



How to Get Involved in Energy Decisions: A Step-by-Step Guide for Community Advocates

Your voice matters.

Energy decisions impact energy bills, and the health of our children, our communities, and climate. These steps will help you to take action to be part of shaping a more just energy future.

Identify your priority issues and concerns.

- Monthly bills and rising energy costs
- Housing affordability and weatherization
- Air pollution and health impacts of energy systems
- Who gets access to clean energy
- Energy infrastructure construction – who decides, who is affected

Helpful Tools & Trainings

- [Directory of State Public Utility Commissions \(PUCs\)](#)
- [Trainings & certifications](#)

Learning the basics

Ever wonder who decides how much you pay for energy or how utility companies are regulated? The [Plugged In](#) video series breaks down the basics—from what utility companies do and the role of public utility commissions, to understanding energy dockets, rate cases, and the charges that show up on your monthly bill. Check out the [series](#) to learn how these decisions are made and why they matter to your community.

Connect with local organizations that share priorities or issues.

- Local environmental justice groups
- Tenant unions or housing advocates
- Energy or climate organizations active in your area
- Your local ratepayer advocate
- Local elected officials
- Neighborhood groups – faith-based, school district, social media

Attend a Public Hearing

Public Utility Commissions schedule public hearings so they can hear your voice when making decisions.

- Find upcoming hearings in your state
- Attend virtually or in person
- Tell your story: how high bills or unreliable service affect your life
- Learn the difference between a [public comment](#) and [testimony](#)
- Connect with a local advocacy group to expand your influence

Submit a Public Comment

Your [written comment](#) may become part of the legal record. You can write:

- Why you care about energy in your neighborhood
- How rate hikes affect your family

[Type here]

- Why low-income customers need better protection
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Know Your Rights & Raise Your Voice

- Push back if a hearing is inaccessible, whether the barrier is language, location, or time
 - Demand that decision-makers prioritize *equity* and *community*
 - Contact your local representatives to voice concerns about inequities in energy access and affordability
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Need Help?

- Email: info@communityvoicesinenergy.org
- Sign up for Community Voices in Energy [news and updates](#)
- Join [Community Voices in Energy Network](#) LinkedIn group
- Find more resources in the [Resource Library](#)