

# Why do my electricity rates keep rising?

## I need electricity in my daily life, but my rates keep rising. Who's getting rich off of me?

Private utilities make their money by billing customers for the cost of building infrastructure like power plants and electricity lines.

Because of this, private utilities often oppose things that would reduce their profits.

For instance, utility-sponsored energy efficiency programs would lower electricity bills because customers would use less electricity. However, when we use less energy or are more energy efficient, utilities can't justify building as much infrastructure. This would mean lower profits.

This profit model directly harms community members as they face more expensive utility bills.



### **Energy insecurity**

Over one-fourth of electricity customers have trouble paying electric bills.



### **Impossible choices**

About 20% of households reduce or forgo food or medicine to pay energy costs.



### **BIPOC households**

Black households are three times more likely to be disconnected from their service provider than white households; Hispanic households are four times more likely.



### **Housing instability**

Families residing in energy-inefficient low-income multifamily housing, manufactured housing, and older buildings pay higher energy bills.

## How can Energy Democracy lower my electric bill?

### Energy Democracy

supports a socially just, renewable energy system owned and governed by communities and working people.

### What does this look like?

- Local renewable electricity generation
- Good, wealth-building jobs
- Control over where facilities are built
- Affordable rates
- Clean air and water

Sources: US Energy Information Administration, Energy Justice Lab; American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

Learn more:

[powerswitchaction.org/resources/energy-democracy](https://powerswitchaction.org/resources/energy-democracy)

