

The Challenge

The District of Columbia is facing a severe energy affordability and climate justice crisis. Between 2017 and 2025, residential electricity rates rose by nearly 70 percent, driven by corporate utility overspending and regulatory capture. This burden falls disproportionately on Black and brown communities; in Ward 8, where the median household income is \$36,946, families spend more than 6 percent of their gross income solely on energy. Meanwhile, Pepco has systematically mismanaged community solar credits for low-income families, and Washington Gas continues to push its wasteful \$215 million "District SAFE" pipeline replacement program, locking the District into decades of fossil fuel reliance. The Solution: The Energy Sovereignty and Public Power Plan

- This plan replaces extractive, investor-owned utility models with democratic public power, progressive taxation, and targeted environmental justice initiatives.
- **Democratic Public Power:** Transition the District to Community Choice Aggregation to negotiate bulk renewable energy rates directly, and initiate a formal feasibility study to transition to a non-profit, publicly owned municipal utility.
- **Regulatory Realignment:** Squeeze corporate profit margins by lowering Pepco's authorized Return on Equity from 9.5 percent to 7.0 percent, ban Multi-Year Rate Plans, and mandate that rates be set strictly on audited historical costs.
- **Systemic Energy Justice:**
 1. Mandate On-Bill Tariff Financing to resolve the landlord-tenant split incentive, bringing 22 percent average energy bill savings to renters.
 2. Strip Pepco of community solar credit administration, transferring control to the D.C. Green Bank to end corporate undercrediting.
 3. Formally reject Washington Gas's District SAFE pipeline replacement program, redirecting funds to rate base-funded leak repairs and neighborhood-scale electrification.
 4. Build community wealth in Wards 7 and 8 through a fully funded Green Jobs Pipeline, providing paid pre-apprenticeships and union pathways for local residents.
 5. Reform the Clean Hands mandate to exempt low-income individuals and minor utility/tax debts, opening up licensing and entrepreneurship for Black-owned businesses.
 6. **The Utility Workers' Just Transition Accord:** Protect existing union workers at Pepco (IBEW Local 1900) and Washington Gas (Teamsters Local 96) by guaranteeing collective bargaining rights, wage parity, and pension preservation during the

transition, while utilizing Thermal Energy Networks (TENs) as a job-for-job bridge to transition gas workers into clean geothermal infrastructure roles.

Funding the Transition

- The plan is self-funded and does not raise taxes on small businesses, working-class families, or local corporations. **The Business Activity Tax (BAT):** Implement a 2.0 percent value-added tax on gross receipts minus business purchases, rent, and capital expenditures. By utilizing a \$200,000 exemption and a franchise tax credit, the BAT completely shields local businesses. Instead, it targets the untaxed profits of elite, unincorporated professional services partnerships (law, lobbying, and consulting firms) whose out-of-state partners currently exploit a historical Home Rule Act loophole to avoid municipal taxes. This tax will raise up to \$500 million annually to fund utility debt forgiveness, home weatherization, and green jobs training.
- **Surcharges on Extreme Wealth & Data Excise Tax:** Implement progressive income brackets (10% on \$500k-\$1M, 11% on \$1M-\$5M, 12% on over \$5M) and a surcharge on capital gains (ordinary income taxing of capital gains with separate progressive brackets), plus eliminating the stepped-up basis for inherited assets. Additionally, levy a \$4 per participant Data Excise Tax on tech firms mining local user data.
- **Federal Leverage:** Deploy \$3.3 billion in IIJA grid modernization grants and \$60 million in IRA home energy rebates to fund electrification without ratepayer cost.

Why This Plan is Superior

- **vs. The Purely Reformist Platform:** While the oversight-oriented candidate relies on temporary, emergency 90-day shutoff freezes that merely delay financial pain and shift costs onto other ratepayers, this plan establishes permanent automated enrollment, a funded Arrears Amnesty Program, and structural public power.
- **vs. The Corporate Status Quo Platform:** While the corporate-aligned candidate's record is defined by regulatory capture, dozens of meetings with utility lobbyists, and stripping renewable mandates from local laws, this plan directly dismantles corporate monopolies to establish democratic control.