

DECEMBER 2023

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



In this Month's Newsletter:

- **Pennsylvania's RGGI involvement suffers a blow**
- **Learn about carbon capture in our Renewable Energy Classroom**
- **Join us tonight for a Member-to-Member Webinar on mycology**
- **Partner Spotlight: Grow Our Food Landscaping**

Pennsylvania's RGGI Involvement Suffers a Blow

Pennsylvania's involvement in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), an initiative to cap carbon dioxide emissions from the power sector and promote cleaner energy alternatives, has experienced a setback. In a November decision, the Commonwealth Court ruled that RGGI constituted an illegal tax, in a case that you may remember hearing about in our [In the News Series](#).

In the wake of the ruling, Governor Josh Shapiro's administration is now [gearing up to contest the Commonwealth Court's decision](#) that effectively halted Pennsylvania's participation in the multi-state cap-and-trade program. Shapiro's decision to do so represents his first full-throated public support of RGGI, as he has voiced a preference for exploring alternative energy initiatives to the program in the past.

The Governor is also leveraging this appeal as a call to action for legislative leaders, urging them to act. He emphasizes the necessity of crafting a more robust substitute to RGGI, however, he warns that a lack of cooperation from both Republican and Democratic leaders could stall progress. RGGI's destiny in Pennsylvania now again rests with the Commonwealth Court, marking a critical juncture in PA's quest for an effective and legally sound environmental strategy.

Whether you are a staunch supporter or a skeptic, RGGI is one of the most consequential pieces of climate legislation in PA, and its adoption would have sweeping implications for energy policy, emissions, and the economy in the commonwealth. The collective engagement of members of The Energy Co-op remains pivotal as RGGI's future unfolds; your voice remains crucial in the fight to innovate solutions to transform the environmental landscape of Pennsylvania.

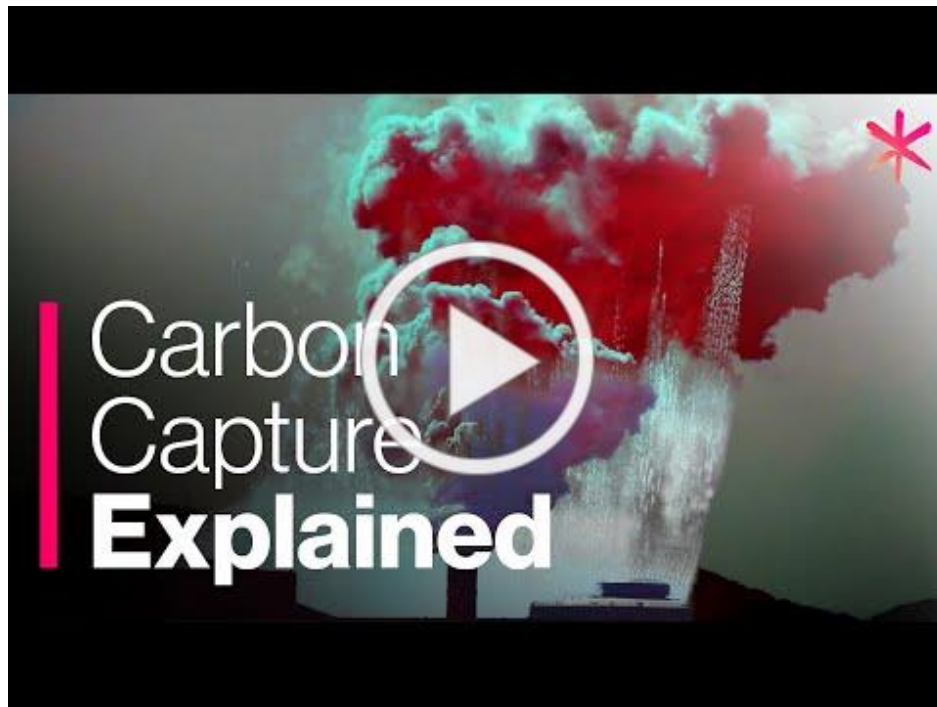
Renewable Energy Classroom: Carbon Capture

Welcome back to our Renewable Energy Classroom, where we highlight different aspects of the generation, purchase, delivery, or use of renewable energy with a new video or article each month. In this final edition of 2023, let's discuss carbon capture.

With approximately 50 billion tons of carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere annually from human activities, carbon removal strategies are becoming a larger part of the world's response to climate change. These strategies fall into two broad categories: biological approaches involving practices like tree planting, and more technological or chemical-based methods like direct air capture (DAC). The process of DAC involves multiple steps that concentrate CO₂ from the air and offers options to either permanently bury it for carbon negativity or create useable products like fuel to maintain carbon neutrality. DAC remains somewhat expensive, but there's optimism that scaling up operations can significantly reduce costs, potentially making it a more commercially viable solution.

While it's easier and more effective to prevent carbon dioxide from entering the

atmosphere in the first place than it is to retrieve it once it's already there, DAC remains an important weapon in our arsenal as the world ramps up its climate response. In the pursuit of a sustainable future, carbon removal tools like direct air capture are essential, yet they should not be viewed as the sole solution. Instead, they should be treated as part of a comprehensive approach requiring various strategies and technologies. To learn more, take a look at this great video from [Freethink](#) on carbon capture.



Events

[Member-to-Member Webinar with The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education](#)

Today

Thursday, December 7, 6:00 – 7:00pm
Virtual Event | Zoom

Join us for our next Member-to-Member Webinar with The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education. Tune in for a great discussion on localized fungal ecology!

[Register Here](#) | *Link provided upon registration*

Grow Our Food Landscaping

The Energy Co-op is excited to continue our partnership with [Grow Our Food Landscaping](#), a sustainable, southeastern Pennsylvania-based business that seeks to transform backyards into biodiversity hubs, complete with native and pollinator plants, food production, and maximized sustainability.



From now until December 15, Energy Co-op members will be eligible to receive their first hour of landscaping with Grow Our Food Landscaping for free! To learn more about Grow Our Food Landscaping and support our partnership, or

for a list of the many services on offer to boost your backyard's sustainability, [visit their website](#).

What We're Reading

[Wind industry deals with blowback from Orsted scrapping 2 wind power projects in New Jersey](#)

Wind developer Orsted is writing off \$4 billion, due largely to the cancellation of two large offshore wind projects in New Jersey
Wayne Parry, Associated Press

[Here's how foundations are bringing solar to lower-income communities](#)

Charitable foundations are using a variety of strategies to get solar panels onto the roofs of health centers, schools, and other community buildings
Greg Horner and Vero Bourg-Meyer, Canary media

[While the Shore debates wind turbines, Pennsylvania's have been spinning for two decades](#)

How Pennsylvania's wind infrastructure compares to its neighbor to the east
Jason Nark, Philadelphia Inquirer

Blog Posts

[Six Philadelphia-Area Organizations to Donate to for Giving Tuesday](#)

By Colin Teague

[Cooperative Finance: Using the Cooperative Advantage to Build a Clean Energy Future](#)

By Gabe Hochenberger

[Spotlight on Renewable Energy Technology: Offshore Wind Power](#)

By Eric Miller



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