

# Envisioning the Grid of the Future



**RECLAIM  
OUR POWER!**  
THE UTILITY JUSTICE  
CAMPAIGN

January 29, 2025



**“I must engage my own  
imagination in order to break  
free”**

-adrienne maree brown

Art created by Olly Costello

**BUILD**  
a WEB  
of SAFE,  
RELIABLE,  
AFFORDABLE,  
DECENTRALIZED,  
COMMUNITY-  
OWNED and  
CONTROLLED  
CLEAN ENERGY  
RESOURCES

**TO ACHIEVE  
COLLECTIVE  
LIBERATION, WE  
NEED an ENERGY  
JUSTICE SYSTEM:**

**GOLDEN STATE ENERGY**

**ENERGY  
DEMOCRACY  
FROM THE  
GROUND  
UP!**



**RECLAIM OUR POWER!**  
Utility Justice Campaign

# Reclaim Our Power! Utility Justice Campaign



Photo by Brooke Anderson | @movementphotographer



**Our Vision:** Communities all have the energy and resources they need to live and thrive.

Justice is the goal, energy is the tool.



# The Harms of Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs): Wildfires, Skyrocketing Rates & Shutoffs



# OUR PRINCIPLES:



RECLAIM OUR POWER!  
Utility Justice Campaign

- 1 LAND BACK  
*and* REPARATIONS
- 2 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
- 3 FRONTLINE LEADERSHIP
- 4 ENERGY DEMOCRACY
- 5 WORKER RIGHTS
- 6 AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE  
*and* LOCAL CLEAN ENERGY
- 7 CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY
- 8 EQUITABLE EMERGENCY  
PLANNING
- 9 DISTRIBUTED POWER
- 10 CLIMATE  
RESILIENCE

CENTER WORKERS+WILDFIRE SURVIVORS

## People's Policy: Infrastructure

- Fund **resilience hubs that can keep the power on** even in extreme emergencies
- Invest in **islandable microgrids & eliminate risky wires** through remote areas
- Require **more regular inspection, maintenance** and equipment audits for a **safer system**



## People's Policy: Reparative Mandate (Addressing Past Harms)

- Make **wildfire survivors financially whole**
- **Land Back** to California Native Tribes and Tribal Nations
- **Minimize future harms** to people and ecologies through land use decisions
- **Dismantle polluting infrastructure**, prioritizing frontline communities



## People's Policy: Rates & Finances

- **Lower rates** to eliminate energy burden
  - Cap bills at 3% of household's income
  - Percentage of Income Payment Plans (PIPP)
- **Utility Shutoff Ban** - Eliminate shutoffs for inability to pay
- **Participatory Budgeting** and Rate-Setting
- **On-bill financing** to eliminate barriers to upfront renewable energy and energy efficiency investments

## People's Policy: Energy Democracy in Governance

- Innovative, **equitable, transparent & participatory governance** structure
- **Local representation** on the board
- **Community ownership of the utility** as a cooperative
- Mechanisms for sustained **community engagement for accountability**
- Inclusion of **non-energy impacts and benefits** to evaluate cost effectiveness and decision-making

## People's Policy: Local Economic Development

- Creation of **family-sustaining** clean energy jobs
- **Community-owned Solar** + Storage Microgrids for shared wealth-building
- Transfer of **union pensions** & improved benefits & conditions for unionized workers
- **Recirculate energy cost savings** for other local community priorities

## A People's Policy Process

- Envisioning what our communities need and deserve
- Building people power to overcome political obstacles



Art created by Ricardo Levins Morales

## How do we get there?

1. **Co-design a new utility** with frontline communities to be a democratic utility that is accountable to the public
2. **Implement a new utility** using a people-centered implementation plan which outlines a timeline and transition process to the successor entity
3. **Enable a just worker- and community-led transition** by revoking the investor owned utilities' business licenses and transferring their assets to the not-for-profit successor utility as the Provider of Last Resort for their territories.



# RECLAIM OUR POWER! COALITION

## OUR PRINCIPLES:

- 1 LAND BACK and REPARATIONS
- 2 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
- 3 FRONTLINE LEADERSHIP
- 4 ENERGY DEMOCRACY
- 5 WORKER RIGHTS
- 6 AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE and LOCAL CLEAN ENERGY
- 7 CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY
- 8 EQUITABLE EMERGENCY PLANNING
- 9 DISTRIBUTED POWER
- 10 CLIMATE RESILIENCE

BUILD a WEB of SAFE, RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE, DECENTRALIZED, COMMUNITY-OWNED and CONTROLLED CLEAN ENERGY RESOURCES

TO ACHIEVE COLLECTIVE LIBERATION, WE NEED an ENERGY JUSTICE SYSTEM:

**GOLDEN STATE ENERGY**

ENERGY DEMOCRACY FROM THE GROUND UP!

WORKER-LED TRANSITION

INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY and LAND BACK

IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

BLACK POWER and REPARATIONS

DECOLONIZED ENERGY JUSTICE

LOCAL RESILIENCE HUBS

ENVIRONMENT SUPPORT... INTERCONNECTEDNESS HOUSING HEALTH



ORGANIZING TO BUILD COMMUNITY POWER

BREAK SILOS WORK IN SOLIDARITY

PEOPLE POWER

ABOLISH PG&E



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