

# Power for the People: Breaking Connecticut's Electric Monopoly

A comprehensive energy reform platform for Senate District 16 — Waterbury, Wolcott, Southington & Cheshire

**~28¢/kWh**

CT average rate

**2nd**

Most expensive  
state in nation

**\$182M+**

Eversource revenue  
from Dist. 16/yr

**23–64%**

Cheaper: CT municipal  
vs. Eversource

THE PROBLEM

# One Company. 149 of 169 Cities and Towns. No Real Accountability.

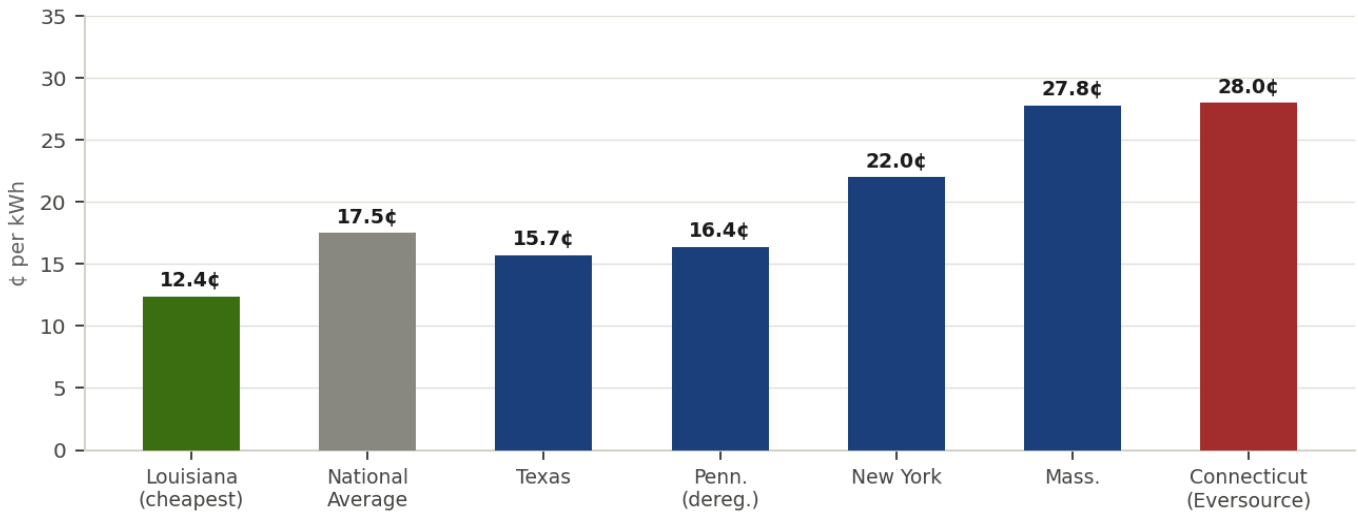
Eversource Energy — a publicly traded Fortune 500 corporation headquartered in Massachusetts — delivers electricity to approximately 1.2 million Connecticut customers across 88% of the state's municipalities. Its sister company, United Illuminating (now owned by the Spanish conglomerate Avangrid), covers most of the rest. Together, these two investor-owned utilities operate as regulated monopolies, serving shareholders first and ratepayers second. A federal lawsuit against both companies uses the phrase "unique monopoly" to describe their combined grip on New England electricity.

Connecticut's residential electricity rate runs roughly 28 cents per kilowatt-hour — nearly **65% higher than the national average** of 17 cents. The average household pays over \$200 per month. The state ranks 2nd most expensive in the nation. And Eversource's CEO collected \$18.5 million in compensation in a recent year while filing for yet another rate increase.

<p><b>~28¢/kWh</b></p> <p>CT avg. electricity rate Per kWh, 2024–2025</p>	<p><b>~17¢/kWh</b></p> <p>National average Per kWh</p>	<p><b>\$200+/mo</b></p> <p>CT avg. monthly bill vs. \$142 U.S. average (2024)</p>	<p><b>2nd</b></p> <p>Most expensive state Behind only Hawaii</p>
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RATE COMPARISON: CONNECTICUT VS. OTHER STATES

Residential electricity rates (¢/kWh), 2024–2025 average. Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration.



THE PROOF IS ALREADY HERE IN CONNECTICUT

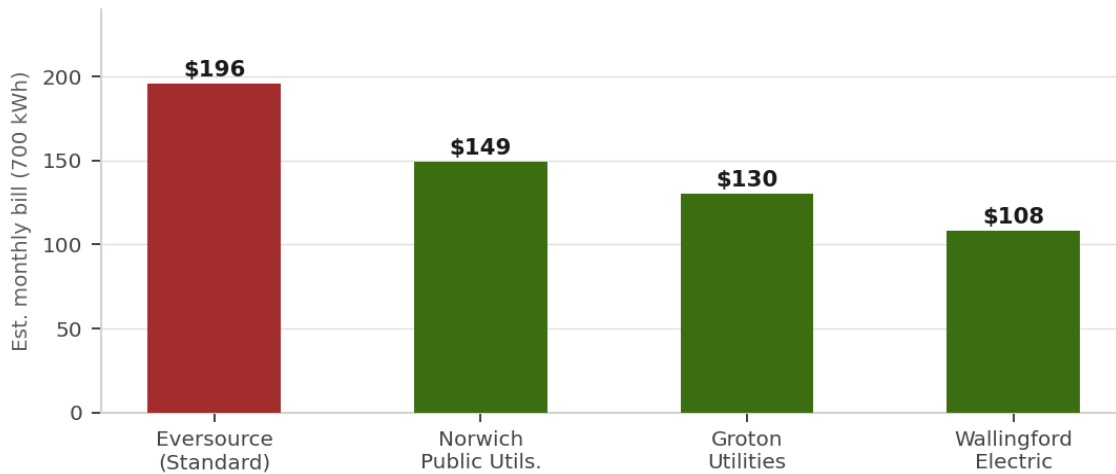
# Seven Connecticut Towns Do It Differently — And Pay Far Less

Connecticut has seven municipally-owned electric utilities serving about 77,000 customers in Bozrah, Norwich, Groton, Wallingford, Jewett City, and Norwalk. These utilities operate as nonprofits, purchase power flexibly through the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (CMEEC), pay no shareholder dividends, and return revenue to their communities.

The result is striking: for a customer using 700 kWh per month, savings versus Eversource range from **23% to 64%**. Wallingford Electric currently has the lowest electricity rates of any utility in the entire state. Norwich Public Utilities returns 10% of its annual revenues directly to the city — providing simultaneous rate relief and tax relief.

**EST. MONTHLY BILL AT 700 kWh: EVERSOURCE VS. CT MUNICIPAL UTILITIES**

Source: CT Mirror, March 2026; publicly available utility rate schedules.



**KEY INSIGHT**

Connecticut's own municipal utilities already prove the public model works — and they've been doing it for over 130 years. The Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative purchases power up to five years in advance, giving member utilities price stability and flexibility that Eversource — constrained by rigid PURA procurement rules — simply cannot match. The question is not whether public ownership saves money. The question is how to scale those savings statewide.

**THE PERRY PLAN · TWO-PART REFORM**

**A Seat at the Table. A Watchdog at the Door.**

Full nationalization of a utility is a decade-long legal battle and a financial burden the state cannot absorb overnight. But doing nothing is not an option when Connecticut families pay \$60 more per month than the national average. The Perry Plan proposes two targeted, achievable reforms that give the public real power over rates and decisions — without requiring a full buyout.

**PILLAR I****The Connecticut State Energy Equity Act**

- State acquires a minority equity stake in Eversource CT distribution operations
- State earns a seat on the board of directors — an inside advocate for ratepayers
- Public shareholder has standing to challenge proposed rate increases
- State's share of profits flows back to rate relief and energy assistance programs
- Sets precedent for expanding public ownership incrementally over time

**PILLAR II****Connecticut Consumer Energy Commission Reform Act**

- Legislature confirms all PURA commissioner appointments — not governor alone
- New Consumer Energy Commission brings citizen and economic expertise
- Annual mandatory public rate hearings with utility testimony under oath
- Conflict-of-interest prohibition: no financial ties to regulated utilities
- Ratepayers cannot be billed for utility lobbying expenses

A CAUTIONARY TALE FROM THE SOUTH

# The Alabama Playbook: What Connecticut Must Avoid

Connecticut is not alone in this fight. In Alabama — where residents pay some of the highest electricity bills in the South — utility allies in the legislature recently mounted a scheme to eliminate elections for the Public Service Commission (PSC) and replace them with governor-appointed commissioners. Alabama Power lobbyists signaled tacit support. Consumer advocates exposed it as a utility power grab. The bill was pulled from the calendar amid public outcry. A revised version (SB 360) is still being contested as of spring 2026.

The lawmakers who sponsored the legislation had received nearly **\$200,000 combined** in campaign contributions from Alabama Power. Critics noted that moving appointments to the governor and legislative leaders — who can legally accept utility donations — would give utilities far more influence, not less.

**THE ALABAMA WARNING**

"Alabama Power is so scared of voters that they are trying to take you out of the equation completely. If the Alabama Power Grab passes, the public loses oversight and the utility gains insulation once and for all. That is the whole point." — Daniel Tait, Executive Director, Energy Alabama (2026)

Connecticut's PURA is already a fully appointed body — the Perry Plan moves confirmation power *to the legislature*, the opposite direction from Alabama's failed utility power grab. Commissioners appointed from a legislature-confirmed list, with hard conflict-of-interest rules, are insulated from both utility campaign money and executive patronage.

**ALABAMA (PROPOSED, DEFEATED) vs. PERRY PLAN (CONNECTICUT)**

Feature	Alabama (Proposed, Defeated)	Perry Plan (Connecticut)
Who selects regulators?	Governor + utility-funded legislators	Legislature confirms appointments
Public input on rates?	Informational only; utility controls agenda	Formal hearings; testimony under oath
Utility financial ties?	No restriction on donations to appointers	Full conflict-of-interest prohibition
State ownership stake?	None	Minority equity — seat on the board
Rate transparency?	Annual info session; no sworn testimony	Annual formal rate review required

**NATIONAL CONTEXT**

# The Public Power Movement Is Growing

Connecticut is not alone in exploring public alternatives. Data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows that public utility rates are on average **13% lower** than those of investor-owned utilities. Over the past three years, investor-owned utility rates increased 40% more than inflation, while publicly-owned utilities raised rates 34% less than inflation.

Maine's 2023 ballot initiative to create a consumer-owned utility narrowly failed — after incumbent utilities spent over \$40 million to defeat it. Ann Arbor, Michigan is building its own public utility alongside its private provider. California approved state financing of public transmission infrastructure projected to save over \$3 billion per year. The trend is clear, and Connecticut has a head start: the municipal utility model already works here.

**DISTRICT 16 FOCUS**

# What Eversource Costs Your Constituents — Town by Town

Senate District 16 spans one of the sharpest economic contrasts in Connecticut: from Waterbury — the state's 5th largest city, where nearly one in four families lives in poverty — to Cheshire and Southington, two of the most affluent suburbs in the state. Every single household in all four towns pays the same Eversource rate. The burden, however, falls very differently.

Town	Population	Households	Median Income	Poverty Rate	Energy Burden
<b>Waterbury</b>	~114,900	~45,960	\$51,642	22.3%	<b>~4.4% ■</b>
<b>Wolcott</b>	~16,700	~6,200	\$111,899	~4.5%	~2.0%
<b>Southington</b>	~43,800	~17,500	\$124,309	3.4%	~1.8%
<b>Cheshire</b>	~30,600	~10,280	\$145,179	~5.0%	~1.6%
<b>DISTRICT TOTAL</b>	<b>~206,000</b>	<b>~79,940</b>	—	—	—

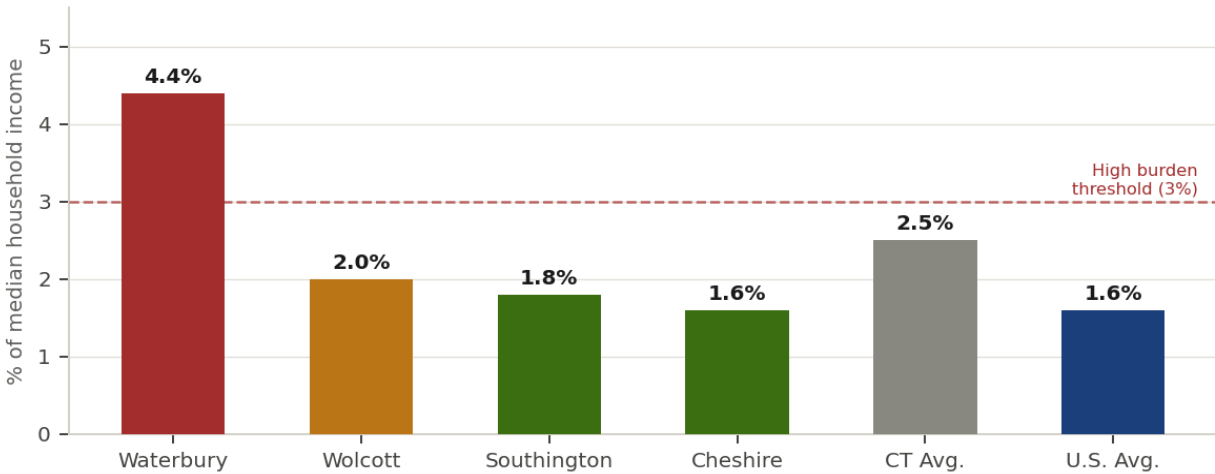
■ U.S. Dept. of Energy defines households spending more than 3% of income on energy as "high burden." Waterbury households at 4.4% are well into the high-burden zone.

**THE EQUITY PROBLEM IN PLAIN NUMBERS**

Every household in District 16 — rich or struggling — pays Eversource the same rate per kilowatt-hour. But for a Waterbury family earning \$51,642, a \$190 monthly electric bill consumes 4.4% of their gross income. For a Cheshire family earning \$145,179, that same bill is only 1.6%. Eversource's flat-rate monopoly functions as a regressive tax on District 16's most vulnerable residents — and Waterbury, with nearly 46,000 households, bears the heaviest load of any municipality in the district.

**ENERGY BURDEN BY TOWN: ELECTRICITY AS % OF MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

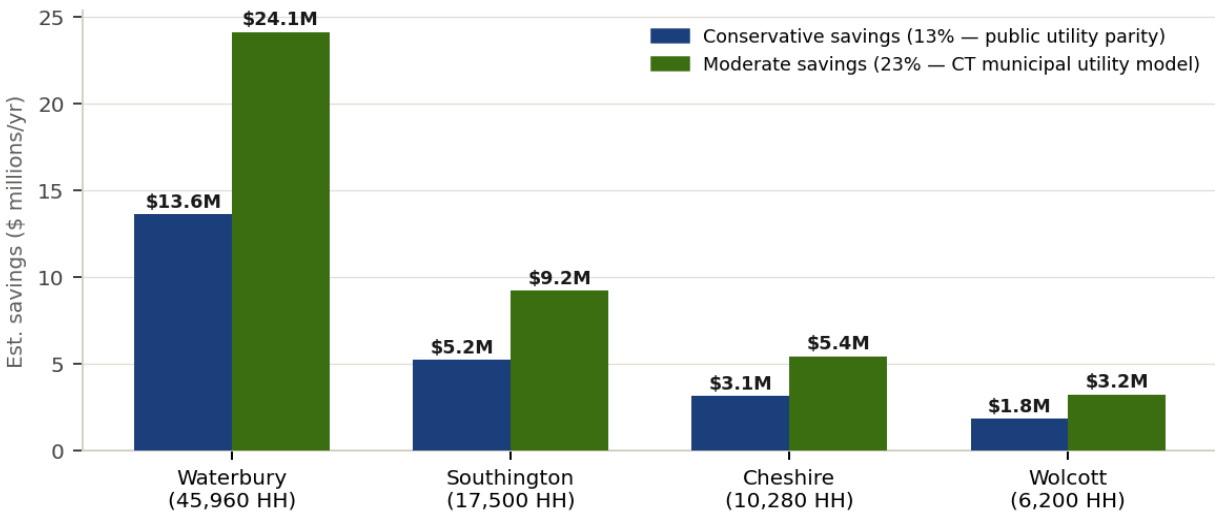
Same Eversource bill. Very different impact. DOE "high burden" threshold begins at 3%.



<h2>~79,940</h2> <p>District 16 total households All served exclusively by Eversource</p>	<h2>\$182M+</h2> <p>Est. annual Eversource revenue from District 16 At ~\$190/mo avg. x 79,940 households</p>	<h2>\$48M+</h2> <p>District 16 overpays vs. national average ~\$600/yr per household above U.S. avg.</p>	<h2>\$27M+</h2> <p>Waterbury alone overpays annually Versus national average rate</p>
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**WHAT THE PERRY PLAN COULD RETURN TO DISTRICT 16 ANNUALLY**

Estimated collective savings at 13% rate reduction (public utility parity) and 23% (low end of CT municipal utility demonstrated savings).  
Based on ~\$190/mo household average.



**THE BOTTOM LINE FOR DISTRICT 16**

At the conservative end — simply achieving the public utility national average — District 16 households would collectively save an estimated \$23.7 million per year. At the demonstrated savings rate of Connecticut's own municipal utilities, that figure climbs to \$41.9 million annually. For a Waterbury family of four living near the median income, that is between \$295 and \$522 back in their pocket every year — not a one-time rebate check, but a permanent, structural reduction in what they owe Eversource each month.

## SOURCES & METHODOLOGY

U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) — electricity rate and consumption data, 2024–2025 · CT Mirror — municipal utility rate analysis (March 2026); PURA appointment coverage; Eversource coverage · Hartford Business Journal — municipal utility rate comparison (March 2026) · American Economic Liberties Project — public vs. investor-owned utility rate analysis · American Public Power Association — public utility rate and reliability data · Alabama Reflector — HB 392, SB 268, SB 360 coverage (2026) · Energy Alabama — PSC accountability reporting · WBRC / 1819 News — Alabama Affordability Protection Plan reporting · U.S. Census Bureau 2019–2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates — population and income data · Connecticut Demographics (CT Census Data) / Point2Homes / DataUSA — town-level demographic data · Eversource SEC Form 8-K filings · CT.gov/PURA — rate alerts and rate case dockets · Inside Investigator / Yankee Institute / Inside Climate News — supplemental analysis · Choose Energy / ElectricChoice April 2026 Rate Report — state rate rankings · EnergySage — Connecticut electricity cost data (March 2026).

Methodology note: Energy burden calculated as estimated annual household electricity cost (\$190/month × 12) divided by median household income for each town. District 16 household counts estimated from U.S. Census population data and average household size. Savings projections use 13% (EIA/APPA national average public utility discount) and 23% (CT Mirror low-end municipal savings figure, March 2026) applied to estimated annual district electricity expenditure.

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## Jack Perry for Connecticut State Senate — District 16 Wolcott · Southington · Cheshire · Waterbury

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