

Switch On - What's Next

To learn more about this film, visit <https://switchon.org/>

Inequitable Energy Access

- Not everyone in this country and worldwide has the ability to have clean, working energy in their homes which can cause health issues and take away education opportunities for the community members, this is often referred to as global energy poverty. Often rural communities, communities of color, and communities in the global south are impacted because they are frequently overlooked or taken advantage of by governments and large corporations. Particularly in the global south, as the film focused on, communities are often left disadvantaged due to colonization. It is crucial to recognize that lack of access or resources is not coincidental or the fault of said community, but the result of decades of discrimination.
- It is very important to emphasize that traditional energy sources are viable energy sources. Communities should always have the autonomy and final authority on what they need, community-based solutions are almost always the most equitable and successful climate solutions.

Building renewable first infrastructure

- Building new infrastructure provides an opportunity for renewable energy to be integrated from the get-go. This is shown in the film internationally but is also locally true and is why building codes are important to environmental efforts.
- It is also important to recognize that as other nations develop larger power grids and urbanize, using renewable energy is the globally most beneficial choice but not the easiest. Countries such as the US gained financial success through unsustainable resource abuse, often at the expense of these countries. Asking other nations that have been excluded from the benefits of this exploitation to not make the same choices should come with understanding of this history.

What can you do?

- Support local renewable energy infrastructure
 - Make your home more energy efficient! [Sign up](#) for a free energy assessment and check out Walking Mountain's rebates for energy improvements.
 - Support environmentally conscious building codes for new construction. Check out the Climate Action Collaborative's [Buildings Working Group](#) for more information.
- Learn more about energy poverty and environmental justice
 - Listen to a podcast by Agents of Change in Environmental Justice to learn more about global energy poverty:
<https://agentsofchangeinej.org/podcast/carlos-gould-on-global-energy-poverty-and-indoor-air-pollution/>
 - Learn more about energy poverty in the United States;
<https://kleinmanenergy.upenn.edu/podcast/combating-energy-poverty-in-the-u-s/>