

RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGIES FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS



North Chester County
**CLEAN ENERGY
FUTURE**

1

Procure renewable energy.



1 Utility Green Power Products

While your electricity will be distributed through PECO's power lines, in Pennsylvania you have the opportunity to choose a different company to produce that energy. Many electricity providers offer the option of 100% renewable power.

How to purchase green power:

Filter for "Renewable Energy, PA Wind, Renewable PA, or Solar" on papowerswitch.com.

- Look for solar and wind that is, preferably, **locally produced**.
- Small hydropower is also environmentally sound.
- **Other sources defined by PA as "renewable" are not clean**, including waste coal, so take a hard look at your chosen provider's energy source mix.
- The goal is to keep it **clean and carbon-free**.



2 Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)

These certificates give you the rights to the environmental, social, and other beneficial attributes of renewable electricity that is produced elsewhere and fed into the grid.

Learn more about RECs and how they work:

tinyurl.com/aboutRECs

Navigate the REC market and find out how to purchase them:

tinyurl.com/buyingRECs

2

Install on-site renewable energy systems including solar panels.



Businesses can get free solar assessments from local installers to determine if your property is ideal for solar. These installers will provide you with an ROI based on the financing programs available to you, which include lease programs and up-front system purchases. It's an ideal way to determine what your opportunities are and how solar energy can save you money while making your business more resilient!

These professionals will help you navigate questions like:



Best location for your system, including rooftops and parking lots.

VIRTUAL METER AGGREGATION – Businesses can produce power at another company-owned site under your same PECO account and apply that electricity production to any of your companion sites within two miles.

SITE CONSIDERATIONS – Visit the EPA website to learn more about suitable locations:

epa.gov/green-power-markets/site-considerations

Financing Options

Direct cash purchase or conventional loan

Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)

Similar to leasing or "renting" a solar panel system, a solar company or PPA financier buys solar equipment and installs it on your roof. They own the system and maintain it. They then "sell" back to you the energy the system produces, similar to how a utility sells you energy.

tinyurl.com/PPAoverview

PA C-PACE

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY

Financing program that helps commercial property owners pay for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects through their tax bills. Financing is attached to the property and not the owner, so the upgrade cost is transferred to the new owner if you decide to sell. It's a win-win for your business and the planet!

pennsylvaniacpace.org



Costs and benefits of pairing your system with battery back-up

to allow continuous operation through utility power outages. Battery backed-up renewable energy systems can help keep your operations going in the face of grid issues.