

APRIL 2024

# THE CURRENT



*Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond*



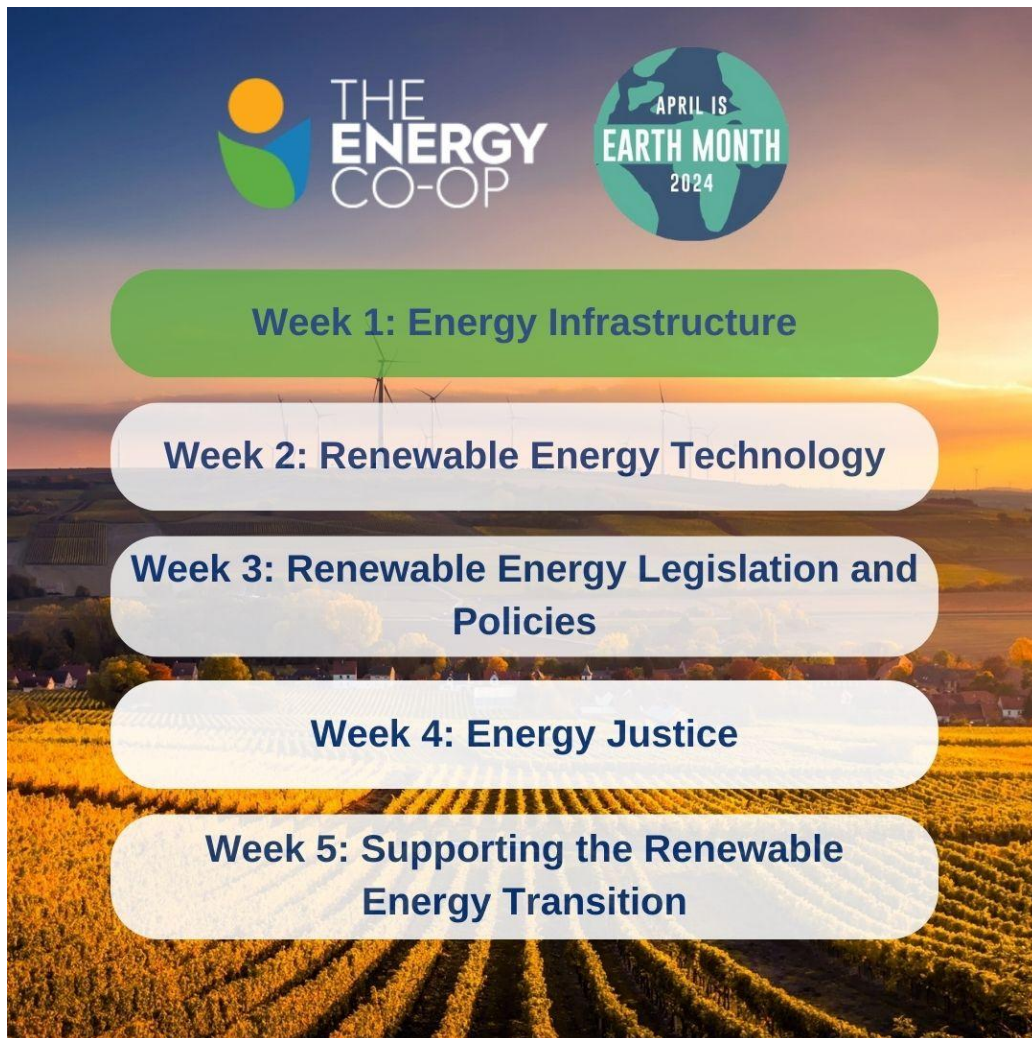
## **In this Month's Newsletter:**

- **Earth Month with The Energy Co-op**
- **Earth Month Renewable Energy Series: Week 1**
- **Learn about Energy Infrastructure in our Renewable Energy Classroom**
- **Join our Team**

## **Earth Month with The Energy Co-op**

Wishing a Happy Earth Month to all members of The Energy Co-op! April is a time to reflect on the significant impact your choice of renewable energy has on our community. By opting for clean energy through The Energy Co-op, you contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable future. Together, we're reducing carbon emissions, combating climate change, and fostering a healthier planet for current and future generations.

But Earth Month is also a time to look ahead to Pennsylvania's clean energy future. Throughout April, we'll be sending out weekly emails highlighting renewable energy and ways to further our shared commitment to the clean energy economy. Keep an eye on your inbox for educational information as well as updates about The Energy Co-op's Earth Month activities, including partner events, webinars, blog posts, and more! Our newsletter will serve as this week's edition, so read on to learn more about our first weekly topic, energy infrastructure, including a [new blog post](#) by The Energy Co-op's Energy Programs Director, Eleanor Fulvio. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to building a greener, more sustainable Pennsylvania. Stay tuned for more updates and opportunities to deepen your involvement in our cooperative's Earth Month efforts in the coming weeks, and check out the rest of April's weekly themes below!



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**Earth Month Renewable Energy Series: Local Challenges to Renewable Energy**

Our renewable energy transition in the United States is facing hurdles as local governments impose bans or restrictions on renewable energy projects at a faster rate than they're being built. Despite the national goal of achieving 100% clean energy by 2035, a [new USA Today article highlighted](#) that at least 15% of U.S. counties have effectively halted new large-scale wind or solar projects. These restrictions manifest in the form of outright bans, moratoriums, obstacles in construction, and other conditions that hinder the development of green energy projects.

This trend carries profound consequences, as some of the most promising regions for wind and solar power find themselves locked out, jeopardizing America's clean energy goals. The United States' stated deadline for transitioning to green energy looms just 11 years away, with 2023 marking the warmest year in recorded history. Despite the mounting challenges, the momentum towards renewable energy remains strong, with solar and wind power poised for significant growth.

As communities grapple with the trade-offs between progress and preservation, the path forward requires a delicate balance. While concerns about property rights and landscape changes are valid, the urgency of mitigating climate change urges us to navigate these complexities with pragmatism and collaboration. And as always, demand for renewable electricity infrastructure is one of the most important factors in getting new renewable infrastructure off the ground. As a member of The Energy Co-op, you can vote with your dollars, and communicate to leaders your demand for renewable energy.

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## **Renewable Energy Classroom: Energy Infrastructure Development**

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, in keeping with this week's Earth Month theme, let's learn more about US energy infrastructure, specifically, the challenges it faces in improvement.

Across the nation, the majority of power plants are located near populated areas, while renewable energy potential is often concentrated elsewhere. This spatial disparity necessitates a comprehensive approach to transmission, with high-voltage lines playing a critical role. However, expanding transmission infrastructure presents its own set of challenges, including land acquisition and regulatory hurdles. In the quest for a clean energy future, existing infrastructure struggles to accommodate additional renewable energy generation, underscoring the need for infrastructure expansion.

To achieve ambitious renewable energy targets, such as President Biden's goal of 50% emissions reduction by 2030 and 80% renewable energy by 2050, substantial investments in transmission infrastructure are essential. Estimates suggest that nearly \$320 billion in investments over the next decade will be required, comparable to investments in renewable energy plants themselves. While there is optimism about the nation's ability to transition to a greener grid, execution remains a concern. Legislative, regulatory, and industry

challenges must be navigated to realize these ambitious goals.

Ultimately, achieving a decarbonized future hinges on the ability to efficiently transmit renewable energy across vast distances. A new, interconnected, high-voltage grid is imperative for harnessing renewable energy sources effectively and realizing the vision of a sustainable energy landscape. To learn more, check out this informative video from [Vox](#).



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## Join our Team

The Energy Co-op is currently looking for a qualified candidate to fill our Marketing Intern position!

The Marketing Intern will support the success of The Energy Co-op's branding strategy, assisting the Marketing Manager with the management of social media channels, copyediting for campaigns and communications to The Energy Co-op's membership community, and market research and data collection.

If you or someone you know has relevant experience and an interest in renewable energy, help us spread the word about this opening. And if this sounds like you, we welcome you to learn more and [apply today!](#)

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## Events

### [No Planet B Jamboree](#)

Sunday, April 21, 2024 from 2:00pm - 6:00pm

Courtyard of The Sun Inn, Bethlehem, PA

The Energy Co-op will be tabling at the 2nd annual No Planet B Jamboree! Come out to Bethlehem for a day filled with live music and eco-friendly fun.

### [Green Philly EcoFair](#)

Saturday, April 27, 2024 from 12:00 - 6:00pm

Cherry St. Pier, Philadelphia, PA

The Energy Co-op will be tabling at the first ever Green Philly Ecofair. Stop by for a family-friendly event showcasing the region's eco-resources and initiatives driving positive change in our region.

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## What We're Reading

[Josh Shapiro proposes state climate program to replace RGGI and asks for new renewable energy goals](#)

Gov. Josh Shapiro is offering his own vision to limit climate-warming pollution from power plants, and is setting new goals for how much energy Pennsylvania gets from renewable sources.

Rachel Mcdevitt, State Impact PA

[Pennsylvania county joins other local governments in suing oil industry over climate change](#)

Bucks County is suing major oil producers, asserting that they systematically deceived the public about their role in accelerating climate change

Michael Rubinkam, *Associated Press*

[Climate grants bring out Democrats' 2028 stars](#)

Democratic governors are laying out ambitious climate plans as they compete for federal funds to green their states and burnish their reputations ahead of the 2028 presidential race.

Ariana Skibell, *Politico*

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## Blog Posts

[Grid Resilience and Modernization](#)

By Eleanor Fulvio

[Clean and Green: Assessing New Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker's Climate Goals](#)

By Eric Miller

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

By The Energy Co-op Staff

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**THE ENERGY CO-OP**

Leading the Energy Evolution

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