

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Common Charge Launches to Unlock the Power of Distributed Assets for Consumers and the Grid

Amid rising electricity costs, rolling blackouts, and increased demand on the grid, the group of businesses and nonprofits forms as a unified voice to modernize the energy system.

[WASHINGTON, DC] — [SEPTEMBER 3, 2025] — Common Charge, a first-of-its-kind coalition of consumers, nonprofits, and businesses, officially launched today to promote affordable, reliable power. The group comes together at a critical time to address the energy affordability and reliability crises by leveraging the power of distributed assets on the nation's grid. Common Charge paves the path for a modern, more resilient American energy system that's consumer driven, for more affordable power with fewer outages.

"Consumers shouldn't have to choose between comfort or financial stability and keeping the lights on," said **Katherine Hamilton, Acting Executive Director of Common Charge**. "The tools to lower bills and protect our shared grid are already plugged in around our communities as local solutions. The clock is ticking to enable them through smart policy and regulation that puts consumers first. Maximizing distributed assets is crucial to protect our grid and energy consumers in the age of data centers, rising energy costs, and severe weather."

Distributed assets include devices already plugged into the power grid (batteries, vehicles, smart thermostats, solar, etc.) and the technologies that enable them (demand response, virtual power plants, management systems, etc.). These homegrown resources are already delivering community-wide results across the country. In the **Northeast and Midwest (PJM)**, distributed asset management has provided thousands of megawatts during heat waves this year, for which consumers were directly compensated. **New York** delivered six gigawatts of distributed solar early and under budget last year, saving customers millions on energy bills. A pilot program in **Texas** provides the grid with nearly 60 megawatts of power from customer-sited assets, while microgrids have been used keep hospitals running during outages. Behind-the-meter solar in **New England** helped prevent rolling blackouts for thousands of homes and saved all ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars, during this summer's heatwave. In a recent test in **California**, 100,000 distributed assets simultaneously discharged to the grid for two hours, performing the same function as a power plant, flattening peak energy demand.

Unlocking the full power of distributed assets through fair market access will lead to a more affordable, customizable, reliable energy system for everyone and provide additional power to the grid when it needs it most.

“The time for modernizing the energy system is now,” said Hamilton. “From a small business improving operations through an energy management system, to a community leveraging solar to save on energy bills, to homeowners enjoying the comfort of smart thermostats, millions of distributed assets already exist, and more are waiting to be leveraged in a modern, coordinated energy grid. These assets are proven to increase reliability, lower utility costs, and grow local economies.”

Common Charge works with its members and stakeholders to:

- **Drive consumers and policymakers** to unlock the full potential of distributed assets.
- **Advance policy reforms and fair market access** to integrate and maximize the full power of distributed assets for grid support and ratepayer benefits.
- **Unite consumers, nonprofits, and businesses** to replace the outdated energy system with a more flexible, resilient, consumer-focused system.

Common Charge is a coalition made up of consumers, businesses and nonprofits across the country, seeking to expand its reach to include all stakeholders that bring consumer power to life. Some founding members include Advanced Energy United, Charge Ahead Partnership, Coalition for Community Solar Access, Eco Capital, Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Pivot Energy, Solar United Neighbors, Sunrun, and Vote Solar.

About Common Charge

Common Charge stands for an energy system where every family, business, and community holds the power — not just to use energy, but to shape it. As a coalition of innovators - consumers, nonprofits, and businesses - we’ve united to modernize our energy grid. Through policy reform and fair market access, we can create a stronger, more affordable system that can be powered from everywhere. Together, we unlock consumer power. For more information, [**commoncharge.org**](https://commoncharge.org).

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