

ABOUT PUBLIC POWER

Powering Strong Communities



Community-owned, not-for-profit public power utilities power homes and businesses in 2,000+ communities — from small towns to large cities. They safely provide reliable, low-cost electricity to more than 49 million Americans, while protecting the environment. These utilities generate or buy electricity from diverse sources. They employ 93,000 people and earn \$58 billion in revenue each year. Public power supports local commerce and jobs and invests back into the community.

By the Numbers



Across the U.S., 2011 public power utilities power **49 million people in 49 states and five territories**. Which means that 1 in 7 electricity customers is served by a public power utility.

Public power serves large cities like Austin, Nashville, Los Angeles, and Seattle, as well as small villages, rural towns, and the Navajo tribal territory. Most public power utilities power fewer than 4,000 people.

Affordable



Public power utilities are not-for-profit entities owned by their communities. So they provide electricity to customers at the lowest rates. **Homes powered by public power utilities pay nearly 15 percent less than homes powered by private utilities**. Businesses that get electricity from public power utilities also pay less than businesses that get electricity from private utilities.

Reliable



Customers of public power utilities lose power less often. **Customers of a public power utility are likely to be without power for just 59 minutes a year**, compared to customers of private utilities that may lose power for 133 minutes a year — provided there are no major adverse events.