

JANUARY 2023

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



In this month's newsletter:

- **Happy new year, members!**
- **Tell us about what you want to see in *The Current* this year**
- **Introducing our new *Renewable Energy Classroom***
- **Welcoming new staff members and celebrating the holidays**
- **Previewing Penn Environment's new clean home energy toolkit**

Looking Ahead to a Bright 2023

Happy new year! I hope The Energy Co-op's first newsletter of 2023 finds everyone after cheerful and healthy holiday celebrations.

We departed from 2022 with a new perspective on how directly our work here at The Energy Co-op interconnects with global events. Last year brought a level of volatility in the energy industry that we haven't seen in a long time, affecting everything from global markets all the way to individual consumers here in Pennsylvania. It was a tough energy year for everyone.

Looking ahead, The Energy Co-op team enters 2023 wiser and

with a strengthened resolve for a clean energy future, despite looming challenges. We will continue engaging, evaluating, and evolving to become even more for our members and more for the community. And we will make progress together.

Remember that The Energy Co-op is its membership. You'll hear more from us soon as we ramp up this year's efforts, but your voice is important, so contact us at info@theenergy.coop or (215)-413-2122 to share your thoughts and ideas.

Thank you for your sustained commitment to our shared mission, and best wishes for a constructive year.

Divya Desai
Executive Director

Share Your Opinions on *The Current*

As a member-owned cooperative, member input is essential in informing our work. *The Current*, our monthly newsletter, is our most widely distributed publication, and an important tool for us to help our members sustainably buy, use, and understand energy.

To best serve our community, we are always looking for new ways to improve our communications, and we want to know what topics and types of content you would like to see in *The Current* this year. As a member, you play a crucial role in shaping The Energy Co-op's present and future, and we ask that you please take a moment to [complete this survey and share your thoughts](#). Your valuable feedback will help shape future issues. Thank you!

Our New *Renewable Energy Classroom*

Understanding renewable energy markets and supply chains can be notoriously tricky, and we strive to help our member community be educated about what's going on behind the scenes.

Beginning this month, we are launching a new section of our newsletter, the *Renewable Energy Classroom*, highlighting different aspects of the generation, purchase, delivery, or use of renewable energy with a new video or article.

In this month's *Renewable Energy Classroom*, let's learn about Renewable Energy Credits, or RECs. For our members who power their homes and businesses with renewable electricity from The Energy Co-op, RECs are the mechanism that make this possible. Check out the video below from the [Center for Resource Solutions](#).



Home Energy Conservation Tips

Choosing 100% wind and solar electricity and 100% renewable natural gas from The Energy Co-op is one of the best ways to contribute to our clean energy future, but there are countless other methods to decrease your home's carbon footprint. Recently, Penn Environment released a [clean energy home toolkit](#) that highlights several ways to save energy and lower your bills. Whether you are thinking of weatherizing your home, buying an electric vehicle, or taking advantage of the cost savings and incentives available through the Inflation Reduction Act, read through the toolkit for helpful guides and resources.

The Energy Co-op Welcomes New Staff Members



It was a busy December at The Energy Co-op, with two new staff members coming aboard. We are excited to welcome Gabe Hochenberger as our new Finance Coordinator, and Eric Miller as our new Membership Coordinator.

Gabe is a graduate of Alvernia University, and spent his early career in analytical roles in accounting and credit analysis, mostly as a part of the mortgage industry. As Finance Coordinator, Gabe will handle financial administration activities while working towards improving The Energy Co-op's financial practices and controls. He is thrilled to get started working for an organization that has a core mission of environmental sustainability. In his free time, Gabe likes to read, play sports, cook, and explore Philly.

Eric is a graduate of Temple University, and most recently worked for the PA House of Representatives. In his role as Membership Coordinator, Eric will be working with the Member Services Manager to support, assist, and grow The Energy Co-op's member network. Eric is excited to be working in a position that allows him to build Pennsylvania's clean energy future and work directly with members of the community. In his spare time, Eric enjoys learning Italian, playing guitar, reading, and trying out new vegetarian recipes.

Welcome Gabe and Eric!



2022 Holiday Party

The Energy Co-op's staff and board gathered last month in Center City Philadelphia to celebrate the holiday season and another successful year. We look forward to 2023, and seeing our members at the educational and social events we are planning.

Coming Events

[New Member Orientation Webinar](#)

Thursday, February 16, 2023, 6pm - 7pm

[Virtual Event - Register Here](#)

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

What We're Reading

[SEPTA unveils new 25 MW solar deployment](#)

The project, developed under a virtual power purchase agreement between SEPTA and Lightsource bp, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 28,000 metric tons of CO₂ annually.

pv magazine USA

[Agriculture Secretary Releases Guidance For Farms And Rural Communities Considering Solar Energy Production](#)

The guidance outlines Wolf Administration support for technologies that create jobs and generate farm income without compromising food and fiber production.

PA.gov

[For energy transition equity, communities must run community solar](#)

Community solar programs offer an opportunity to build our clean energy future, but care must be taken to ensure we provide the same decarbonization opportunities to marginalized communities and comparatively wealthy ones.

Utility Dive

[U.S. touts fusion breakthrough as one of 'most impressive scientific feats' this century](#)

U.S. scientists have made a major breakthrough in clean energy technology, creating a net increase in energy from atomic fusion for the first time in history.

Politico

Blog Entries

[**A Hidden Key to Our Sustainable Future: Surveying the U.S. Energy Storage Landscape**](#)

by Caleb Conner

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

by Divya Desai & Noah Swistak

[**Faces of The Energy Co-op: Caleb Conner**](#)

By Noah Swistak



THE ENERGY CO-OP
Leading the Energy Evolution

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