



# Affordable Energy Campaign™

LOWER BILLS. BRIGHTER FUTURE.

The **Affordable Energy Campaign** is a coalition of environmental, environmental justice, consumer, and economic justice organizations working together to identify, develop, and implement programmatic solutions that make energy more affordable for California families.



At a time of rising energy costs and accelerating climate impacts, this coalition brings together a unique and timely mix of policy expertise, community perspective, and technical insight. We serve as a trusted resource for policymakers and regulators by grounding affordability solutions in equity, data, and on-the-ground realities across California's diverse communities. Affordability for communities is the organizing priority of this coalition, and all proposed solutions are evaluated based on their ability to reduce electricity bills at scale and for those most in need.

We advance policies that reduce costs for customers and vulnerable communities, deploy clean energy in ways that support high-road jobs and a strong, skilled workforce, and modernize regulatory structures to better align with affordability, safety, community resilience, and reliability.

By uniting these perspectives now, the Affordable Energy Campaign fills a critical gap and helps ensure California's clean energy transition delivers real, lasting affordability for the families who need it most.

## California's Affordability Crisis: A Snapshot

### Rates have increased substantially since 2014, surpassing inflation

Year-Over-Year Residential Average Rate Changes Relative to Inflation\*



\*Showing latest Bundled Residential Average Rates (RAR) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) found at <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/dav?ou=as> as of July 2, 2025.  
The Public Advocates Office

-  Since 2014, rates for California's large investor-owned utilities have doubled or nearly doubled, while inflation rose 37%.
-  Over the last decade, Californians have seen electricity bills skyrocket. Since 2014, rates at the state's major utilities have nearly doubled — increasing 117% at PG&E, 102% at SCE, and 95% at SDG&E.
-  2.48 million customers are behind on bills (PG&E, SCE, SDG&E;).
-  **Average past-due debt:** \$642 per household.



# What's actually driving this crisis?

-  **Climate-driven wildfire costs:** The single largest driver of rate increases over the past decade. About 1 out of every 6 dollars customers pay goes to wildfire mitigation and insurance.
-  **Misaligned utility incentives:** The current utility framework ties earnings to building more (capital expenses), which perversely rewards spending over savings. For-profit utility rates are more than 50% higher than public utility rates in comparable areas.
-  **Rising Grid Costs & Underuse Lower-Cost Alternatives:** Grid costs are rising, while proven clean, lower-cost grid alternatives, including demand side and virtual power plant approaches are underutilized.

# What we need NOW

- 1 Immediate bill relief and emergency support** for households facing unaffordable bills.
- 2 Cost control and accountability for wildfire spending and utility overspending**, with decisions guided by the public interest and customer affordability, and public-interest financing and alternative financing tools for any necessary spending to reduce borrowing costs and protect families from long-term bill increases.
- 3 Lower-cost clean energy alternatives** – such as non-wires alternatives like distributed energy resources, virtual power plants, and grid enhancing technologies to avoid unnecessary grid costs and fossil fuels where they demonstrably reduce total system costs.
- 4 Plan for large new loads like data centers** in ways that protect affordability, meet SB 100 goals, and ensure large energy users pay their fair share.

## Contact Us

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### Coalition Members Include:

