electricity – Why Pennsylvania is Falling Behind and What You Can Do About It."](#)

Ron will discuss how PA's [Competition Act](#) and [renewable mandate](#) are inferior to those in other states. The Competition Act favors incumbent utilities and their parent holding companies, while the renewable mandate favors fossil fuels, most notably natural gas. Then, following a brief survey of currently proposed federal and state legislation and why their success is unlikely, the conversation will focus on what consumers can do to accelerate market change. [Register today](#) and we'll provide a link to us on the 24th.

Launched in 2021, The Energy Co-op's Member-to-Member webinar series offers our members an opportunity to share their expertise on diverse topics with our cooperative community. If you would like to present later this year, please [get in touch](#) about your idea.

Renewable Natural Gas for PGW Customers

As mentioned above, The Energy Co-op is again welcoming new [enrollments in our Renewable Natural Gas \(RNG\) program](#) from homes and businesses in the PGW service territory. Anyone who receives a gas bill from PGW can enroll in the program.

With this update to program availability, Philadelphians can again [choose to decrease the demand for conventional natural gas](#) and reduce the

environmental damage caused by drilling and fracking. To enroll, please call our office at 215-413-2122 or [complete the form on our website](#).

Updates to Our Net Metering Policy

If you have solar panels on your home or are considering an installation, there may be an opportunity to net meter with The Energy Co-op. We offer limited net metering opportunities, and welcome anyone, whether you're already a member or are thinking about joining, who is interested to [contact our office](#) regarding eligibility.

Please provide us with the installer's generation estimate for the solar array at your home, whether it's planned or already installed. If that is not available, please provide us with the array's size/capacity. We'll then analyze the data alongside your electricity usage and determine the appropriate next steps for your service with The Energy Co-op.

Community Spotlight: Montgomery County

This issue marks the first entry in our Community Spotlight series, where we check in with our members about what's new and exciting with renewable energy and sustainability in their towns or neighborhoods. Our first stop is Montgomery County.

Renewable electricity and home heating oil member Addie M Johnson, EdD, former Associate Professor of Educational Administration at Penn State Great Valley Graduate School, let us know that Cheltenham Township plans to build and refurbish storm drains and other areas to lessen run-off problems and flooding. [On its website](#), the Township also details how residents can do their part to limit stormwater runoff volume. Montgomery County experienced substantial flooding damage from Hurricane Ida last year, so it is encouraging to see the Township taking proactive measures to mitigate the impact of future storms.

Renewable electricity member Andy Mehrotra checked in from Montgomery Township, which recently formed a Ready for 100 committee to pursue its renewable energy goals. The [Ready for 100 campaign](#), managed by the Sierra Club, aids communities in the transition to 100% clean, renewable sources of energy. Montgomery Township has set 2035 as their target goal for completing the transition – way to go!

In the April issue we'll turn our attention to Chester County. So, all you Chesco Energy Co-op members, please share with us what's new or interesting with renewable energy or sustainability in your community. Email us at info@theenergy.coop – we'd be grateful for your contribution.

Appreciation for Our Partners

This March and April, The Energy Co-op is collaborating with several of our strategic partner organizations as we look to broaden our impact and grow our

community. We're thrilled about these alliances and hope that our members will pay them a visit soon.

[Mariposa Food Co-op](#) is a consumer-owned food cooperative located in West Philadelphia. Since 1971 they have been providing the community with access to natural, wholesome foods that cater to a wide variety of diets. While you don't have to be a member-owner to shop, their member-owners have a voice and vote in decisions regarding Mariposa's future and many other benefits. Mariposa is powered by 100% wind and solar from The Energy Co-op.

[South Philly Food Co-op](#) is a community-owned grocery store 10-years-in-the-making that serves as a community hub to provide South Philly residents access to fresh, local, and sustainable groceries. They are committed to social and economic justice, and aim to preserve and nurture the cultural heritages of their neighbors. The Co-op is open to everyone - not just members - because they believe that all people should have a place at their table.

The [Community Eco Center LLC / Community Eco Store](#) is a local all-volunteer, not for profit boutique for ecofriendly lifestyles on and off grid. Their Phoenixville shop is 100% fossil fuel free via wind and solar purchased through The Energy Co-op. They love their town so much, as of 2021 return all their profits back to the community by either direct monetary support or via product donations.

Join Our Team!

Are you a marketing professional looking for an exciting opportunity? The Energy Co-op is hiring a [Marketing Manager](#)! Please see the [job description](#) for details and submission instructions.

The Energy Co-op is also looking for the next cohort for our [Member Services Internship](#). Apply today or forward to someone who may be interested.

Let's Get Together This Spring

It's your last chance to RSVP for a lunch, dinner, or festive event with The Energy Co-op this spring. We're bringing our members together to discuss what The cooperative is up to and what's in store for 2022 and beyond.

[Please complete this form](#) and let us know your preference about what kind of event most interests you. For those that have already expressed their interest, thank you, we'll be in touch with formal invitations soon.

Coming Events

[Member-to-Member Webinar: Renewable Electricity – Why Pennsylvania is Falling Behind + What You Can Do About It](#)

Thursday, March 24 @ 6:30pm

[Virtual Event – Register Here](#)

The structural impediments to growing renewable energy investment and jobs

in PA, and why consumer demand—not unlikely-to-pass federal or state legislation—is the key to moving our Commonwealth’s grid into the 21st century.

[New Member Orientation](#)

Thursday, May 12 @ 6:00pm

[Virtual Event - Register Here](#)

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

[City of Philadelphia joins the U.S. Department of Energy’s Better Climate Challenge](#)

The Challenge is a platform that recognizes organizations with ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provides transparency, accountability and collaboration to find pathways toward decarbonization.

City of Philadelphia

[How governors races may change energy, from EVs to renewables](#)

In Pennsylvania, no energy issue has dominated the political discourse perhaps as much as the state’s participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a multistate carbon-trading program.

Energy News Network

[U.S. offshore wind auction draws record \\$4.37 billion in bids](#)

This is the first offshore wind lease sale under President Biden, who sees the expansion of the industry as a way to tackle climate change and create jobs.

Reuters

[EPA Issues Power Plant Emissions Data for 2021](#)

Compared to 2019, 2021 emissions fell between 3% and 11%, reflecting the long-standing trend of decreasing annual emissions.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Blog Entries

[Using Ecolabels to Find More Efficient, More Sustainable Products](#)

By Member Services Manager Noah Swistak

[Biofuels: Not a Single Solution but a Step](#)

By Energy Program Director Alexandra Kroger

[Faces of The Energy Co-op: Michelle Herzberg](#)

By Executive Director Ronald Fisher



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