



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, March 2, 2025

One Quick Step to Clean Energy

The year 2025 has already been witness to setbacks in our world's efforts to care for God's creation. It has also presented tragic examples of the human toll of climate change, in the form of devastating wildfires in drought-stricken Southern California ([reference](#)). And this follows on the heels of the warmest year (2024) for Earth's surface temperatures on record ([ref](#)).

Even when faced with the mounting costs of human-caused climate change, recent policy actions have erased years of progress in reducing carbon dioxide emissions that warm the planet ([ref](#)). Specifically, these recent actions targeted the development of clean, renewable, offshore wind power projects by refusing to grant any additional federal government leases that are required for offshore wind development ([ref](#)). Curiously, the same order that forbids new approvals for offshore wind power projects, exempts from the order any federal government leases to develop new offshore oil drilling and gas and mineral extraction projects. **The recent actions to halt offshore wind power projects hit close to home**, as wind power projects planned for several miles off the Jersey Shore (don't worry they are far enough out to not ruin the views!) were suspended in February, due to "uncertainty driven by federal actions and permitting" ([ref](#)).

In short, recent weeks have seen policymakers embrace climate warming fossil fuels to power our homes and businesses and stop the development of clean, renewable energy solutions to protect our planet.

Notably, wind power is nothing new or unknown. In fact, **wind power is the fourth largest source of energy for electricity generation in the United States**, producing over 10% of the nation's electricity and trailing only natural gas (43.1%), nuclear (18.6%), and coal (16.2%). Wind power produces more than double the electricity of hydroelectric power and nearly three times that of solar power. A short trip up the Northeast Extension to the Scranton area reveals multiple wind energy farms right in our backyard ([ref](#)). **Renewable energy projects are also responsible for creating hundreds of thousands of new, family-sustaining jobs in construction and manufacturing in the United States ([ref](#)).**

There is **one quick step we can all take** to support and encourage a clean energy future that does not imperil our planet and the lives and property of our neighbors. **In Pennsylvania, people have the power to choose the supplier of their electricity.** While PECO is "the power company," you can choose where you want PECO to source the energy that powers your home and workplace. Visit www.cleanchoiceenergy.com, and, in a few minutes, you can ensure that your home is powered with 100% clean and renewable energy. You still get your same monthly bill from PECO (unfortunately!), but the energy is sourced from clean, renewable energy sources, like wind and solar. **One parishioner has used CleanChoice Energy since 2015 which has resulted in 41,596 lbs. of carbon pollution avoided.**

This is a small way our community can encourage our nation and world to embrace a future that respects our planet and ensures it is livable for future generations.

Thanks to Brian Cullin who contributed this column. Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at socialjustice@holycrossphl.org. [Click here for column archive.](#)