

MARCH 2024

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



PHS 2024 PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

In this Month's Newsletter:

- The Energy Co-op at the 2024 PHS Flower Show
- Learn about Microgrids in our Renewable Energy Classroom
- Join our Team
- Energy Week at The University of Pennsylvania
- Explore Green Tax Credits for 2024

The Energy Co-op at the 2024 PHS Flower Show

The Energy Co-op is a sponsor of the 195th [Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Flower Show](#)! From Tuesday, March 5th - Sunday, March 10th, our team will be tabling at the Flower Show Marketplace to discuss our cooperative organization and community-powered renewable energy with event attendees.

This year's theme is "United by Flowers" and celebrates the communities born out of shared appreciation of gardening and the connections and impact they create on our everyday lives. At The Energy Co-op, we are "United by Power", and we can't think of a better theme to highlight the shared values of our organizations! Stop by this year's Flower Show to see stunning floral displays, support the Horticultural Society, chat with Energy Co-op staff at our table, and grab some swag!





Renewable Energy Classroom: Microgrids

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 January's Energy Co-op Town Hall, a member asked a great question about microgrids, so in this month's edition, let's discuss them! In that spirit, if you have anything you would like to see featured in our Renewable Energy Classroom or newsletter more broadly, remember to shoot a message to info@theenergy.coop.

Microgrids are a transformative approach to energy distribution, offering localized and independent power systems that can operate alongside or independently from the main grid. Microgrids frequently integrate renewable energy sources like solar and wind, thereby reducing reliance on traditional fossil fuels and building community energy autonomy, especially during emergencies or grid disruptions. These innovative systems have a wide range of applications, from powering critical infrastructure like military bases and hospitals to serving remote or underserved communities. However, their widespread adoption faces challenges such as regulatory barriers and resistance from utility companies.

Despite these challenges, the potential of microgrids to improve energy reliability, promote sustainability, and enhance grid resilience is clear. As we navigate the transition to a clean energy future, microgrids are poised to play a pivotal role in shaping our energy landscape for the better. To learn more, check out this informative video from [Vox](#) on microgrids.



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, copy editing 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!](#)

Energy Week at The University of Pennsylvania

From March 11 – March 15, join The University of Pennsylvania's Kleinman Center for Energy Policy for a series of discussions, lectures, and seminars on sustainability, energy policy, climate change, and decarbonization at their annual Energy Week. Many events are open to the public, so visit their website to [preview the events and register!](#)

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](#).

Events

[2024 Pennsylvania 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 at our table.

What We're Reading

[Where utility customers' climate payments really go](#)

U.S. natural gas utilities are spending customer cash on clean energy projects, but the destinations can be dubious.

Joel Kirkland, *Politico*

[Pa. environmental, religious and other groups criticize Shapiro plan for ignoring climate change](#)

More than 100 advocacy groups say Gov. Josh Shapiro's new 10-year economic development plan is not sustainable.

Rachel McDevitt, *StateImpact Pennsylvania*

[Chester LNG project promises return, despite Biden's pause and other hurdles](#)

Prospects for a controversial LNG export terminal on the Chester waterfront appear in limbo, yet Penn American Energy CEO is bullish on the project.
Kenny Cooper and Susan Phillips, *WHYY*

Blog Posts

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

By Eric Miller

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

By The Energy Co-op Staff

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

By Eric Miller



THE ENERGY CO-OP

Leading the Energy Evolution

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