

COP28 MUST ENSURE A FAIR ENERGY FUTURE FOR CONSUMERS

The global energy system is unfair on consumers. Far too many of us are trapped into paying exorbitant prices for dirty fossil fuel energy. As well as accelerating climate change, fossil fuels pose a major threat to people's health. All of this is a matter of consumer rights.

COP28 is our chance to radically transform the global energy system by putting power in the hands of people. Empowering consumers to install clean energy solutions, like solar panels, batteries, smart meters, and other electrical devices would reduce their emissions and lower, or even wipe out, their bills.

It's not just about expensive tech in affluent homes – but unleashing people-powered energy across the globe, from Albania to Zimbabwe. In Europe, switching to smart heat pumps alone reduces household heating costs by up to 25 percent compared to gas. In rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa, installing a simple solar lantern means spending on lighting falls by 85 percent.

Global leaders at COP28 must seize the opportunity to democratise energy – which will help them to avert climate catastrophe, through systems that are cleaner, more efficient and resilient, while people enjoy lower energy bills and better air quality.

To unleash this huge potential, consumers need fair up-front financing and fair payments for providing energy and flexibility services to the grid. We all need trusted information and advice to understand the solutions on offer.

As representatives of consumers around the world, we know the time has come to accelerate people-powered clean energy. It's the only viable future for both consumers and the climate.

Letter co-signed by:

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