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November 2024

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# THE CURRENT



*Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond*



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

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- **In Case You Missed It: Co-op Month with The Energy Co-op**
- **Renewable Energy Classroom**
- **What We're Reading**

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## **Meeting the Challenge Ahead**

Today, we face a road ahead more challenging than we've seen in a very long time. This week's election results raise many questions, emotions, and concerns about the present and future. The newly elected federal administration is not only in direct opposition to The Energy Co-op's mission, but also a

contradiction to many of our values as an organization.

On the heels of a period marked by some of the most robust investment in climate change mitigation and clean energy, we face an environment of open hostility towards our shared mission. Federal support for clean energy will be replaced by support for fossil fuels and a decelerated energy transition. Rational acknowledgment of the dangerous realities of climate change will be replaced with distortion and disregard. And investment in the stability of future generations will be replaced with prioritizing agendas that serve few. This administration change poses real barriers to clean energy progress and climate change mitigation.

Despite what's to come, a clean energy future is inevitable, and The Energy Co-op is not giving up on that brighter future.

Our mission is to be a leader of today's sustainable energy evolution, and we will fight harder than ever to create a clean energy future for Pennsylvania. Our work matters more now than it ever has, and our ability to make progress in spite of enmity sends the message that we're willing to fight for what matters. Individuals, companies, and distributed governments have more responsibility now to effect change. In the coming weeks, we will work to understand the impacts of the new federal agenda on our mission work and determine possible paths forward. The Energy Co-op is a community, and we're here to support you, our members. Reach out to share your thoughts or to learn more about how you can make a difference. Support sustainability and clean energy initiatives where you can. Petition your local and state governments to take action and support clean energy progress.

How we work towards our mission matters, and The Energy Co-op's values will help steer us through new challenges. We will counteract lies and deception with facts and transparency. We will combat fear with courage and community. We will practice democracy and equity in the face of intolerance and oppression. We will achieve progress through leadership and innovation and meet challenges with rigor and perseverance. Most of all, we will keep moving forward.

Yours in cooperation,  
Divya Desai, Executive Director

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## Renewable Energy Classroom

Welcome back to the Renewable Energy Classroom, where we dive into various aspects of renewable energy each month. This month, we're taking a look at the expansion of data centers in response to technological advances like Artificial Intelligence (AI), and what that means for the future of renewable energy consumption. Driven by the increased deployment of data centers, total U.S. energy consumption could potentially rise by 15-20% in the next decade. The U.S. must increase its energy generation to meet this rising demand.

According to the U.S. Dept. of Energy, "near-term data center driven electricity demand growth is an opportunity to accelerate the build out of clean energy solutions, improve demand flexibility, and modernize the grid while

maintaining affordability" (energy.gov). Compared to other energy generation capacity building projects, large-scale renewable projects are more affordable and scalable. While the current political climate presents a challenge, increased investment in renewable energy solutions to power data centers could lead to "hundreds of gigawatts of capacity on the grid by the mid-2030s" ( energy.gov). Click [here](#) to read more about data centers and their impact on renewable energy generation.



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

October was National Cooperative Month! The Energy Co-op celebrated by exploring how we and other local cooperatives adhere to important cooperative values. Click [here](#) to read more about each value, and be sure to check out our Week 3 article, [\*Slamming: What to look for and how to protect yourself\*](#), published in Billy Penn.



Week 1: Innovation

Week 2: Sustainability

Week 3: Transparency

Week 4: Equity

Week 5: Community

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## What We're Reading

[Trump's victory promises to shake up U.S. energy and climate policy, analysts and activists say](#)

Trump's goal in a second term will be to boost fossil-fuel production, yet a second Trump administration will not be able to stop the country's transition to cleaner sources of energy, analysts and activists say.

Michael Copley, *NPR*

[War on climate change seeks new leader](#)

The results of the 2024 presidential election mean that once again, progressive states will be pushed to lead the charge to combat climate collapse.

Arianna Skibell, *Politico*

[Trump win is 'setback' for climate protection, but clean energy advocates say progress will continue](#)

A second term for Trump represents a setback for climate protection and the clean energy transition, but advocates expect momentum to continue at the local level.

Robert Walton, *Utility Drive*



**THE ENERGY CO-OP**

Leading the Energy Evolution

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