

# How can my community benefit from public electric utilities?

## OK, so private electric utilities aren't great. How do we make sure public ones work for us?

Rather than operating as service providers, private electric utilities function as profit-driven businesses. Too often, they prioritize shareholder needs over the good of the community.

Public utilities, theoretically, serve community interests, but in reality, they also need to be reformed to practically fulfill their stated goals.

Public power, when implemented with energy democracy principles, would distribute wealth, power, and decision-making equitably.



### **Local, renewable electricity generation**

A public power system must shift to the use of local renewables to protect people and the planet.



### **Wealth-building jobs**

When renewable energy is kept local, communities benefit economically. Local generation can create construction jobs and add funds to the local economy.



### **Democratic governance**

Every day people have a say in energy decisions through local control.



### **Energy accessibility**

In addition to making electricity rates affordable, public power can also invest in energy efficiency and renewables ownership to cut down costs.

## **How can Energy Democracy benefit my community?**

### **Energy Democracy**

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

### **Community control to foster local...**

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

Sources: American Public Power Association, Democracy Collaborative

**Learn more:**

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

