

August 2025

# THE CURRENT



*Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond*



## In This Month's Newsletter:

- Updated: How Does Trump's Budget Bill Impact Energy in Pennsylvania?
- Take Action to Support Renewable Energy in Pennsylvania
- Renewable Energy Classroom: How Scientists are Using Transparent Solar Panels to Harvest Invisible Light
- Learn More about How Renewable Energy is Priced
- What We're Reading

## **Updated: How Does Trump's Budget Bill Impact Renewable Energy in Pennsylvania?**

It has been nearly a month since Congress passed the budget bill that will drastically affect energy generation and consumer prices in the coming decade. We're tracking the biggest effects for our members. Here are some key updates:

- **Significant decline in statewide electricity development:** By 2035, *Energy Innovation* forecasts a 13 GW decrease in electricity generation capacity in Pennsylvania. The solar industry will experience the biggest hits, losing a projected 11 GW in generation capacity.
- **Increased electricity prices for consumers:** Energy Innovation predicts wholesale electricity prices in Pennsylvania to jump by 9% by 2030 and 18% by 2035, an approximately \$2 billion increase overall. Electricity rates are expected to see a 6-11% increase, with households paying \$160 more on their utility bills annually by 2035.
- **Major loss in state GDP and job growth:** As the deployment of new clean energy resources declines, Energy Innovation predicts an overall \$21 billion loss in Pennsylvania's GDP over the next decade. Tens of thousands of jobs will be lost due to factory closures and construction halts. [Read the report.](#)

### Support Clean Energy Legislation

Pennsylvania is falling behind in renewable energy investment. Governor Shapiro's "Lighting Plan" aims to improve the production and usage of affordable, renewable energy and update energy efficiency programs. Six bills currently await passage in the General Assembly. [Learn more about them and how you can show your support below:](#)

**HB 501:** Establish the Pennsylvania Reliable Energy Sustainability Standard (PRESS) to update energy standards and boost innovation in renewables.



**HB 504:** Introduce community energy facilities to help rural and low-income communities lower energy costs.



**HB 202:** Provide billions for new energy projects through updated EDGE tax credits.



**HB 502:** Create a central Reliable Energy Siting and Electric Transition (RESET) Board to streamline approvals of large energy projects.



**HB 503:** Establish the Pennsylvania Climate Emissions Reduction (PACER) Program to create clean energy jobs, lower utility bills and cut carbon pollution.



**HB 505:** Increase energy-efficiency rebates to reduce household energy costs.





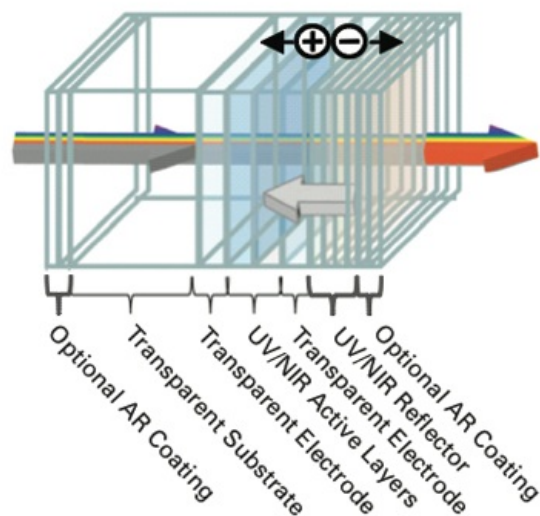
## Take Action to Support Renewable Energy in PA

*Feeling frustrated by federal clean energy setbacks? Want to do something to support renewable energy progress in PA?*

Check out our new [legislative advocacy guide](#)! Find renewable energy bills you care about and an **easy-to-use template** to **contact your legislators and voice your support**. It only takes a few minutes and makes a big impact!

[Contact Your Legislator Now!](#)

## Renewable Energy Classroom: How Scientists Are Using Transparent Solar Panels to Harvest Invisible Light



*Image Source: MIT Energy Initiative*

Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Michigan State University have developed transparent solar panels—clear technology that can be deposited on nearly any surface to collect and convert invisible light into usable energy. Though still in its early stages of commercial deployment, transparent photovoltaics (PVs) offer a promising path to affordable, widespread solar adoption in areas previously unsuitable for solar energy.

Transparent PVs work by absorbing infrared and ultraviolet light across semiconductor and electrode layers. In 2022, researchers achieved [100% transparency](#) in the panels with a [conversion efficiency of around 10%](#): about half that of traditional opaque panels and two-thirds of transparent PVs' overall potential. Transparent PVs offer dramatic cost-savings for solar projects by piggybacking off existing construction processes, minimizing the installation costs accounting for [50-66% of a conventional PV system's total price](#).

Transparent PVs also offer massive energy generation potential. Even at 5% efficiency, panels coating a skyscraper's windows could generate [over 25% of the building's energy needs](#) while further reducing energy use by blocking much of the infrared radiation responsible for heating up a room. In the U.S. alone, there exists an estimated 5 to 7 billion square meters of glass surfaces; if all of them were covered in transparent PVs, they could generate enough electricity to supply [40% of the nation's energy demand](#). When combined with traditional solar units, transparent solar panels represent an exciting, if still novel, way to meet nearly all of U.S. electricity demand with solar energy.

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### **Blog Post: If Renewable Energy Is Cheaper To Generate, Why Is It More Expensive To Buy?**

Renewable energy is becoming increasingly cheaper to produce, often more so than fossil fuels. Yet with energy prices on the rise, many consumers are left wondering why clean energy is still more expensive to consume than its polluting counterpart.

Our Operations Manager and Membership Coordinator, Lilly Price and Rachel

Gass, break it down in our newest blog post. [Check it out!](#)

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## What We're Reading

[Regional grid operator's auction will result in higher electricity bills for Pa., N.J. and Del. customers](#)

Sophia Schimdt, *WHYY*

[Climate scientists look to fight back against DOE's 'Antiscientific,' 'Deceptive' Climate Report](#)

Dennis Pillion, *Inside Climate News*

[Trump hails \\$90 billion in corporate investment to make Pennsylvania an AI hub, fueled by natural gas](#)

Marianne Lavelle and Kiley Bense, *Inside Climate News*

[Do you want federal money for an EV or home solar? Time is running out--fast](#)

Julia Simon and Camile Domonoske, *NPR*

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