

FEBRUARY 2024

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



In this Month's Newsletter:

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- Learn about Tidal Energy in our Renewable Energy Classroom
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The Energy Co-op at the 2024 PHS Flower Show

The Energy Co-op is thrilled to announce that we are a sponsor of the 195th [Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Flower Show](#)! From Tuesday, March 5th - Sunday, March 10th, members of our team will be tabling at the Flower Show Marketplace to discuss our cooperative organization and community powered renewable energy with event attendees. Stop by this year's Flower Show to see stunning floral displays, support the Horticultural Society, and chat with Energy Co-op staff at our booth display.

As if you needed any more reason to come out to one of Philadelphia's most spectacular events, **The Energy Co-op will also be raffling off tickets for you and a friend to attend the show!** From now until Sunday, February 18th at 11:59pm, [share a brief member testimonial](#) about your experience as a member of The Energy Co-op, and you will be automatically entered into a raffle to receive two complementary tickets to the event for a day of your choice.

[Click Here to Enter the Raffle!](#)

Stay tuned for more updates as we get closer to the event. We are so excited to represent our cooperative organization at one of Pennsylvania's most historic events!



Renewable Energy Classroom: Tidal Energy

Welcome back to the Renewable Energy Classroom, where we highlight various aspects of the generation, purchase, delivery, or use of renewable energy with a new video or article each month. In this month's edition, let's discuss tidal energy!

Tidal energy, an often underdiscussed source of renewable energy, utilizes the predictable and consistent movement of ocean tides to turn a submerged turbine and generate power similar to wind turbines. The potential of tidal energy is significant, with estimates suggesting it could generate enough energy to power every home in the United States twice over. However, current tidal power plants worldwide collectively only power less than 400,000 homes.

Despite its promise, tidal energy faces challenges like high implementation costs and environmental concerns. Tidal stream power, a newer and more eco-friendly approach, involves kites and floating turbines to harness underwater currents while protecting marine life. Research and development zones in the north of Scotland have shown promise, but still face obstacles and challenges before reaching wider implementation.

Tidal power, with its predictable energy supply, holds particular promise for coastal and island nations in the journey towards net-zero. By creating more price competition and unlocking its full potential, tidal power could transform the global energy landscape and become a valuable part of the clean energy evolution. To learn more, check out this video from [DW Planet A](#).



Green Tax Credits

Did you know that you can receive a tax credit for installing and updating green and energy efficient equipment and appliances in your home? Tax season is officially here, and the IRS and Department of Energy have released updated clean energy tax credits for 2024. In addition to powering your homes and businesses with 100% renewable energy, many members of The Energy Co-op have also taken the proactive step of ensuring that their space is as green as possible by installing solar panels, completing a home energy audit, or updating their doors, windows, or insulation to improve efficiency. If this sounds like you, [find out if you are eligible](#) for a clean energy tax credit before filling out your taxes!

Energy Star-certified product	Energy efficient home improvement credit
Energy-efficient furnace or air conditioner	30% of cost, up to \$600
Energy-efficient water heaters	30% of cost, up to \$600
Electric panel or circuit upgrades	30% of cost, up to \$600
Heat pumps and heat pump water heaters	30% of cost, up to \$2,000
Biomass stoves and biomass boilers	30% of cost, up to \$2,000
Insulation	30% of cost
Windows (including skylights)	30% of cost, up to \$600
Exterior doors	30% of cost, limit of \$250 per door or \$500 total
Home energy audits	30% of cost, up to \$150

If you didn't install any green or energy efficient appliances in 2023, there are also tax credits available for electric vehicle chargers, solar panels, and other clean energy enhancements. For a full breakdown of green tax credits, visit the [IRS website](#), or [read more here](#).

Fixed Rates Reminder

Did you know that The Energy Co-op relaunched fixed rates in the summer of 2023? Whether you are a current renewable electricity member or not, fixed rates are a fantastic way to ensure that you are making the best choice for our environment and locking in a stable and predictable electricity supply rate for all of 2024!

Visit our website to view our [current 12 month fixed rates and sign up](#) or [switch your product to a 12 month fixed rate](#) if you're currently enrolled on a variable rate product.

Events

[2024 Philadelphia Horticultural Society Flower Show](#)

Tuesday, March 5 - Sunday, March 10

10:00am - 8:00pm Tuesday - Saturday | 10:00am - 6:00pm Sunday

Pennsylvania Convention Center 1101 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA

The Energy Co-op is thrilled to sponsor this year's PHS Flower Show! Visit this year's event to take in the breathtaking floral exhibits and remember to stop by the Flower Show Marketplace to talk to The Energy Co-op's staff and see our booth display.

What We're Reading

[Solar Industry Training: Philly Program Starts in February](#)

Philly's new program is geared toward people impacted by the justice system and teaches solar panel installation and electric work.

Sophia Schmidt, *WHYY*

[Pennsylvania used to lead on energy. Now it's falling behind.](#)

After driving the industrial revolution as the first fossil fuel state, Pennsylvania has been slow to adapt to the clean energy evolution.

Patrick McDonnell, *Philadelphia Inquirer Opinion*

[The world is building renewable energy faster than ever before](#)

Renewable energy installations jumped nearly 50% last year, the most rapid growth rate in two decades.

Maria Virginia Olano, *Canary Media*

Blog Posts

[Staff Reflections - 2023 Review and 2024 Preview](#)

By The Energy Co-op Staff

[Eco-optimism: 6 Positive Climate Highlights of 2023](#)

By Eric Miller

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

By Colin Teague



THE ENERGY CO-OP

Leading the Energy Evolution

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