

MAY 2024

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



In this Month's Newsletter:

- **New Member Benefit: Energy Efficiency Home Audit Program**
- **Learn about the future of engines in our Renewable Energy Classroom**
- **Pennsylvania's proposed PACER Initiative**

New Member Benefit: Energy Efficiency Home Audit Program

Beginning this month, The Energy Co-op will once again partner with the [Energy Coordinating Agency \(ECA\)](#) to provide high-quality home energy audits

to Energy Co-op members. As we head into the cooling season, be sure to take advantage of this new member benefit to maximize your home's energy efficiency and reduce energy usage while maintaining a comfortable indoor climate! As part of our partnership with ECA, Energy Co-op members will also have the opportunity to learn more about energy efficiency through upcoming virtual and in-person events. Stay tuned for more information on the program launch, and in the meantime, you can learn more about ECA's programs by visiting their [website](#).

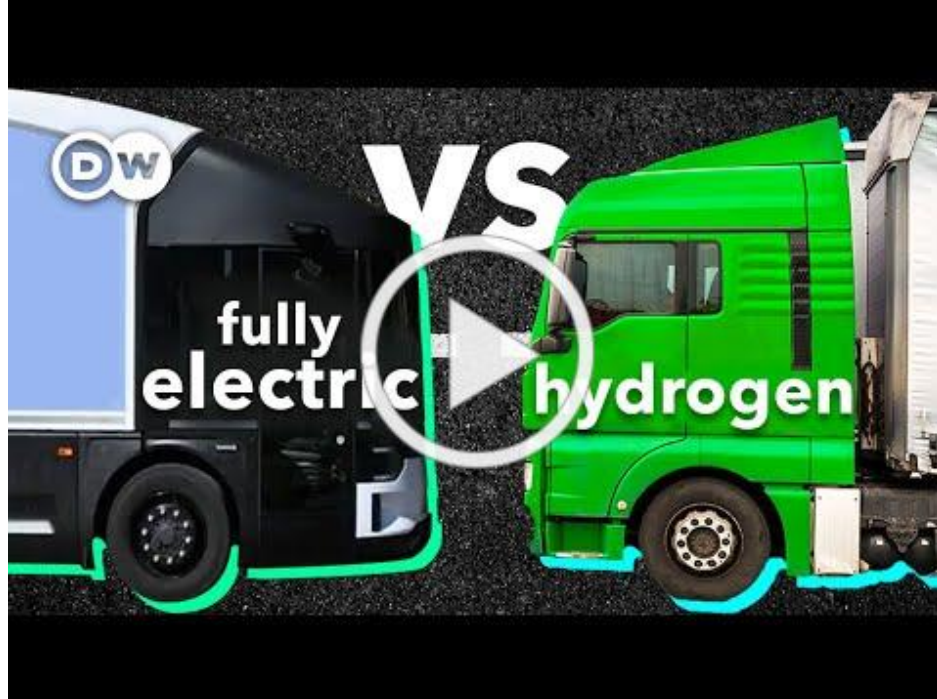
Renewable Energy Classroom: Future of Engines

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, we delve into the critical role of truck engines in freight transportation and the need to address their environmental impact. Truck engines serve as the lifeline of commerce, ensuring the delivery of goods across the United States. However, they also contribute significantly to transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions, with heavy-duty trucks accounting for a substantial portion of this impact.

Hydrogen fuel cell engines offer a promising avenue, reducing emissions by up to 33% compared to diesel trucks. However, battery-electric technology is gaining ground due to declining costs and advancements in charging infrastructure. While hydrogen fuel cells boast longer ranges and faster refueling times, battery-electric trucks benefit from a more mature technology ecosystem and lower operating costs.

The quest for cleaner truck engines represents a significant opportunity to combat climate change and promote sustainability in the transportation sector. By leveraging these innovative solutions, we can drive emissions and create a more sustainable and resilient freight transport system in the United States and around the world.

To learn more, check out this informative video from [DW](#).



Pennsylvania's proposed PACER Initiative

Governor Josh Shapiro has [unveiled an ambitious climate proposal](#) that seeks to overhaul the state's approach to addressing climate change, the Pennsylvania Climate Emissions Reduction Initiative (PACER). Central to this proposal is the replacement of the proposed Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) with a new state-specific climate program and the establishment of aggressive renewable energy goals.

By moving away from [RGGI](#), Shapiro believes that Pennsylvania can implement a climate program that directly addresses local environmental challenges beyond just power plant emissions. Governor Shapiro's plan emphasizes reducing greenhouse gas emissions and accelerating the development of renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydroelectric power.

For consumers, Governor Shapiro's proposal could translate into expanded opportunities to access clean energy. This might include increased incentives for residential solar installations, support for community solar projects, and enhanced renewable energy purchasing programs. Governor Shapiro's proposal would update Pennsylvania's [Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards](#) (AEPS), which mandate that a certain percentage of electricity sold in the state comes from renewable or alternative energy sources. The new renewable energy goals under Shapiro's plan would bolster efforts to meet and exceed these standards, potentially driving further investment and innovation in renewable energy technologies.

While Governor Shapiro's climate initiative underscores a commitment to fostering a sustainable energy future in Pennsylvania, it is a departure from RGGI, a high priority of many climate advocates. The implementation of PACER would represent a significant step forward in advancing renewable energy goals, reducing carbon emissions statewide and driving positive change towards a greener and more resilient energy landscape.

To learn more about the PACER initiative and how it could affect members of The Energy Co-op, keep an eye on [our blog](#) where our team will be publishing a longer form blog post on the initiative and its possible impacts later this month!

Events

[Member to Member Webinar with Grow our Food](#)

Thursday, May 9, 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Zoom | [Register Here](#)

Join us for our next Member-to-Member Webinar with member Boris Kerzner, founder of [Grow our Food](#). Tune in for a great discussion on easy to grow berries, and get some inspiration for your garden this summer! Zoom link provided upon registration.

Montco Clean Energy, EV, & Environmental Expo

Saturday, May 11, 2024 from 10:00am-1:00pm

East Norriton Township Building, 2501 Stanbridge St, Norristown, PA 19401

Join Congresswoman Madeleine Dean, State Senator Amanda Cappelletti, Penn Environment, and over a dozen clean energy, energy efficiency, electric vehicle, and environmental exhibitors from the region for this excellent clean energy event. The Energy Co-op will be tabling at the event all afternoon, so stop by to say hello!

2024 Annual Member Meeting

Thursday, June 27, 5:30pm – 7:00pm

The Philadelphia Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, PA

Join us for our 2024 Annual Member Meeting, where our team will share the progress we have made over the past year and discuss our plans for the remainder of 2024. Registration and further details TBA.

What We're Reading

[The Biden admin has a plan to get more mileage out of the power grid](#)

The Department of Energy released a new roadmap to help the U.S. adopt tech that can give the grid a much-needed boost in capacity and reliability.

Jeff St. John, *Canary Media*

[Pa., N.J. to receive millions for solar energy projects that will benefit residents with low income](#)

The solar projects will lower energy bills for overburdened residents of the Philadelphia region, federal officials say.

Sophia Schmidt, *WHYY*

[A Small Pennsylvania College Is Breaking New Ground in Pursuit of a Clean Energy Campus](#)

To achieve carbon neutrality by 2035, Swarthmore College is replacing its natural gas-fueled heating and cooling systems with state-of-the-art, renewable-powered geo-exchange.

Kiley Bense, *Inside Climate News*

Blog Posts

[Video: Renewable Energy in the 2024 Presidential Election](#)

By Colin Teague, Eric Miller, and Lauren Keller

[Grid Resilience and Modernization](#)

By Eleanor Fulvio

[Permaculture: A Brief Introduction](#)

By Energy Co-op Member, Boris Kerzner



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Leading the Energy Evolution

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