

March 2026

THE CURRENT



Energy news from around Philadelphia and beyond



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Support The Energy Co-op!

Loving The Energy Co-op? Please consider spending 2 minutes to [leave us a Google review](#)! Your feedback helps us reach more new members and achieve our mission of expanding renewable energy development in Pennsylvania.



Know someone who cares about renewable energy progress? Help us spread the word!

This month, we launched our **Sustainer Program**, a monthly recurring donor program that will help us expand our efforts to educate about the power of clean energy and consumer choice, and advocate for affordable and accessible clean energy for all. Anyone can become a Sustainer — no active membership with The Energy Co-op required! To learn more, [visit our website](#).

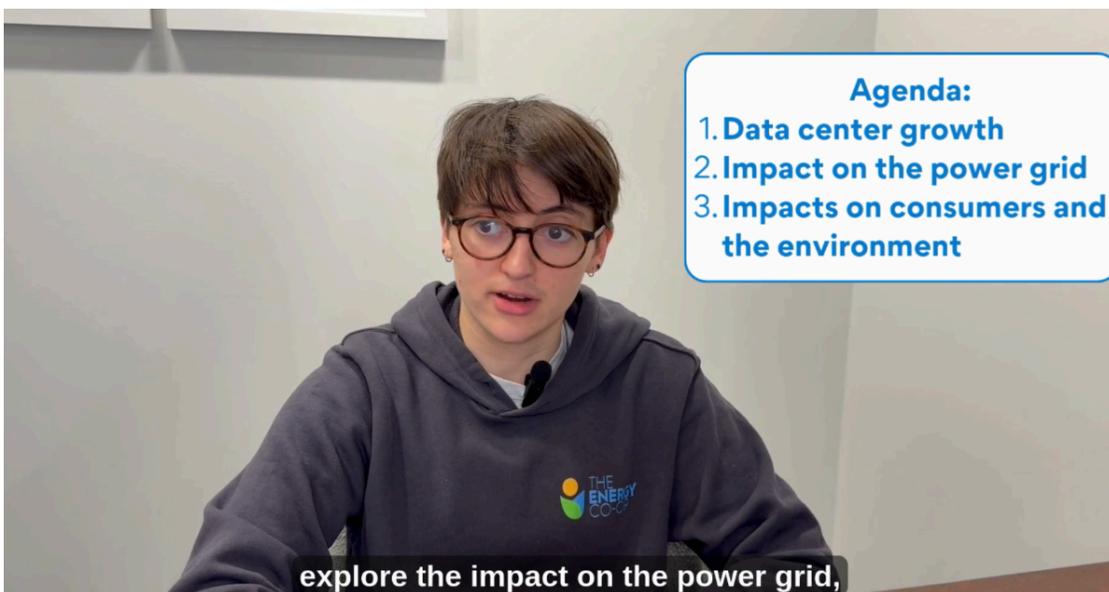
Blog Post: Understanding the War on Wind Energy

Wondering why wind energy has been in the news so much lately?

Learn about the political, economic, and environmental forces shaping the wind energy landscape today, from project delays and federal policy to rising energy demand in our [latest blog post](#) by Operations Manager Lilly Price.



In The News: Data Centers in PA



Curious about how data centers will impact the grid and electricity bills? Check out our newest [In the News video](#), where we answer these questions and more.

Renewable Energy Classroom: VPPs Emerge as a Tool to Fight Rising Electricity Bills in PA

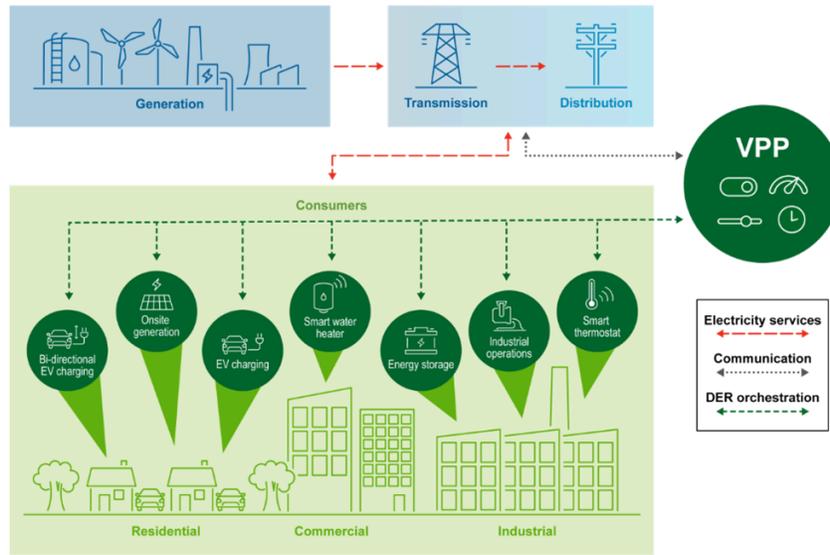


Image Source: U.S. Department of Energy

With utility bills rising nationwide, states are increasingly implementing [virtual power plants](#) (VPPs) as a cost-effective way to meet growing electricity demand. VPPs coordinate distributed energy resources—including smart thermostats, water heaters, batteries, and electric vehicle chargers—into networks that can reduce demand or supply power during peak periods.

VPPs function like a traditional power plant without building new gas-fired plants or expanding transmission systems, some of the biggest drivers of rising utility rates. Instead, utilities compensate customers for temporarily reducing their energy use or sharing stored electricity, meeting demand more quickly and at a lower cost.

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that VPPs could provide 80 to 160 gigawatts of capacity by nationwide 2030, saving customers up to \$10 billion annually in avoided grid costs. With gas turbine manufacturers backlogged through 2030 and interconnection queues delaying new renewable projects, VPPs represent a near-term path to reliability.

Pennsylvania is [considering legislation](#) that would require utilities to establish VPP programs and compensate participating customers. Thirty-four states already deploying similar programs.

Member Poll: Annual Member Meeting

Which of the following is MOST important for you to see at this year's AMM?

In-depth market insights and organizational updates

A compelling guest speaker or educational session

More time for networking and meaningful connection

Interactive and engaging elements (games, prizes, audience participation)

Upcoming Events!

Member Happy Hour

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 @ 5:30 pm.

Join us at [The Continental Mid-town](#) for light bites, drinks, and conversation as we connect with new and long-time members. **New this month:** write postcards to your legislators about a clean energy topic that is important to you! Supplies will be provided.

Planning to attend? Let us know by replying to this email so we can reserve enough tables. Don't worry, walk-ins are always welcome. We hope to see you there!

DelCo Sustainability Conference

Friday, March 13, 2026, 8:00am-3:30pm. The Energy Co-op is tabling at the [5th Annual Delaware County Sustainability Conference](#), an all-day event with topics on grassroots sustainability success, data centers, and zero waste community action. Registration is full, but interested members can [catch the livestream](#) once it's posted using this link.

Support Our Partner, The Clean Energy Co-op

[The Clean Energy Co-op](#) empowers its members to expand local renewable energy through collective investment. The volunteer-run co-op fills a gap in commercial solar financing in Pennsylvania by financing small and medium-sized installations on nonprofits, co-ops and community-beneficial businesses that traditional developers cannot pencil.

So far, they have used their proven and awarded model to complete 8 solar projects and are currently working on their largest project yet.

The Energy Co-op supports the mission of the Clean Energy Co-op of expanding renewable energy in Pennsylvania and invites you to join a [free information session](#) March 9th at 7pm over Zoom.

Directly expand local renewable energy with

The Clean Energy Co-op

A Small Investment Co-op
March 9th
7pm Zoom

Presented by Register, Join & Learn More at www.CleanEnergy.Coop

Recently completed projects
Weavers Way Co-op, Germantown
The Mercantile

What We're Reading

[PECO profits skyrocket almost 50% after 2025 rate hikes](#)

Susan Phillips, *WHYY*

[Gov Shapiro secures extension of PJM price cap, saving consumers \\$27 billion more on energy bills](#)

PA.gov

[Pennsylvania county denies rezoning plan that would have allowed a data center](#)

Jon Hurdle, *Inside Climate News*

[EPA revokes scientific finding that underpinned U.S. fight against climate change](#)

Matthew Daly, *Associated Press*



LEADING THE ENERGY EVOLUTION

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