



# A Roadmap PECO Can Take to 20% Local Solar by 2025

An energy revolution is transforming our economy. Green jobs are booming, and cities and towns have set ambitious targets for 100% renewable electricity. This reality gives hope that we can achieve a day when all people have the right to a good life in a healthy environment, and all communities have the right to good work.

At the same time, climate change cost Pennsylvania taxpayers at least \$261 million in 2018.<sup>1</sup> Dirty electricity continues to be the largest source of CO2 emissions in Pennsylvania.<sup>2</sup> In addition, dirty air increases the risk of premature death, asthma attacks, and other adverse health impacts. In 2016, the Philadelphia region had one of the highest number of days of increased pollution in the country.<sup>3</sup>

As the largest utility in our state, PECO should be leading the way, but instead it has shamefully avoided action and doubled down on burdening communities with dirty power. Every day that PECO delays puts more vulnerable people in harm's way, increases inequality, and shortens the time the company has to fix these issues.

PECO needs a plan. As people dedicated to justice, we are putting forward a possible roadmap for PECO to get 20% local solar by 2025, prioritizing areas of high need, local workers, and justice.

This will take big steps, but with profits of more than \$1.25 million each and every day, PECO has the resources to get it done. In the next five years, PECO needs to create the mechanisms to

- scale solar growth
- spur the local solar economy
- meet community-driven energy plans
- train workers from high unemployment communities with a pipeline for well-paying jobs
- lower rates for all ratepayers.

## PECO will expand solar to 20% over the next 5 years

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<https://www.paauditor.gov/press-releases/auditor-general-depasquale-state-s-unfocused-efforts-on-climate-change-crisis-risk-lives-drive-costs-to-taxpayers-economy>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wri.org/blog/2019/10/pennsylvania-joining-rggi-heres-why-matters>

<sup>3</sup> <https://pennenvironment.org/reports/pae/trouble-air>

In 2010, Exelon pledged to invest \$5 billion in clean energy over the following five years in Illinois, Pennsylvania, and other states. PECO and Exelon should plan to put in funding at this scale for this transition in southeast PA.

In the next five years, PECO will begin a widespread program to install solar on local homes, schools, churches, and buildings. This will be done through PECO redistributing profits from dirty energy into a climate mitigation fund that provides resources to individuals, neighborhood groups like CDCs, and loans to local solar developers like solar worker cooperatives, solar projects, and solar start-ups.

Legislatively, PECO will advocate strongly for community solar in PA. Once enacted, PECO will work to enroll low-income and energy-insecure households in community-owned solar projects, for example on local schools and community centers, to credit these households' bills for the full net-metered value of the solar generated.

PECO will partner with the dozens of municipalities in its territory who have committed to 100% renewable energy to help source their power from local solar, and support community-driven transitions to clean energy.

PECO's Default Service Program will seek long-term, low-cost contracts with local solar suppliers and require suppliers to price in the social cost of carbon. PECO will center justice and climate crisis in all its planning.

### **PECO will lower rates through clean energy**

PECO will design programs to lower electricity rates and maximize the value of solar through energy efficiency, demand response, and siting solar where it can defer costly infrastructure upgrades. This value will be passed on to ratepayers through lower bills.

Any initial costs associated with a solar transition must be passed on to the corporate shareholders, not to PECO customers.

PECO will seek independent evaluation of the costs and risks it externalizes to the public while sheltering the profits of shareholders, to transparently determine the burden it has placed on communities and taxpayers.

These externalities include health and environmental costs, the fuel-price risks to ratepayers of its reliance on natural gas, the potential for solar to stabilize rates, and the economic benefits of solar, including local jobs and energy security.

### **PECO will spur equitable solar jobs**

PECO will invest in an equitable solar job training consortium consisting of workforce development, labor unions, neighborhood groups, local solar companies and grassroots organizations to provide training for solar jobs, especially creating opportunities for people of color, those transitioning from oil and gas jobs, and women, trans, and gender nonbinary folks.

PECO will adopt community benefit guidelines written by the solar jobs consortium for all its contracts, RFPs and developments. PECO will prioritize new contracts that draw from a local workforce and encourage existing contracts to utilize the local workforce.

The solar jobs consortium will identify high-unemployment areas in PECO's territory and target specific numbers of folks from those areas to enroll in their training programs.

PECO will use its connections with municipalities, institutions, and new local solar developments to support a pipeline to well-paying, stable jobs following training.