

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



In this month's newsletter:

- **On December 8, a Member-to-Member webinar on fruit trees**
- **Reflecting on our 2022 engagement and educational offerings**
- **ENERGY STAR's Home Upgrade tool**
- **The Energy Co-op's network of Community-powered Changemakers**

Next Week - Learn About Growing Fruit Trees

Always wanted to pick fresh fruit from your own front yard? In Pennsylvania, apples, pears, paw paws, cherries, and peaches are among the fruit trees amenable to our climate. Learn what it takes to grow your own at The Energy Co-op's next Member-to-Member webinar, [The Basics of Growing Fruit Trees](#), coming up on Thursday, December 8, at 6pm. The hour-long session will cover site and species selection and discuss many of the maintenance tasks involved, including weeding, mulching, composting, pruning, disease management, and harvesting. [Register here!](#)

Our presenter is Energy Co-op Member Boris Kerzner, a resident of Cheltenham, Pennsylvania, who is passionate about designing & planting landscapes that provide food for humans and animals. He started his career as a software engineer, but got into herbal medicine and gardening before going back to school to study Sustainable Landscape Design & Planning at the

Conway School in rugged Western Massachusetts. He runs a business called Grow Our Food which focuses on fruit tree installs & maintenance as well as sustainable landscape design.

Our Member-to-Member webinar series is intended to build community and harness the unique expertise members of The Energy Co-op carry with them for the benefit of others. This year, we've had presentations from members on *A Few Easy Steps to Lower Energy Bills and a Reduced Carbon Footprint*; *Renewable Electricity – Why Pennsylvania is Falling Behind and What You Can Do About It*; and now *The Basics of Growing Fruit Trees*. If you have an area of expertise that you'd like to share with your fellow members in 2023, we encourage you to get in touch with our staff at info@theenergy.coop.

Looking Back on an Eventful 2022

2022 saw The Energy Co-op engaging, educating, and connecting in new ways, while also revisiting some familiar territory. Throughout the year, we presented and produced a bevy of educational and social events, both remotely and throughout the region, and delighted in meeting so many of the members and new faces that attended.

The 2022 Annual Member Meeting, held in June, was a particular highlight, moving back into an in-person setting for the first time in three years. The Meeting provided an opportunity for our community to vote in the Board of Directors election, hear programmatic and operational updates from the staff, and to enjoy one another's company in the impressive Masonic Temple in Philadelphia.

Social events hosted in the spring, summer, and fall offered an outlet for members to convene and have fun together without the aid of online meeting platforms. The Energy Co-op hosted lively, member-exclusive events in Center City, Mt. Airy, Flourtown, Swarthmore, and Ardmore, and partnered with Young Professionals in Energy (YPE), and Women of Renewable Industries and Sustainable Energy (WRISE) for an autumn happy hour in Philadelphia.

The Energy Co-op team welcomed opportunities to educate new audiences throughout the year, including at EcoPhilly's annual meeting, with a 10th grade class at Philly's Carver Engineering and Science School, and with a visiting group of students from the Buxton School in Williamstown, MA. In June, staff served on a panel organized by the U.S. Overseas Cooperative Development Council, presenting with cooperative leaders from around the world. In addition, The Energy Co-op was represented at community events throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania, such as South Philly Food Co-op's Owner Appreciation Day, Our Mother of Consolation Church's Sustainability Fair, and Mariposa Food Co-op's Open House.

With energy markets remaining remarkably volatile throughout 2022, staff members delivered live energy market update addresses, explaining current trends and the implications for our renewable programs. In addition, we continued three virtual event series began in recent years – New Member Orientations, Member-to-Member educational webinars, and our Member Ambassador trainings.

We look forward to expanded engagement and educational offerings throughout 2023, with events and programming being developed by The Energy Co-op and alongside our partners. Your subscription to *The Current* and The Energy Co-op's social media channels are the best ways to stay informed about what's coming up. We'll see you very soon!

ENERGY STAR's Tips for Energy + Cost Savings

Earlier this year, ENERGY STAR launched their new [Home Upgrade tool](#), which offers information on several key home improvements that can save money and energy now and in the long-term.

Among their recommendations, installing a [smart thermostat](#) is an affordable and reliable way to save energy by ensuring your heating system isn't working overtime at night and while you're away. [Upgrading your attic insulation](#) is another way to reduce waste by sealing in the heat you generate.

Check out the [ENERGY STAR Home Upgrade](#) page for more details on how you might invest in improving your home's energy efficiency.

Community-powered Changemakers

Is your business or organization committed to our common sustainability mission? Are you interested in offering discounts to your members or customers for choosing renewable energy, co-promoting programs and events, presenting educational content, or offering promotions to The Energy Co-op's membership? Join our network of [Community-powered Changemakers](#)!

[Complete this form](#) or call us at 215-413-2122 to discuss how we can collaborate.

Also, we'd like to give a shout out and a THANK YOU to The Energy Co-op's current Community-powered Changemakers, a network of businesses and organizations playing a vital role in supporting our local clean energy economy.

Coming Events

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

Thursday, December 8, 2022, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

[Virtual Event - Register Here](#)

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

What We're Reading

[City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Energy Authority, and Ameresco Begin Trial Installations for the Philly Streetlight Improvement Project](#)

The project, which will convert over 120,000 streetlights to LED fixtures, is designed to reduce energy costs, improve operations and maintenance capabilities, and enhance nighttime visibility for pedestrians and motorists.
phila.gov

[Through Public Art, the U.N. Sustainability Goals Come to Life](#)

In FDR Park, a 10x10-foot mural painted by Penn grad student Eliza Nobles represents the global target of clean energy for all.

Penn Today

[Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Welcomes Newest Affiliate, Keep Chester County Beautiful](#)

Over the next several years Keep Chester County Beautiful will focus on litter abatement, waste reduction, beautification, and connecting schools and volunteer groups to foster more environmental stewardship opportunities.

chesco.gov

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



THE ENERGY CO-OP

Leading the Energy Evolution

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