

**THE FIGHT**  
**FOR**

**ENERGY**

**DEMOCRACY**

**AND**

**PUBLIC**

**POWER**

# Today, our utility system is fossil fueled and driven by profit...



70% of all American utilities are private, investor-owned utilities (IOUs)<sup>1</sup> - meaning they're accountable to Wall Street and the bottom line.

They're a major player in fossil fuel infrastructure, often building in Black & Brown neighborhoods and damaging air & water quality.

Because they're profit-driven, they raise rates and cut corners, making our energy not just unaffordable, but unreliable.

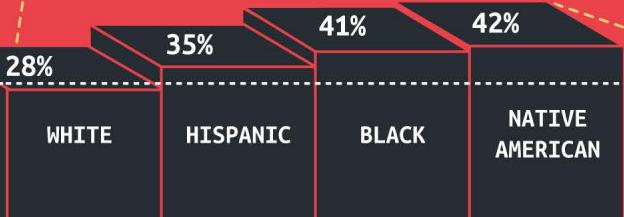
## Investor Owned Utilities divide & pollute communities.

They have well-oiled political & philanthropic machines to hold onto an extractive status quo.

Even facing climate disaster, they aren't focused on changing their ways or keeping communities safe.

31% OF U.S. RESIDENTS WERE LIVING IN ENERGY POVERTY BEFORE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.<sup>2</sup>

WITH HUGE RACIAL DISPARITY:<sup>3</sup>



% in energy poverty

**What we can build with public power:**

# **ENERGY DEMOCRACY**

Public power campaigns enter the heart of the electricity system, organizing to transform utilities into institutions that can embody values of energy democracy.

A red hand is shown holding a thick black power cord that loops through the center of the graphic. The background is a solid blue color with several white wind turbine icons scattered around.

**A just transition to equitable renewable energy**

A red hand is shown watering a green plant with a watering can. Below it are several yellow flowers with black centers.

**Collective ownership & shared wealth**

A cluster of yellow buildings of various sizes, representing a community or town.

**Reparative & justice-oriented**

A set of three solar panels, each with a grid of cells.

**Unionized, sustaining jobs**





# THE FIGHT FOR PUBLIC POWER

Across the country, communities are rising up to take back their utilities from private investors & put them in public hands.



## RECLAIM OUR POWER CALIFORNIA

What we need is a radically different system—one that is safe, clean, and controlled by communities and workers, not Wall Street.<sup>4</sup>

—Jessica Tovar

## #DEMOCRATIZECOMED CHICAGO

We believe that critical public and social functions should be under public control. You don't want to leave something you need to up to the whims of private shareholders, private investors ... things there are not accountable to the public.<sup>5</sup>

—Matthew Cason



## SUNRISE MOVEMENT SD SAN DIEGO

I'm fighting for public power because my future depends on it. Youth are rising up for a just and livable future. It's time for change now. If not, it's time to step aside.

—Czeska Cabuhat

## WE POWER DC WASHINGTON, D.C.

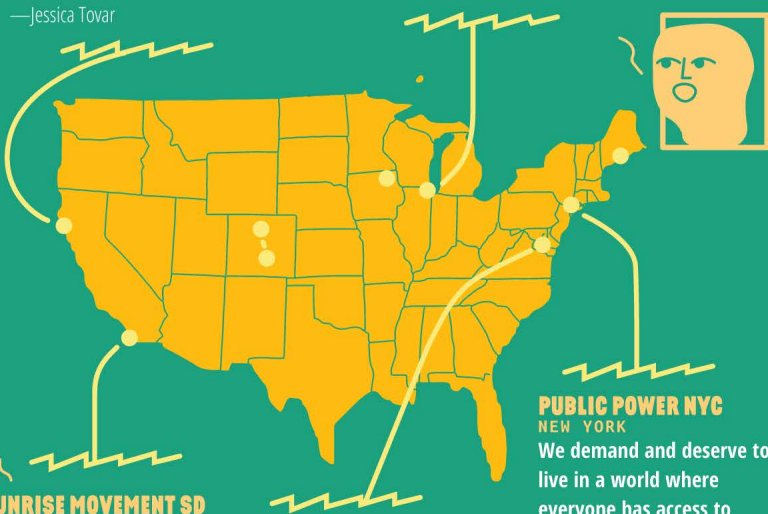
Pepco uses its power and influence to block efforts to equitably transition the District to renewable energy, instead pushing proposals that grow their bottom line at the expense of customers.<sup>6</sup>

—Nathan Park

## PUBLIC POWER NYC NEW YORK

We demand and deserve to live in a world where everyone has access to clean energy without fear for cost, shutoffs, or life-threatening pollution. No one should have to struggle to keep their lights and heat on.<sup>7</sup>

—NYC DSA



4) PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE - CA UTILITY JUSTICE CAMPAIGN SLAMS PGE DEAL 5) IN THESE TIMES - WHOSE GRID? OUR GRID! CHICAGO'S CAMPAIGN TO PUT ELECTRICITY UNDER PUBLIC CONTROL 6) NO PEPCO - DC ADVOCACY GROUPS LAUNCH NO PEPCO PLEDGE 7) PUBLICPOWER.NYC

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