



DEMAND DC CANDIDATES TAKE THE NO PEPCO PLEDGE

It's time our City Council support its residents over big money interests, and reject Pepco money. As candidates line up for the 2020 City Council elections, we need them to show they will stand for the people's interests and clean energy and by rejecting money from the city's utilities who continue to fight tooth and nail against climate justice in the city.

THE PLEDGE

Recognizing that Pepco, Washington Gas, and other fossil fuel companies' interest in DC energy and climate policy is driven by profits rather than the health of families, climate, and democracy, I commit to:

- Reject all contributions from Pepco, Washington Gas, and other fossil fuel companies and their lobbyists;
- Voluntarily disclose all meeting times and topics with Pepco and Washington Gas representatives and lobbyists, and take and make available detailed minutes of all such meetings;
- Support legislation for an economic feasibility study on the implementation of alternative utility models such as Community Choice Aggregation and municipalization in DC.

WHAT IS PEPCO?

Pepco is the utility company that provides electricity to DC and parts of Maryland. In 2016, Pepco merged with Exelon, making Exelon the largest utility company in the nation. Pepco's failure to reach climate goals has tarnished its reputation in the DC area for years. In 2011, the Washington Post conducted an analysis of regional power company data and found Pepco customers suffered longer and more frequent power outages. Business Insider named Pepco the "**Most Hated Company in America**" in 2011 based on a Consumer Satisfaction Index rating.

Despite Pepco's lack of popularity, their relative monopoly on the DC power grid allows them to exert outsized influence over DC and regional politics. They've repeatedly **blocked clean energy transition efforts and pushed for rate increases**—affecting low income communities the hardest—despite DC's recently passed bill to transition to 100 percent renewable energy by 2032. Lack of responsiveness to service complaints, acting against the will of residents and lobbying against clean energy expansion has shown Pepco values profits over people.

PEPCO AND POWER IN DC

This investor-owned, for-profit utility has used their corporate power to shape the legislative landscape in DC. In 2016, Pepco was able to force the Exelon merger, which the DC Public Service Commission, Maryland Attorney General and many local residents opposed. Pepco threatened to eliminate \$2 million in charitable donations to local non-profits if the merger was rejected. Pepco also falsely advertised a post-merger rate freeze, which never materialized. Pushing this merger over the finish line via political manipulation and backroom deals showed us that Pepco is exactly the kind of company that prioritizes their shareholders over the communities they serve. DC is a diverse community driving towards a clean energy future. We do not want Pepco to stand in the way of that future by continuing to exert their influence in DC politics.



WHAT DOES THE PLEDGE MEAN?

First, it means we want candidates to commit to taking zero funding from fossil fuel companies and companies like Pepco and Washington Gas that perpetuate the fossil fuel economy status quo. We ask that candidates prioritize the health of families, our democracy, the climate, and the ecosystems on which we all depend by rejecting contributions from industry that continues to push us towards a future of climate insecurity.

Second, it means that we want candidates to be honest, open, and forthcoming about interactions they have with Pepco, Washington Gas, or other energy providers. We understand that managing where our energy comes from is an important part of the political landscape, but we want candidates to be honest about what happens behind closed doors. If any DC council candidate meets with Pepco, we want to know what they discussed, why they discussed it and what the goal was for the meeting.

Third, we want candidates for DC Council to commit to reducing Pepco's influence on the DC energy grid and in the DC political sphere by committing to funding studies for alternative utility models, which are centered on community choice, public ownership and well-being. Models like community choice aggregation give democratic control over utilities and the energy mix in the grid to voters, not corporate executives.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Leading up to the primary elections in June 2020, 350 DC and our coalition partners will be orchestrating a dynamic campaign against Pepco to expose the ways in which Pepco has enmeshed themselves in DC politics and exerts control over the District's future. The No Pepco Pledge campaign will include candidate engagement, canvassing, nonviolent protest of Pepco and other fossil fuel companies and more. To learn more about the campaign and how your organization can become a coalition partner, visit our website at www.nopeco.com or email us at nopecopledge@gmail.com.



350 DC