

NOVEMBER 2022

# THE CURRENT



*Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond*



## **In this month's newsletter:**

- **An energy market update**
- **Improve your home's energy efficiency and lower your bills this winter**
- **Our next New Member Orientation is coming right up on November 16**
- **A new Community Spotlight on energy and sustainability news in Philly**

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## **Important Updates on Energy Market Conditions**

As we prepare to shift from a mild and pleasant autumn into cooler weather, we know winter heating bills are on many of our members' minds. Last month, The Energy Co-op published a new blog post authored by Executive Director Divya Desai and Member Services Manager Noah Swistak, [Energy Market Uncertainty & Pennsylvania's Renewable Energy Future](#), that reviews current conditions in the markets and what we can expect in the coming months.

While everyone is encouraged to read the article to further develop their understanding of current energy market uncertainty, below are some of the key points outlined in the piece:

- Wholesale natural gas prices, which impact the cost of renewable electricity, remain not only [far above average](#), but remarkably volatile as well.
- Natural gas futures prices [surged earlier in 2022 and remain high](#), with prices in the summer hitting highs not seen in years.
- There may be relief on the horizon next year, however, as futures prices drop starting in March 2023, with [stabilization predicted throughout next spring](#).
- While the passing of the landmark Inflation Reduction Act in August 2022 will not abruptly bend energy cost curves downward, it better positions the country to address many of the medium- and long-term climate goals set by states and cities.
- Pennsylvania could benefit from new legislation enabling renewable energy development, which you can support in next week's elections by voting for candidates that support a path towards a clean energy future.

Keeping our member community informed about important news in the energy sector is inherent to our mission. As always, please feel welcome to reach out to our staff to discuss anything related to energy markets or their impact on our programs.

We are grateful for our members' support now more than ever and look forward to continuing to accelerate the transition to a sustainable energy future together.

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## Tips to Lower Your Energy Bills This Winter

With winter right around the corner, now is an ideal time to take steps to improve your home's energy efficiency. Reducing your energy use during the heating season means saving money on your utility bills – of high importance given the market conditions discussed above.

In October, Energy Co-op member Phil Coleman presented a Member-to-Member Webinar [“A Few Easy Steps to Lower Energy Bills and a Reduced Carbon Footprint”](#). Check out his presentation and Q&A session with other members for tips on saving energy this winter and year-round.

This [quick guide from the NRDC](#) features a number of valuable winter-specific tips for reducing your energy waste and cutting your heating bill. Recommendations include sealing and caulking around doors and windows, lowering the temperature on your water heater, and turning down the thermostat at night and while you're away.

[Weatherization Assistance Programs](#) exist across PA to help lower-income residents with free home energy audits and weatherization services. Find the agency that serves your county and [determine your eligibility here](#).

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## New Member Orientation- November 16

Greetings to the new Energy Co-op members out there! If you joined in the past few months, please make plans for Wednesday, November 16, for our next [New Member Orientation webinar](#).

Member Services Manager Noah Swistak will present a spirited and interactive program on member benefits, our energy programs, the online member portal, the organization's past, present, and future, and how to get involved to help grow our cooperative community. Please come with your questions and be ready to learn all about our cooperative.

Not a new member but looking to better acquaint yourself with Energy Co-op member benefits? You're invited, as well! Anyone planning to attend should [register today](#), and we'll see you later this month.

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## Community Spotlight: Philadelphia

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 Philadelphia. Let's have a look at what's been happening over the last few months.

The Northeast Philadelphia Airport took initial steps to build a 1.5-megawatt solar array on its property, which would be one of the largest projects in the city and provide enough electricity to power the entire airport. City Council passed a bill approving [the project](#), which was [signed by Mayor Kenney](#) in June. Jessica Noon, Sustainability Program Manager for the Capital Development program at Philadelphia International Airport, has also indicated that their team is [looking into opportunities](#) for an installation at Philadelphia International Airport.

Down in South Philly, PIDC released the [2022 Navy Yard Plan](#), a 20-year, \$6 billion development roadmap for the 1,200-acre site. The Plan calls for the construction of a new transmission substation that would support additions to the Navy Yard's existing 19 MW of onsite generation, which includes solar. There is also a call for further study of the viability of utilizing thermal technologies on the site and offers one potential siting for a thermal exchange system.

And, if you're like me and aren't certain what to do with those decorative pumpkins, now's a perfect time to familiarize yourself with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation's [Community Composting Network](#). Launched earlier this year, residents can now drop off organic waste, including those [Halloween jack-o-lanterns](#), at thirteen locations around the city.

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## Coming Events

### [Energy Co-op Member Get-together](#)

Thursday, November 3, 2022, 5:30pm - 7:00pm

[Lola's Garden - 51 St. George's Rd., Ardmore, PA 19003 - RSVP Here](#)

Socialize with fellow members and staff - food, libations, and lively discussion await!

### **[New Member Orientation](#)**

Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

[Virtual Event - Register Here](#)

We'll highlight the benefits associated with Energy Co-op membership and explain how to best take advantage of them.

### **[Member-to-Member Webinar: The Basics of Growing Fruit Trees](#)**

Thursday, September 16, 2022, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

[Virtual Event - Register Here](#)

Member Boris Kerzner will discuss site and species selection, through to weeding, mulching, composting, pruning, disease management, and harvest.

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## **What We're Reading**

### **[PA DCNR Announces All Electricity Used By Agency Will Come From Renewable Sources By 2030](#)**

DCNR expects to use 28.7 gigawatt hours of electricity by 2030 with a plan to have the department produce 15.5 gigawatt hours and purchase 13.2 gigawatt hours -- all from renewable energy sources.

*PA.gov*

### **[What To Do When Renewables Aren't On The Rise](#)**

PA has some of the slowest renewable energy growth in the U.S. To catch up, we can support policies like updating our Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards, promoting community solar, and increasing renewable incentives.

*PennEnvironment*

### **[PJM Capacity Proposal: Fuel for the Ongoing Market 'Crisis,' or a Needed Step to Limit Overprocurement?](#)**

Power plant owners urged the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reject the largest U.S. grid operator's proposed capacity market changes while environmental and ratepayer advocates backed them.

*Utility Dive*

### **[Pennsylvania Missing Out on Millions as RGGI Battle Trudges On](#)**

The third carbon-allowance auction of 2022, which was held on Sept. 7, generated more than \$301 million in revenue for reinvestment.

*Pennsylvania Capital-Star*

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## **Blog Entries**

### **[Energy Market Uncertainty & Pennsylvania's Renewable Energy Future](#)**

by Divya Desai & Noah Swistak

### **[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

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**THE ENERGY CO-OP**  
Leading the Energy Evolution

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