

Social Media Toolkit

#CancelUtilityDebt Day of Action

June 15, 2021

Thank you for fighting alongside us to secure the right to water, power, and broadband utilities throughout this pandemic! Millions of people across the country are facing a tidal wave of shutoffs, with households crushed by billions of dollars of utility debt that piled on during the economic and health hardships of the pandemic.

Families need utility debt relief now and that's why we're calling on Congressional leadership to make it a priority during infrastructure talks. **Congress must pass a new infrastructure package that delivers on utility justice!** Sen. Merkley has introduced the Maintaining Access to Essential Services Act ([S. 1783](#)) to cancel all household utility debt, and Rep. Tlaib is introducing the House companion this week for the day of action!

Also, Rep. Dingell also has introduced the Water Debt Relief Act ([HR 3292](#)) to forgive household drinking water debt tied to a five-year water shutoff moratorium, and Reps. Bush and Bowman have introduced a public power resolution ([H.Res 457](#)) that calls for a universal ban on power shutoffs.

In California, Reclaim Our Power is demanding an extension to the shutoff moratorium, which currently is set to end on June 30th. Additionally, ROP is demanding that the Public Utilities Commission ensure that shareholders, not low-income Californians, pay to cover the debt.

Today, we are joining together to amplify local actions targeting utilities to forgive household debt, and we are calling on Congress to include the Maintaining Access to Essential Services Act and cancel household utility debt in the infrastructure package!

Please join us in calling to cancel all utility debt by sharing any of these social media posts on your pages! Draft posts, images to share, and handles to tag are below.

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Links for social media

National petition	https://bit.ly/3gpmtEY
Guardian article about the bills	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/may/20/democrats-bill-water-utility-companies-coronavirus
Eventbrite Link for the Day of Action	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cancelutilitydebt-national-day-of-action-tickets-158618134109

National Sample Tweets

Hashtags: #CancelUtilityDebt #NoShutoffs

 #CancelUtilityDebt National Day of Action 

Households face billions of utility debt. @SenSchumer @SpeakerPelosi: support the Maintaining Access to Essential Utilities Act Now!

Take action: <https://bit.ly/3gpmtEY>

We at [YOUR ORGANIZATION's NAME] demand that @SenSchumer @SpeakerPelosi [@ Your members of Congress] cancel household utility debt NOW! #CancelUtilityDebt

Take action: <https://bit.ly/3gpmtEY>

[include graphic]

Thank you @SenJeffMerkley & @RepRashida for your leadership to protect everyone's access to water, electricity, and broadband. We're behind you to push this to the finish line!

Take action: <https://bit.ly/3gpmtEY>

[include thank you graphic]

People need water, power, and broadband to help our economy recover. @SenSchumer @SpeakerPelosi #CancelUtilityDebt NOW!

Take action: <https://bit.ly/3gpmtEY>

[include graphic]

Millions of families are crushed under the weight of utility debt and losing their water, internet, and power. @SenSchumer @SpeakerPelosi support the Maintaining Access to Essential Utilities Act in the Infrastructure Deal #NoShutoffs #CancelUtilityDebt

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/may/20/democrats-bill-water-utility-companies-coronavirus>

California Sample Tweets

Hashtags: #cancelutilitydebt #noshutoffs #utilityjustice #energydemocracy #CancelPGE

GRAPHICS TO SHARE:

ROP/ CA [Graphics to share](#) ROP/ CA [Memes to Share](#)

In California, Reclaim Our Power is demanding an extension to the shutoff moratorium, which currently is set to end on June 30th. Additionally, ROP is demanding that the Public Utilities Commission ensure that shareholders, not low-income Californians, pay to cover the debt.

Send a letter to the CPUC -

Sign [Reclaim Our Power's Action Letter Petition](#) to Cancel Utility Debt

@utilityjustice demands an extension of the shutoffs moratorium until @PGE4me stops public safety power shutoffs! Sign our Letter here <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/cancelutilitydebt> #utilitydebt #noshutoffs

@PGE4me must stop raising rates to fund their wildfire plans. Why are executives getting bigger salaries and wall street investors being prioritized? We must fund the people, not the corporations! #utilityjustice #cancelutilitydebt

June 15th is #CancelUtilityDebt Ntl Day of Action! We at @utilityjustice DEMAND that @californiapuc cancel household utility debt NOW! #noshutoffs #utilityjustice #energydemocracy @GuzmanAcevesPUC @CliffCPUC @HouckCPUC @ShiromaCPUC

California Targets:

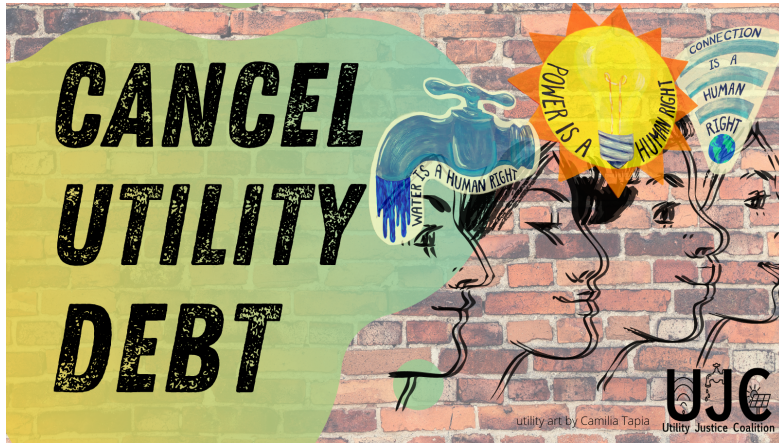
@californiapuc @GuzmanAcevesPUC @CliffCPUC @HouckCPUC @ShiromaCPUC @GavinNewsom

California Allies:

Graphics

[Download images](#)

Graphic	Download
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<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SdpFj42nzuW3nHZKxuzhJFfIE3xfKdT>

Please tag the artist
@byunnatcauses



<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SdpFj42nzuW3nHZKxuzhJFfIE3xfKdT>

Please tag the artist
@byunnatcauses



<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SdpFj42nzuW3nHZKxuzhJFfIE3xfKdT>



<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SdpFj42nzuW3nHZKxuzhJFfIE3xfKdT>

Please tag the artist
@byunnatcauses

WE'RE IN A POWER CRISIS

**PRIVATE UTILITIES ARE PROFITING, PEOPLE
AND THE PLANET ARE SUFFERING...**

Data from just 17 states reveals that **power companies have shut off OVER 1 MILLION households** since the COVID pandemic was declared a national emergency in March 2020



Join us in fighting to make power a human right and learn more in the
"Power Crisis" report at [biologicaldiversity.org!](https://biologicaldiversity.org/)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SdpFj42nzuW3nHZKxuzhJFfIE3xfKdT>



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FAjqNI-EfASa1kBZhiIQWJesdIFfk dBO/view?usp=sharing>

Stop Motion Animation

Please tag the artist @byunnatcauses

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b6ZYcue3N4i9u2BC0fGHn78itlEdME7U/view?usp=sharing>



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RCMDY80OoIPNgCnG9U4CCiJHOqQWIK7/view?usp=sharing>



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xbdNOY2ycUP3ChO5q4PrOHtDiJIwfzM/view?usp=sharing>



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BvAvbAy6ndXpM0zFt-ZCVmxCgsFysHdD/view?usp=sharing>

People to Tag

(if you are uploading any of the photos, please tag these folks in the photo itself before you upload it! They will get a notification with each interaction!)

TARGETS

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer
Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi

@SenSchumer
@SpeakerPelosi

Your Members of Congress

Please see [Tweet Congress](#) for the Twitter handles of members of the 117th Congress

Need help finding your member of congress? [Click here](#)

Champions *[Thank yous]*

Sen. Merkley
Rep. Tlaib
Rep. Dingell
Rep. Bush
Rep. Jamaal Bowman

@SenJeffMerkley
@RepRashida
@RepDebDingell
@RepCori
@RepBowman

Groups/people to tag in the photo to help amplify

@RiannaEckel @GabySarriTobar @johannaboizuwa
@ajeansu @dana_flo @MaryGrant_Water
@weinandcheese @ChandraFarley
@CenterForBioDiv @foodandwater @freepress
@stopcorpabuse @utilityjustice @LCEACleanEnergy
@P4WF @wfdavies1990 @PauleyBeth
@BuildPowerMoKan @CEPheartland
@HumanImpact_HIP @PHAwakened @sunrisemvmtkc