

JULY 2022

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



In this month's newsletter -

- **Thanks to all who joined us at the 2022 Annual Member Meeting**
- **Community Spotlight on Delaware County**
- **The Energy Co-op's participation in a recent OCDC event**
- **Avoiding deceptive or high-pressure sales pitches**
- **The Energy Co-op is hiring Member Services Interns**
- **Opportunities for our membership community's artists and designers**
- **Ronald Fisher interviewed in *USA Today***

A Memorable Annual Member Meeting

A wholehearted THANK YOU to the members who joined us June 23 at the Masonic Temple for The Energy Co-op's 2022 Annual Member Meeting. After two years of conducting the event remotely, it was wonderful to gather our community of members, staff, Board members, and Energy Co-op partners in such a gorgeous setting.

We are pleased to announce that all three of the candidates for the Board of Directors – Ethan Birchard, William O'Donnell, and Sheree Petrone – were elected with over 88% of votes cast by our members. Congratulations! Additionally, the proposed amendment to The Energy Co-op's by-laws, increasing the maximum number of Board directors to 18, was approved with over 90% of votes cast. We're grateful for the time that hundreds of you took to vote in the election.

Prior to, and at the conclusion of the Annual Member Meeting, attendees socialized with one another, explored the stately venue halls, and enjoyed the complimentary food. Cheers to Phil Coleman, David Dlugosz, and Alan Levi, expert renewable energy trivia players who won door prizes at the end of the night. We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2023 Annual Member Meeting, and at the many member social events we will be hosting in the meantime.



Community Spotlight: Delaware County

The next entry in our Community Spotlight series, in which we check in about what's new and exciting with renewable energy and sustainability in our members' towns and neighborhoods, focuses on Delaware County. Here is a look at what's been happening over the last few months.

Renewable Electricity and RNG member David Director let us know that the County Office of Sustainability [won the Pennsylvania Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence](#) from the Wolf administration, one of only 15 programs in the state to do so. The recognition comes after a busy couple of years, beginning with the appointment of the County's Sustainability Commission, on which David serves, and the hiring of the first Chief Sustainability Officer in the suburban counties, Francine Locke, early in 2021.

In April 2022, the county held its [first ever sustainability conference](#), in which numerous speakers came to engage in conversation about topics such as electric vehicles, zero waste goals, and climate change. Attendees, guest speakers, and city officials alike pointed to Delaware County's recent advances through its youth-run urban gardens programs and the County's replacement of its gas car fleet with electric vehicles.

In June, the Pennsylvania Resources Council presented a [free backyard composting workshop](#) for residents of Delaware County. Participants received a free composting bin following their completion of the class.

Finally, Delaware County hosted a [series of events](#) relating to its update of their 10-year municipal waste management plan. Its last workshop was held on June 30, 2022 and invited attendees to offer their input and guidance in the development of the plan, in addition to engaging in conversation with a guest speaker from the Baltimore Compost Collective.

Sharing Our Work With Co-ops Across the Globe

On June 15, 2022, Executive Director Ronald Fisher presented during a Virtual Learning Hour hosted by the Overseas Cooperative Development Council (OCDC). The event was a unique opportunity to share The Energy Co-op's work with an international audience of cooperative leaders and staff from USAID's [Cooperative Development Program](#).

Other presenters included representatives from [Frontier Co-op](#), [CERO](#), and the [Democracy at Work Institute](#). We're appreciative of OCDC's invitation to participate and look forward to forging more connections with more cooperatives across the globe and the organizations that support them.



Tips for Talking to Energy Sales Agents

We've heard from a number of members recently who have encountered deceptive sales pitches from other energy suppliers. To help navigate these sometimes uncomfortable interactions, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) recently issued a press release urging caution when speaking with energy sales agents at your doorstep or at public events.

You can check out [all of the tips here](#), including an urging to "seek identification to verify whether you are speaking with a representative from a utility, from a licensed energy supplier, or from the PUC or another state agency," and to "contact the PUC's Bureau of Consumer Services at 1-800-692-7380 if facing an aggressive sales agent or suspecting a potential scam."

Also, The Energy Co-op will not send a sales agent to your home, so active members should be skeptical of anyone at their door claiming to represent their current supplier.

Internship Opportunity with The Energy Co-op

Know a recent college graduate or graduating senior with interest in renewable energy or sustainability? Please share with them this unique opportunity for a [Member Services Internship](#) with The Energy Co-op, a stepping stone to a career in renewable energy.

The program is ideal for someone early in their career with an interest in developing an extensive understanding of renewable energy markets,

procurement, and supply. Energy Co-op Member Services Interns gain valuable training and professional experience while supporting our cooperative's thousands of member households and businesses. [Share the opportunity](#) with someone you know!

Artists - We Want to Hear from You!

Are you one of the many artists or designers in The Energy Co-op member community? Would you like to share about how renewable energy and/or sustainability plays an important role in your work? [Let us know!](#) There may be an opportunity to participate in an upcoming Energy Co-op Member-to-Member webinar and other events later this year.

In the Pages of *USA Today*

In case you missed it - Executive Director Ronald Fisher was interviewed for a recent piece in *USA Today*, calling for more policy coordination among state governments, grid operators, and federal agencies. The article, [Red voters for green energy? Conservatives say they support solar and wind power too](#), explores why so many Republicans, along with Democrats, are on board with accelerating the transition to renewable power. In it, investigative reporter and Energy Co-op member [Kyle Bagenstose](#) offers an extensive look at sustainable energy's broad appeal and the complex dynamics of support for renewables.

Coming Events

[New Member Orientation](#)

Tuesday, August 16, 2022, 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

[Biden teams with East Coast governors to boost offshore wind](#)

In June 2022, The White House launched a formal partnership with 11 East Coast governors, including Pennsylvania's Tom Wolf, to boost the growing offshore wind industry, a key element of President Joe Biden's plan for climate change.

The Associated Press

[Pa. environmental groups assail Supreme Court EPA ruling](#)

Reaction from Pennsylvania's largest environmental groups to the Supreme Court's sweeping ruling on carbon emissions was swift and pointed: the decision delivered a whopping blow to efforts to reduce greenhouse gases nationwide.

PennLive

[Philly's Climate Change Report Card](#)

It's been five years since Mayor Kenney announced ambitious plans for combating climate change locally. Here, a look at how that's going.

The Philadelphia Citizen

[Philly's suburban municipalities embrace electric vehicle revolution with open arms](#)

A growing number of municipalities across the suburbs of Philadelphia are transitioning their gas-powered municipal vehicle fleets and investing in the infrastructure to support EVs.

WHYY

Blog Entries

[How Natural Gas Prices Impact Renewable Electricity](#)

By Executive Director Ronald Fisher

[Reforming the U.S. Transmission Grid](#)

By Energy Program Director Alexandra Kroger

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

By Member Services Manager Noah Swistak



THE ENERGY CO-OP

Leading the Energy Evolution

215.413.2122 | info@theenergy.coop | www.theenergy.coop
