



Save these Dates!



PMEA Reception – June 2, 2024
@ PSAB Conference, Wild Rose A/B, Hershey Lodge
Reception begins @ 3:00 pm

*** Registration Opens April 30 ***
PMEA 2023 Annual Conference – September 4 – 6, 2024
@ Omni Bedford Springs, Bedford

PMEA Business & Governance Workshop (*formerly Finance Workshop)
– September 4, 2024 @ Omni Bedford Springs, Bedford

2024 Training for Line Crews – **Watch your email for registration details**

HotStick

May 2 & 3 - Lansdale
May 6 & 7 - Chambersburg
May 9 & 10 - Grove City

Digger

September 23 & 24 - Lansdale
September 26 & 27 - Chambersburg
September 30 & October 1 - Grove City

Crew Leadership

July 15 & 16 - Lansdale
July 18 & 19 - Chambersburg
July 22 & 23 - Grove City

Substation 101

October 28 & 29 - Lansdale
October 30 & 31 - Chambersburg
November 4 & 5 – Grove City

**** Save the Date****

PMEA Spring Superintendents/ Foremen Meeting
April 10 & 11, 2025 @ The Nittany Lion Inn, State College

Governor Announces Plan to Replace RGGI

Critics of the clean energy plan claim it's the same tax on electricity as the state's RGGI membership

Gov. Josh Shapiro said he would immediately pull Pennsylvania out of a multi-state carbon cap-and-trade program if the state Legislature passes his energy plan, which he said Wednesday would reduce carbon emissions while lowering energy costs and creating clean energy jobs.

Instead of participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), Pennsylvania would set its own caps on carbon emissions and require power plants to buy credits to burn fossil fuels. The revenue generated would be returned to consumers as electricity bill rebates and invested in power plants and energy efficiency improvements for homes and small businesses, Shapiro said.

"We've got to reject the false choice between protecting energy jobs and protecting the planet. We can do both. We must do both. And doing nothing at this moment is not an option," Shapiro said in an announcement Wednesday in Scranton, known as the Electric City for its early adoption of electrified street cars.

In his announcement, flanked by labor and environmental officials, Shapiro called for two legislative measures to put his energy policy into law.

The Pennsylvania Climate Emissions Reduction Act (PACER) would create a cap-and-invest program to incentivize reducing carbon emissions from electrical generation and produce revenue to support the state's energy transition, the governor's office said.

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Governor's Plan (continued)

Shapiro also called on lawmakers to pass the Pennsylvania Reliable Energy Sustainability Standard (PRESS) to modernize and expand the commonwealth's range of alternative energy sources to include next-generation nuclear, fusion, and carbon capture technologies. It would require 35% of Pennsylvania's electricity to come from clean sources by 2035. The updated standard would open Pennsylvania to new investment and create 14,500 jobs, the governor's office said.

Shapiro said the energy plan would capitalize on Pennsylvania's legacy as an energy leader, noting at Wednesday's press conference that the first U.S. coal mine was in nearby Pittston, and as the largest net exporter of energy in the country. More than 30% of the electricity produced in the commonwealth is sold to homes and businesses in other states, Shapiro said.

"That's a unique position of strength. And it is a unique opportunity for all of us if we seize this moment. My plan takes advantage of that position to invest the money we get through this plan back into the good people of Pennsylvania," Shapiro said.



Labor leaders from building and construction trades, steamfitters and laborers joined Shapiro for the announcement and praised his advocacy for energy sector workers. Pat Dolan, business manager for United Association Local Union 524, said energy policy is crucial to workers who maintain and improve power plants and upgrade schools and other buildings to make them more efficient.

"We – labor, environmentalists, and consumer interests – are all in this together. Because if we don't act now, Pennsylvania will be left behind," Morris said.

Gov. Tom Wolf's administration entered Pennsylvania into the RGGI compact as its 12th state in 2022. Opponents of Pennsylvania's membership said it constituted an illegal tax on energy consumers and was an overreach of the governor's executive authority.

In November, a Commonwealth Court panel ruled in favor of power and coal companies and labor unions that sued the Wolf administration, saying the revenue generated by the sale of carbon credits through RGGI was an unconstitutional tax.

The Shapiro administration is appealing the decision in the state Supreme Court.

GOP lawmakers said after Shapiro's announcement Wednesday that they are focused on energy policy but said Shapiro's plan falls short of their goals.

"Instead of coming to Pennsylvanians with a mixed bag of half measures, Gov. Shapiro should immediately pull Pennsylvania out of RGGI and work with Republicans in the General Assembly on real and direct ways we can support Pennsylvania's growing energy economy and lower costs on Pennsylvania's families and businesses," House Minority Leader Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) said.

Cutler's spokesperson said Republican energy policy for the last 13 years has included increased production of oil and gas in the commonwealth and enhancing the state's electricity supply with an all-of-the-above strategy to improve grid reliability. House Republicans will continue their efforts with legislation this session, spokesperson Jason Gottesman said.

Senate Majority Leader Joe Pittman (R-Indiana) called on Shapiro to drop the state's appeal of the Commonwealth Court ruling.

"It now appears the governor agrees with the Commonwealth Court's ruling asserting a cap-and-trade program for electric generation is a tax on electricity and would require legislative approval," adding that a cap-and-trade program that applies only to Pennsylvania electricity producers "does not fit the bill.

"Families are feeling the strain of inflation and increased household expenses, which must be a chief concern when implementing any changes to energy policy. Pennsylvania needs to put electric generation, grid reliability and consumer affordability first, and our Senate Republican Majority will continue to focus on initiatives to promote investment and innovation here in Pennsylvania," Pittman said in a statement.

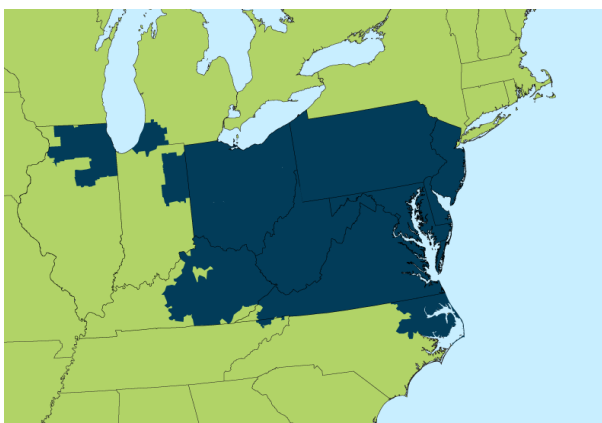


Figure 1: 13 States In PJM - Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia

Shapiro convened a working group of environmental, energy and labor leaders last April to evaluate Pennsylvania's membership in RGGI in the context of a three-part test considering the goals of protecting and creating energy jobs, action to address climate change, and ensuring affordable and reliable energy for consumers.

It concluded in September that reducing greenhouse gas emissions was necessary and inevitable, and that a cap-and-trade regulation that generates revenue to support the commonwealth's energy transition would be optimal. It didn't reach a consensus on whether to pursue those goals through RGGI or an agreement with a smaller number of states.

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Governor's Plan (continued)

Shapiro said he would follow the working group's recommendations to replace RGGI with either a cap-and-invest plan for Pennsylvania alone or incorporating the 13 states in the PJM Interconnect, which coordinates the distribution of wholesale electricity throughout the mid-Atlantic and beyond.

Clean energy business associations applauded the plan, saying the goal of 35% clean electricity would maximize the deployment of new energy sources while maintaining a strong foundation of legacy energy industries.

"Gov. Shapiro's proposal should help jump start conversations in Harrisburg about how best to bring clean energy's massive economic and jobs benefits to Pennsylvania," said Nick Bibby, Pennsylvania state lead for Advanced Energy United. "

Power PA Jobs Alliance, a coalition of about 30 local unions and coal-related companies, said that while Shapiro expressed skepticism about RGGI as attorney general and as a candidate, his proposal Wednesday was "virtually the same carbon tax on electric generation."

The group said Shapiro's working group stressed that the commonwealth's energy policy must not cause increased energy costs, job loss, higher localized pollution or allow carbon emitters to move their operations beyond the reach of regulation.

"A Pennsylvania specific carbon tax-and-trade program ... would not avoid, but directly lead to these unfavorable environmental and economic outcomes for Pennsylvania," the group said.

Author: Peter Hall. Article courtesy of the Pennsylvania Capital Star and reprinted under Creative Commons license CC BY-NC-ND 4.0.

Snyder Recognized by AMP as Rising Star

As part of the People Moving Public Power Forward campaign in 2024, AMP is spotlighting Rising Stars — emerging leaders in Member communities and at AMP. The goal of the campaign is to highlight the dedication of a variety of individuals who work in AMP Member communities and at AMP, raise awareness of the many career opportunities available in public power and inspire the next generation of leaders.



AMP is pleased to announce its inaugural Rising Star — Jaime E. Snyder, MPA, CBO, Borough Manager for the Borough of Hatfield.

What is it like working in public power? What inspired you to work in this sector?

Snyder: Working in public power entails serving the community directly, which is a highly rewarding experience. Public power utilities are community-owned and operated, which allows for a closer connection to the customers we serve. Public power utilities take pride in providing reliable and affordable electricity to our communities. Working in a public power community, there is a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction knowing that you are making a positive impact on the community, and that is what inspired me to work in the public power sector.

Who in public power has inspired you? Is there another leader/mentor who inspires you? What type of leader do you aspire to be?

Snyder: I have been inspired by many past and current colleagues in my career in the public power industry. First and foremost, I would not be where I am today in my career if it were not for the mentorship of my predecessor, Michael DeFinis, both an American Municipal Power (AMP) and an American Public Power Association (APPA) Seven Hats Award winner who introduced me to the world of public service in a public power community. His mentorship provided me with guidance, support and valuable networking resources, which have laid the foundation of my public service career and allowed me to be a part of state and national organizations such as the Pennsylvania Municipal Electric Association, AMP and APPA.

As a leader, I aspire to create and recognize "lollipop moments" within my organization. These moments are often noted as small gestures of support, acknowledgment, appreciation, and encouragement that can inspire, motivate, and foster an environment of growth and success.

How do you approach your own professional development and career progression, and what sources do you lean on for that?

Snyder: There are many key aspects of professional development and career progression, but what I have found to be most successful for myself is approaching it with a proactive mindset and a commitment to continuing education, self-development and building relationships with my peers. I rely on training programs, continuous learning platforms, and forming partnerships with associations, organizations, and colleagues in the public power industry to seek opportunities for growth and development.

What accomplishments in your role in public power give you the most satisfaction or make you proud of your work?

Snyder: I feel a sense of pride in being a part of the public power community. Public power communities prioritize reliability, affordability and customer satisfaction while delivering electricity

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Snyder Rising Star (continued)

services to residents and businesses. Being part of an industry where you can provide a local service at the highest quality that personally impacts the lives of those in the community in a positive way is the greatest accomplishment.

What advice would you give to someone who is just starting their career in public power or who is looking to progress in their career?

Snyder: If you are just starting your career in public power, the main pieces of advice that I would give would be to embrace networking and collaboration and focus on customer service. Networking with professionals in the industry and building strong relationships with colleagues and associations allows for a wide range of resources for both personal and professional development. They can lead to new opportunities, growth and success for yourself and your utility. Also focusing on developing strong customer service skills and prioritizing customer satisfaction by listening to customer feedback, addressing their concerns, and finding ways to improve their experience with the utility will lead to the positive, long-term success of your utility.

** PMEA wishes to thank AMP for authorization to republish this article.*

Fallen Lineman Golf Tournament

The Third PA/NJ Fallen Linemen Golf Tournament is scheduled for Thursday, May 16. The shotgun start is set for 10:00 am at the Golden Oaks Golf Course, 10 Stonehedge Drive, Fleetwood, PA.

Only 34 teams will be accepted with a registration fee of \$150 per person or \$600 per team – which includes green fee, cart, prizes, special competitions, beverages, and a meal.

Net proceeds from the tournament will be used to support linemen and their families in the event of injury while working on the job. For more information and to register, go to the registration site at <https://fallenlinemenfoundation.com/pa-nj-fallen-linemen-foundation-golf-tournament/>



Associate Member Spotlight

Ensales has a wide range of principals that are committed to providing reliable, efficient, and sustainable products and services to meet each municipality's requirements. These offerings range from pole line hardware and back up batteries all the way up to Transmission line structures and Power transformers within a substation. If there is a requirement, Ensales is more than likely to have an offering in the utility space and if they do not, they are more than likely to know someone that can help. To learn more, visit their website - [Ensales, Inc. – Leading Manufacturers In The Right Direction](http://www.ensales.com) – or contact Roberto Benevides, Territory Manager, at rbenevides@ensales.com.



2024 Will Be Better If You Share Your News....

Please share with us your exciting new projects, photos, personnel updates, and any other news you want to spread the word about. We know there is much happening in our member communities! Your submissions should be sent to bosak@papublicpower.org at any time and we will use them in upcoming editions. We also welcome your suggestions for topics of interest for our newsletters.

Pennsylvania Municipal Electric Association

1801 Market St., Suite 300
Camp Hill, PA 17011
Tel: 717-489-2088
info@papublicpower.org