



Energy Coordinating Agency



Impact Report 2023



Helping communities conserve energy and promoting a sustainable and socially equitable energy future for all.

ecasavesenergy.org

Message From the CEO

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In 2023, ECA deepened our work connecting social justice and climate action by finding new ways to enable our Philadelphia and Delaware communities to access their basic energy needs today while building climate resilience for tomorrow.

We're approaching energy efficiency holistically by merging home stabilization and repair with weatherization and electrification, and looking forward to ramping up these projects after investing in key staff roles to manage a new scale of operation. The Green Jobs Training Center christened a new Heat Pump Training Lab to teach technicians, both new and seasoned, how to work with this increasingly popular technology.

Our 16 Neighborhood Energy Centers throughout Philadelphia act as one-stop-shops for those in need of utility bill assistance, budget counseling, and energy conservation education. The devoted Community Programs team continues to find innovative solutions to reach new corners of the city - now by securing funding for a Mobile Energy Center. Lastly, while we've consistently and effectively served Philadelphia's older adult community, we've begun to modernize our communication avenues and technological solutions to serve a larger portion of the population, focusing on reaching working families.

Thank you for your continued partnership into 2024. Together, we can create a sustainable and socially equitable energy future for all.

Stephen J Luxton

CEO and Executive Director



ECA Overview

MISSION STATEMENT

Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to help people conserve energy and to promote a sustainable and socially equitable energy future for all. ECA leads the design and implementation of high-quality energy conservation, education, and home repair initiatives to eliminate energy burden and stabilize low-income families in their homes and communities.

HISTORY

In 1983, as residential utility terminations in Philadelphia increased from 3,000 to 30,000 in just one year, community activists, advocates, and faith leaders around the city called for a solution. The City of Philadelphia responded with the founding of ECA the following year. ECA started with the goal of improving access to energy assistance and conservation services for income eligible communities. In 1985, the network of Neighborhood Energy Centers came to fruition to deliver trusted education and streamline the utility bill assistance application processes. Since then our work has only expanded, with the ultimate goal of a just and resilient city.

2023 AT A GLANCE



Trained 250+ emerging workers for the clean energy economy.



Prevented 898 utility terminations in Philadelphia.



Weatherized 761 homes across Philadelphia and Delaware.



Restored heat in 2,726 homes across Philadelphia and Delaware.



Green Jobs Training Center

Since 2009, ECA's Green Jobs Training Center has credentialed underserved minority youth and adults, including veterans and returning citizens, whose diversity reflects the city we serve. We prepare them for high-demand clean energy careers that provide family sustaining wages, such as those in solar, HVAC, residential energy efficiency, or green construction.

2023 IMPACT

In 2023, ECA trained over 250 students, certifying them with 12 industry credentials to serve them in their new careers. At no cost to the students, we offered six grant funded programs:

- Green Retrofit Immersive Training
- PECO Gas Mechanic/Technician
- HVAC Installer/Maintenance
- Brownfields Environmental Remediation
- Integrated Pest Management

In May 2023, we opened the Heat Pump Installation Lab and launched our 6th program. This state-of-the-art lab is the first of its kind in PA and is critical for training proper installation and maintenance of this green technology.

HIGHLIGHT: Brownfields Training

Meet the graduates of ECA's most recent cohort of our EPA Brownfields Environmental Remediation Training Program (pictured below)!

These 10 young people are now equipped with portable, stackable, in-demand certifications for careers turning abandoned, unusable land into green spaces. They're headed for placements that will earn them family sustaining wages and meaningful careers creating a cleaner and healthier Philadelphia.





EVENTS & EDUCATION

In 2023, ECA began hosting large scale Energy Resource Fairs, inviting partner organizations to join and provide support to communities across the city. We held **five energy fairs with 100+ guests** and attended an additional 20 tabling events.

Through partnership with Philadelphia Gas Works, we hosted eight DIY conservation workshops, **demonstrating to 883 participants** how they can make their homes more energy efficient and providing the kits to get started.



Community Programs

Since 1985, ECA has coordinated a network of 16 Neighborhood Energy Centers (NECs) to prevent utility terminations and bring holistic support to Philadelphia communities, including utility bill assistance, budget counselling, and energy conservation education.

UTILITY ASSISTANCE

In 2023, ECA utilized our NECs and events to provide energy counseling and **utility bill application assistance for 4,630 Philadelphia families and prevent 898 utility terminations.**

Our dedicated Delaware team processed an **additional 1,769 applications**, serving all three counties across the state.



COMING IN 2024: Mobile Energy Center

With newly secured funding, outfitting a Mobile Energy Center (MEC) will allow us to support income eligible families anytime, anywhere. Our team will prioritize locations such as churches, libraries, and community centers in high energy burden Philadelphia neighborhoods to accommodate and serve working families.

Home Repair & Weatherization

ECA provides high-quality energy conservation and weatherization services to income eligible residents of Philadelphia and the state of Delaware. Through long standing federal and local partnerships, we're able to approach energy efficiency holistically, starting with home stabilization and repair before moving on to weatherization and electrification.

2023 IMPACT

In 2023, ECA installed comprehensive energy efficiency measures in **over 750 homes**:

- 659 homes in Philadelphia
- 102 homes in Delaware

Of these homes, **139 of the structures required stabilization and repair** before weatherization could be effective.

- 53 through the Built to Last program in Philadelphia
- 86 in Delaware through the PreWeatherization Program

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We've already seen a difference in our energy bill! I have several children with asthma and we haven't had a single medical issue since they finished the work.

- ECA weatherization client in Delaware



COMING IN 2024: Expanding Home Repair

As the poorest major city in the country, it's no surprise that cost is the main barrier for Philadelphians to be able to keep up with home repair expenses, making energy efficiency measures nonviable. In the coming year, we're poised to scale up our home repair work through the Built to Last program, making up to 150 family houses newly eligible for weatherization in 2024.



Heating & Cooling Crisis Support



For over 30 years, ECA has operated Philadelphia's only crisis hotline for income eligible residents facing heating system breakage during winter. We coordinate free heater repair or replacement to keep our vulnerable residents safe and warm.

Since we took on the Heater Hotline in the 1990s, we've expanded into preventative maintenance, began operations in the state of Delaware, and piloted crisis cooling support for Philadelphia in summer 2023.

HEATER HOTLINE

Our experienced and committed five person team takes over 15,000 calls from Philadelphians in crisis every heating season. With current funding, we were able to visit **2,675 homes to provide emergency support.**

Our burgeoning team in Delaware helped **51 families restore heat** in 2023.

PREVENTION

Many of the heater breakages that our technicians see during Heater Hotline visits could be prevented with proper system maintenance. During the off season, our Philadelphia team visited **1,375 houses to provide "Clean 'n' Tune" and preventative maintenance services.**

UNIT REPLACEMENT

When heating units cannot be repaired, ECA coordinates homeowner access to federal funding for full system replacement. In 2023, our **Philadelphia team replaced 532 heaters and our Delaware team replaced 10 heaters,** keeping community members comfortable in their homes for years to come.

COOLING CRISIS

As Philadelphia continues to see hotter weather year after year, the necessity of providing emergency cooling support has become evident. In partnership with the state of PA, ECA piloted a cooling crisis program in 2023 and we were able to **distribute and install 876 A/C units and fans.**

Staff & Board Leadership

STAFF LEADERS

Steve Luxton, CEO
David Huffnagle, CFO
Ruth Brown, Human Resources
Chris Gill, Building Facilities
Cynthia Olidge, Heating
Walter Yakabosky, Training
Lisa Padilla, Training
Lorraine Horton, Community Programs
Carlos Rivera, Conservation
Eddie Miller, Conservation
Juliet Taliaferro, BTL and HUD
Chuck Graves, BTL
Kristin Peers, Delaware
B.J. McDuffie, Delaware
Thomas Flaherty, Development
Rebecca Walters, Development
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Kristin Sullivan

Contact Us

Ready to learn more about ECA? Get in touch and tour our LEED Gold Certified facility in West Kensington. It houses our Green Jobs Training Center, Heater Hotline, and other Philadelphia community services. We'd love to show you around!



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