

SEPTEMBER 2022

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



In this month's newsletter -

- **A message from Divya Desai, The Energy Co-op's new Executive Director**
- **Member-to-Member Webinar on lessening your home energy use - 9/22/22**
- **Register for Member Ambassador training - starts 9/14/22**
- **Community Spotlight: Bucks County**
- **ASES National Solar Tour - 10/1-2/22**

A Message from Executive Director Divya Desai

After almost six years on The Energy Co-op staff, it is with enormous pride and enthusiasm that I write to you – our valued members – as The Energy Co-op's new Executive Director. Former Executive Director Ronald Fisher departed staff at the end of July this year after more than three and a half years of steering the organization; his contributions will continue to help us succeed in years to come. Ron is now a member of our esteemed Board of Directors and continues to be an Energy Co-op renewable electricity member, so we are sure to see more from him behind the scenes and at member events.

The Energy Co-op celebrates 43 years of energy innovation this year. While the last few years have been challenging, the staff are reminded every day of the

steadfast commitment and genuine support from our membership. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented us from seeing each other in person, and yet our membership grew and thrived during that trying time. We finally started to hold in-person events again in 2022, and you brought your excitement and energy (pun intended!).

And as we navigate the sustained volatility affecting global energy markets, we are thankful for your continued support and thoughtful questions. Each member voice helps to shape and transform our efforts to further the mission and create a valuable member experience. I encourage you to reach out, engage with the team, and share your thoughts.

If the last year has shown us anything, it is that now, more than ever, we as a society need to shift to cleaner and more sustainable energy sources. This shift offers a direct path to a healthier future, economic growth, and energy independence. Your dedication to our shared mission is inspiring, and the Energy Co-op staff and Board are equally committed to leading Pennsylvania towards a clean energy future.

We are developing new opportunities for the broader Energy Co-op constituency to support our mission, exploring new programs that will allow our members to better address their environmental footprint, and identifying ways The Energy Co-op can support and further environmental justice in the Commonwealth and beyond. In the coming months, we will focus our efforts on becoming more for our members, responsible programs management to address volatility and high energy costs to the best of our ability, preparing for 2023, and growing The Energy Co-op's impact.

You'll see and hear from me more in my new capacity as Executive Director, but please don't hesitate to call or email. Looking forward to the good work ahead.



Webinar: Lower Your Bills & Carbon Footprint

Energy use makes up a sizable portion of a household's overall footprint. Attend *A Few Easy Steps to Lower Energy Bills and a Reduced Carbon Footprint*, our [next Member-to-Member webinar](#) at 6pm on Thursday, September 22, and find out how to reap cost savings while contributing to cleaner air and a healthier planet.

Toss out the notion that it takes investment and expensive products to make a difference - it's all about behavior! Follow the steps presented in this webinar and you may be well on your way to saving hundreds, even thousands, of dollars on your annual energy bills, while lessening your household's environmental impact.

Presenting is Phil Coleman, a member of The Energy Co-op for over a decade. Phil is a research analyst and program manager in the Sustainable Federal Operations Group of Berkeley Lab's Building Technology and Urban Systems

Division. He is also the president of aFewSteps.org, a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions in the communities of his local school district outside of Philadelphia.

Use [this link to register](#) to join us on September 22 and [share the event](#) with your friends!

Become an Energy Co-op Member Ambassador

There is still time to register for our [Member Ambassador program](#), which will convene for three trainings on Wednesdays at 5pm – September 14, 21, and 28.

Over three weeks, participants will:

- Learn more about our renewable energy programs and the systems in which they operate, the power of the cooperative advantage, and how to have these conversations with friends and neighbors.
- Gain community within our cooperative, and have an excuse to connect with old friends, too.
- Get access to special events where you can give us feedback on upcoming projects, join us for happy hour, and more!
- Make a difference for the planet and our local green economy.

Register today or write to info@theenergy.coop with any questions. We look forward to you being a part of this fun way to make a big impact on both the environment and our cooperative.

Community Spotlight: Bucks 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 Bucks County. Here is a look at what's been happening over the last few months.

The region continues to [develop its electric vehicle infrastructure](#), with over 100 charging stations now located in either in Bucks or neighboring eastern Montgomery counties. Adding to that count will be new stations opening at Peace Valley Park and in Middletown, Wrightstown, and Quakertown. In addition to charging stations, Bucks County is adding to its electric vehicle fleet, including the purchase of EVs by the Department of Corrections for patrol work at the Bucks County Correctional Facility.

In recognition of Middletown's sustainability planning efforts, the township was bestowed [the Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence in Innovative Planning and Sound Land Use Practices](#). One achievement that led to the honor was Middletown Township becoming the first municipality in Bucks County to adopt a [Climate Action Plan](#), meant to serve as a roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The township also holds a [Platinum certification](#) in the Pennsylvania Municipal League's Sustainable Pennsylvania program.

Visit a Solar Installation Near You

The American Solar Energy Society (ASES) is again hosting their [National Solar Tour](#), an in-person and virtual series of events taking place on October 1 and 2, 2022. Last fall, the National Solar Tour facilitated over 135 events at solar-powered homes, businesses, organizations, schools, and gardens.

Delaware Valley residents are in luck, as there are over a dozen tours and educational events scheduled in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Check out the [interactive map](#) to plan your weekend or [get in touch](#) with ASES with any questions.

Coming Events

[Member Ambassador Training](#)

Wednesdays, September 14-28, 2022, 5:00pm

[Virtual Event - Register Here](#)

Meet other members of our cooperative community, learn about renewable energy, and help grow our local, green energy economy.

[Member-to-Member Webinar: A Few Easy Steps to Lower Energy Bills and a Reduced Carbon Footprint](#)

Thursday, September 22, 2022, 6:00pm

[Virtual Event - Register Here](#)

Renewable electricity and RNG member Phil Coleman walks us through easy and inexpensive steps to save big on your annual energy bills while lessening your household's environmental impact.

What We're Reading

[Energy diversification lowers prices for all consumers](#)

Pennsylvania must stop relying so heavily on volatile energy resources that are constantly disrupted by world events. To stabilize our energy bills, we need to diversify by putting more renewables on the grid.

PennLive

[Renewable energy is maligned by misinformation. It's a distraction, experts say.](#)

Examining the ongoing misinformation campaign to keep alive the idea that we need large amounts of fossil fuels to back up the grid.

NPR

[Pennsylvania environmental group pushing for air quality monitors in Delaware County communities](#)

The Clean Air Council says infrastructure designed to protect Hispanic and Latino communities from deadly air pollution is lacking and is seeking funding to cover distribution of Purple Air monitors.

StateImpact

Blog Entries

[We've Won this Battle, but Let's Not Lose Focus of the Larger Climate War](#)

by Alexandra Kroger

[Faces of The Energy Co-op: Colin Teague](#)

By Noah Swistak

[Decarbonizing U.S. Gas Utilities](#)

by Victoria Arenas



THE ENERGY CO-OP

Leading the Energy Evolution

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