

Talking Points

June 14, 2018



PECO must move to the future without taking advantage of our most vulnerable residents.

PECO profits more than \$1 million every day, and is trying to raise rates yet again. But local solar could lower energy bills and create jobs in the most disadvantaged neighborhoods. **PECO must commit to at least 20% local solar by 2025, prioritizing jobs in high unemployment areas.**

PECO's proposed rate hike is terrible for communities and climate.

- PECO is pushing a rate hike that would add \$82 million to its revenue by charging customers an average of \$40 more per year.
- PECO has more than doubled its rate of electricity shut offs in the last decade. This rate hike will intensify that crisis.
- In the proposal, massive increases to fixed charges- what every customer pays regardless of energy use- will disproportionately impact low income ratepayers, who use much less electricity.

PECO must take immediate action on dirty air.

- Dirty electricity is our region's largest source of greenhouse gases causing climate change. Severe weather this past year was made much worse by climate change, bringing loss of life, power, homes, and work especially to communities of color and low income communities.
- Philadelphia fails smog tests nearly one in every four days and asthma is epidemic.
- Pennsylvania has the worst gap in air quality breathed by White vs Black communities.

Solar jobs are a major opportunity for employment, equity, and ending poverty.

- Solar installer is predicted to be the fastest growing US job for the next 10 years, according to the US Department of Labor.
- PA is far behind, ranking 39th in solar jobs for our population
- The unemployment rate for Black and Brown residents of Philadelphia is nearly twice as much as White residents.

Green energy is cheap and boosts the economy.

- The US Green Building Council has estimated that city-wide solar could bring over \$300 million to North Philadelphia, and \$3 billion to the entire city. These are net benefits over 40 years.
- Due to grassroots pressure, utilities in Michigan have just pledged to reach 50% clean energy by 2030, at the same price or cheaper than dirty energy.
- Solar and other distributed energy often costs less than traditional upgrades. In Washington DC, the city is pressuring their utility to prove it can't use cheaper solar or distributed alternatives every time the company invests in a major project.