August 2025

THE CURRENT

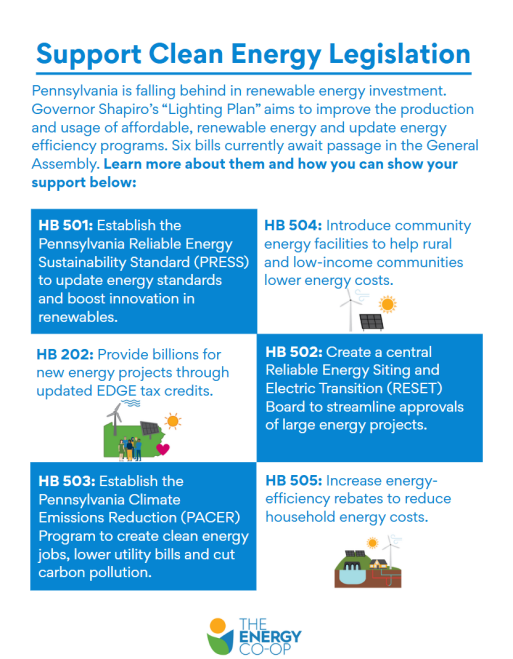
Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond

In This Month's Newsletter:

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.**



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

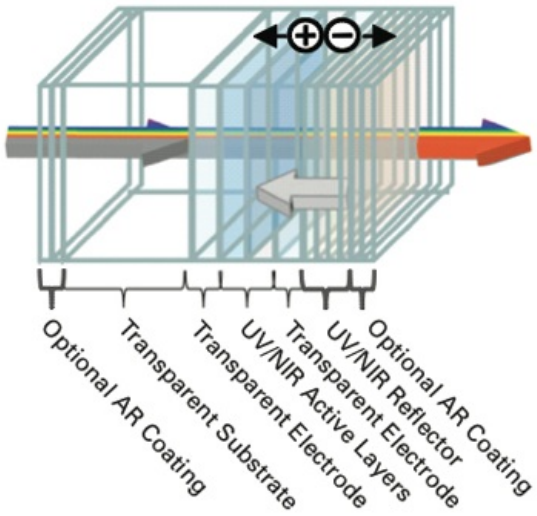


Image Source: MIT Energy Initiative

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.

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!**

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*

THE ENERGY CO-OP
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215.413.2122 | info@theenergy.coop | www.theenergy.coop