Paul Leonard, Maple Glenn
Retired Township Manager and Perkasie Borough Public Electricity Manager

I would like to see the amount of clean renewable power in PECO's electricity mix increase from the current 6% to the maximum amount practically possible by 2030. This is achievable if the full spectrum of existing technology is used, including solar, wind, battery, virtual power plants and reconductoring. It is the responsible thing to do and it is also economically efficient.
As a previous borough manager of a public electricity distribution system in Bucks County PA, I became aware of the large amount of money that an electricity distribution system could create. As a non-profit public entity, our electric distribution rates were below those of PECO and PPL AND we had excess funds that could be used for the operations of the government AND we could lower taxes. For a city manager, this was an extremely fortunate situation. We were able to provide more reliable electric service with fewer and shorter outages. We also could fund excellent roads, parks, swimming pools and libraries because our residents owned the electric lines. They could pay their bill in person, talk to a live person on the phone when there was a problem, get an accurate estimate of the outage time and vote out the councilmembers if they were unsatisfied with the electric system's management.

When a private corporation provides the electricity, you are sacrificing a lot of service and money. It seems time for the for-profit electric corporations to remember that they are granted monopoly status to better serve the genuine needs of the public, not to prioritize their investors. I feel that serving the public means listening to their requests for quality electric service, and in 2024, this means electricity powered by lots of clean modern renewable energy.

Cathy Leonard, Maple Glen

We need our electricity to be supplied with as much nonpolluting renewable electricity as possible, and as soon as possible. I am very disheartening at the extremely low rate of 6% renewable energy currently offered by PECO as the default electricity selection. I would like to see the amounts of renewable electricity in PECO's electricity mix increase by 6% each year. This rate of emission reductions would be in line with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recommendations and the US government's commitment of a Nationally Determined Contribution of greenhouse gas reductions of 45% by 2030. Because I am concerned that global warming is a serious threat to us all, I have educated myself on the causes and solutions. I have come to the conclusion that our electricity system is both a serous contributor to the problem but also a source of solutions.

I am surely not alone is expecting that a public monopoly should fulfill the wishes of the public. In the December 13, 2023 survey of the general public in Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia metropolitan area by the Yale Center for Climate Communication we find:

80% of residents think that corporations should do more to address global warming
74% think that fossil fuel companies should be required to pay a carbon tax
61% think that local officials should do more to address global warming.

Source: Yale Climate Opinion Maps 2023. Search by state and zip code in Tools and Interactives at https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data/ycom-us/

The amount of carbon dioxide, natural/methane gas and other pollutants that are being released by PECO is contributing to the brown haze that hangs over our city and enters our lungs, sickening us. These pollutants have been found to cause heart disease, stroke, asthma and dementia. In the summer, I need to check the ozone and particulate matter concentrations to see if it is safe for me to exercise outdoors. If PECO stopped polluting our air by employing near 100% clean electricity, I might be able to go outside with confidence that I was not harming my health. With the increase of electric vehicles in our area, it seems only fair that PECO would match these personal investments in clean air by investing in clean electric power for these cars.

As a customer of PECO, an investor owned public utility, I feel that the high electricity prices are not justified by the antiquated and polluting electricity generation, transmission and distribution that we receive. PECO is receiving outstanding guaranteed profit for subpar planning, clean electricity investment and social responsibility to customers and the economy of the Philadelphia region. We should not wait until a Texas type disaster strikes Philadelphia in a prolonged heat wave and kills dozens to start reinvesting in our aging infrastructure by building renewable energy, updated transmission lines and modern operations.

As regular people like myself become more informed about the negative impacts of fossil fuel electricity, they are finding ways to reduce electricity use. This is not a good business model for a corporation selling electricity. It is does not encourage people to electrify their homes when they realize that the electricity is dirty.

I have numerous customer and operational needs that I would like PECO, PJM and the PUC to address in an urgent timeline to bring our outdated electricity generation, transmission and distribution system up to the exponentially increasing load demands. Because renewable electricity generation is less expensive than other type of generation, this is the most economical and responsible path forward. Planning should begin immediately for retiring polluting and expensive fossil fuel plants and replaced them with more economical solar and wind generation. Utility scale battery storage could be employed to balance increasing renewable electricity resources. The currently installed, but underutilized, smart meters in the PECO area could assist in shaving the peak load to enable the retirement of fossil fuel plants. Virtual power plants could be employed extremely quickly. Reconductoring of congested transmission lines could reduce prices to the PECO area.

The failure of PECO to plan for increased renewable electricity is preventing the city and state from attracting the growing number of clean energy businesses that are planting their roots this year in other states, leaving Philadelphia and Pennsylvania behind. This may be especially critical to the operation of the upcoming clean hydrogen hubs. We may have already missed the boat on establishing a new clean industry in PA, but we could still try to get on board this year. It really seems like it’s now or never.

Victoria Alfred-Levow, Philadelphia
I stand with thousands of PA consumers in encouraging PECO to build solar and wind energy into its default service plan. Everyone in the state has to pay utility bills every month, and every resident has to live on this planet every day. Bills won't change, but how we pay them - in the dollars and cents way and the long-term environmental cost way - MUST change.

Pastor Jonny Rashid, West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship
PECO's new DSP for the next 4 years is dangerous. The majority of PECO's power is fossil fuel generated and PECO will continue to emit millions of tons of CO2, pollute our air, aggravate our asthma, and cause our electricity prices to fluctuate, unless they are forced to change.
In a recent interview, PECO's response to generating less power from fossil fuels was "PECO will work to ensure the electricity is purchased a the lowest price possible and in a way that will guard against price volatility for our customers" thus implying that the price of renewable power is neither cheap nor stable. This is not true.

Do a quick search of "price of solar power vs natural gas" and any article less than 2 or 3 years old states solar generated power is unquestionably less expensive than fossil fuel generated power. In fact, the first article that appeared for me was an article in Bloomberg News stating "Solar Is Now 33% Cheaper Than Gas Power in the US. Natural gas's dominance as power-plant fuel in the US is fading fast as the cost of electricity generated by wind farms and solar projects tumbles." 33% cheaper!

What about price volatility? The sun is going to shine uninterrupted for the next 5 billion years, give or take a few. And as long as the sun shines, the wind also will blow, same 5 billion years. Build a solar farm or a wind farm and it will generate power day after day after day, same cost, regardless of labor strike, political turmoil, natural disaster, war, fuel tax, carbon taxes, you name it. The price of sun and wind is the same. Always. Zero. Where's the price volatility in this? This sounds to me like a good candidate for predictable, long-term, stable power prices. Can the same argument be made about natural gas prices, that they aren't going to spike in 6 months when a supply or production or political event throws the energy markets into turmoil? Of course not. That is why power generators using fossil fuels won't sell long term contracts. They don't know what their costs are going to be tomorrow, never mind 6 months or a year from now. If anybody wants an example of a commodity with a volatile price profile, fossil fuels are the poster child example!

PECO, is signing long-term power contracts for power with a stable, predictable cost profile, arguably 33% less expensive than short term contracts, really going to cause higher, unstable prices? I fail to see the logic of your argument.

Eve Gutman, Philadelphia

My name is Eve Gutman, I live in Southwest Philadelphia, and I'm a PECO customer. The energy that PECO uses in its default service is important to me because I cannot afford to buy my electricity from an alternative provider. I do not want my public utility to be purchasing

energy that is poisoning and killing people, like coal, oil, and methane gas are, on my behalf. I'm asking the PUC to ensure that PECO dramatically increases the percentage of energy it procures from renewable sources like wind and solar and that it negotiates longer-term contracts, thus unlocking more affordable wind and solar energy.

I'm familiar with the many-years-long grassroots campaign calling on PECO to increase its procurement of local solar energy. So many concerned citizens have gotten involved in those efforts and the work has been sustained for so long because this is such an important issue for many PECO customers. We want PECO to have a procurement plan in place that is truly in our best interest -- for our health and safety now and in the future. Those of us who have spoken up at recent hearings or submitted written testimony are just the tip of the iceberg; many more want affordable renewable energy than those who were able to show up to hearings or those who knew about submitting written testimony.

For all of us, all of them, and all PECO customers, PECO must do much better with increasing the amount of renewable energy it procures in its default service.

Barbara Atkinson

On this Earth Day, I'm reflecting on the many years since the first Earth Day in 1970. I attended Temple University in the late 1970s, became fascinated with solar and renewable energy through an undergraduate class, and majored in Engineering Technology to follow this interest. I worked in the fields of solar and energy-efficiency for the rest of my career and obtained a Master's degree in Energy and Resources from UC Berkeley along the way. I've also served on several volunteer committees and boards for low-income energy programs, environmental justice, and green electricity.

I attended the PUC hearing on PECO's Default Service Plan on April 18th. I support the Energy Advocates' position that PECO incorporate a substantially higher portion of solar and wind in its energy supply portfolio. And I advocate the use of long-term contracts to procure the most economical energy sources for its customers, which economists have shown would favor renewable energy.

We've known for all these decades since the "Energy Crisis" of the 1970s that our society needed to needed to move toward meeting our energy demand – including electricity - by more efficient technologies and practices and supplying the rest with renewable energy. Here is an example from that Temple class on energy fundamentals over 40 years ago. Among the range of energy sources, fracked gas was seen as one of the most unrealistic and highly wasteful methods to squeeze the last drops of fossil fuel from the earth. Developing more sustainable energy sources would have avoided having to resort to this unfortunate technology. And in the larger picture, the multiple examples of human-caused climate change would not be so heavily upon us. It's way past time for regulators and utilities to step up to turn this crisis. I urge the PUC to make the right decision to fix our energy mix now!