



Energy Crisis in Karachi

A Report on Community Meetings
on Loadshedding and Local Energy Challenges



Climate Action Center Karachi



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Core Team

- **Yasir Husain** – Director, Climate Action Center Karachi (CAC)
- **Kinza Naseem** – Project Lead & Manager Green Energy, CAC
- **Hussain Rizvi** – Researcher Green Energy, CAC
- **Muhammad Faez** – Manager Social Media, CAC
- **Afaq Bhatti** – Journalist & Team CAC

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We deeply appreciate the support of the following individuals and organizations, who played a crucial role in facilitating meetings and driving momentum at the grassroots level:

- **Bahar Foundation** – *Sachal Wadho*
- **Greenetic Avenue** – *Anjum Ghafoor*
- **Caritas** – *Mansha Noor*
- **Urban Resource Centre (URC)** – *Zahid Farooq*
- **Mahigeer Samaji Sangat** – *Yunus Khaskhali*

Together, we continue to advance the mission for a cleaner, more equitable energy future for all.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Green Energy Campaign is a strategic initiative designed to address Karachi's critical electricity challenges, including high costs, frequent load-shedding, and the environmental impact of fossil fuel-based energy generation. By advocating for a transition to renewable energy, particularly solar power, this campaign aims to reduce electricity costs for consumers, promote green energy, and build a strong network of citizens to fight against the city's growing challenges, such as heat waves and energy shortages.

Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, faces severe electricity issues, including high electricity bills, scheduled & unscheduled power outages, and an unreliable grid infrastructure. Frequent heat waves further heighten these problems, which strain the energy system and disproportionately affect low-income communities in high-loss areas¹. Transitioning to renewable energy offers a viable solution to these challenges, providing a cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable alternative to fossil fuels.

This campaign seeks to mobilize local communities, organizations, and climate leaders to advocate for policy changes and drive the adoption of renewable energy. Through a series of structured meetings and engagements, this initiative has established a robust network of citizens and organizations dedicated to addressing electricity-related issues and promoting a green energy future. A key component of the campaign was the drafting and circulation of a petition to gather **10,000 signatures**, persuading K-Electric to adopt renewable energy solutions. Additionally, a comprehensive communication strategy was developed to highlight the financial and environmental benefits of solar energy, emphasizing its role in reducing load-shedding and improving energy reliability.

Karachi's transition to renewable energy is not just an energy initiative but a movement toward a sustainable, equitable, and resilient future. Solar energy provides a decentralized and reliable energy source, reducing dependence on the overburdened grid and mitigating the urban heat island effect caused by climate change. By lowering electricity costs and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, this campaign aims to alleviate the financial burden on households and businesses while contributing to long-term climate resilience. The Green Energy Campaign represents a critical step in transforming Karachi's energy landscape, ensuring a cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable electricity supply for all its residents.

¹ High loss areas: High-loss areas refer to neighborhoods with frequent power outages due to high electricity theft, non-payment, or technical faults causing major energy losses.

I. INTRODUCTION

Karachi, Pakistan's largest metropolis, grapples with a multifaceted energy crisis characterized by escalating electricity costs, frequent load-shedding, and an overreliance on fossil fuels. These challenges are exacerbated by the city's vulnerability to climate change, manifesting in intensified heat waves and deteriorating air quality. Recognizing the urgency of these intertwined issues, the Climate Action Center (CAC) initiated the Green Energy Campaign—a comprehensive endeavor aimed at transitioning Karachi towards a green, equitable, and resilient energy future.²

The campaign emerges against a backdrop where affluent segments of society are increasingly adopting solar energy solutions, leveraging financial resources and infrastructural advantages to mitigate energy costs. Conversely, middle and lower-income communities, often residing in high-loss areas, remain marginalized due to financial constraints and systemic barriers, leading to a widening energy divide³. This disparity not only perpetuates social inequities but also undermines collective efforts towards environmental sustainability.⁴

The Green Energy Campaign endeavors to address these challenges through a multi-tiered strategy:

- **Community Mobilization and Leadership Development:** By engaging local organizations and community leaders, the campaign fosters grassroots advocacy, empowering residents to demand equitable energy solutions.
- **Awareness and Education:** Through structured meetings and informational sessions, the campaign educates communities about the benefits of renewable energy, particularly solar power, and the long-term economic and environmental advantages of transitioning away from fossil fuels.
- **Policy Advocacy and Engagement with Stakeholders:** The campaign seeks to influence energy policies by collaborating with key stakeholders, including K-Electric and governmental bodies, advocating for investments in renewable energy infrastructure and the implementation of equitable energy distribution practices.
- **Digital Mobilization and Petitioning:** Harnessing the power of digital platforms, the campaign amplifies its reach, gathering widespread support

² https://dailytimes.com.pk/1194382/solar-projects-in-karachi-significantly-promote-reducing-carbon-footprint-report/#google_vignette

³ <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2445161/ke-plans-ambitious-640mw-renewable-energy-initiative>

⁴ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/1184090/k-electric-for-low-cost-renewable-energy-solutions/>

through petitions and online advocacy, thereby exerting pressure on energy providers and policymakers to enact meaningful reforms.

In essence, the Green Energy Campaign represents a concerted effort to democratize access to clean energy in Karachi, addressing both the immediate energy needs of underserved communities and the broader imperative of climate resilience. By centering community voices and fostering collaborative action, the campaign aspires to transform Karachi's energy landscape into one that is inclusive, green, and just.

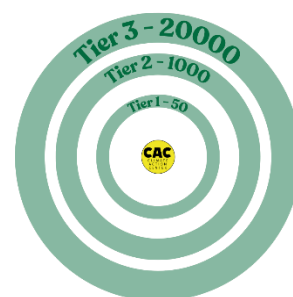
1.1 OBJECTIVES

This campaign aims to develop and implement a comprehensive greening plan for K-Electric, focusing on reducing electricity costs by transitioning to renewable energy sources. This initiative seeks to alleviate the financial burden on consumers and promote environmental sustainability by:

- Develop a communication strategy to highlight **renewable energy as an Inexpensive and eco-friendly alternative**.
- Establishing a **robust local network** in Karachi to adopt a bottom-up approach, leveraging public support to advocate for K-Electric's transition to renewable energy.
- Drafting a **petition to gather 10,000 signatures**, advocating to reduce electricity costs and transition to renewable energy.

1.2 METHODOLOGY

- TIER- 01: **03** meetings with **50** Organizations in the **Think Tank phase**.
- TIER- 02: **50** meetings in **50** areas of the organization from **TIER- 01**.
- TIER-03: **1000** meetings to further expand the network from **TIER-02**.



1.2.1 TIER- 01

Tier-01 of the KE Greening Campaign is the **leadership and foundational stage** of the movement. This tier focuses on **engaging experienced leaders from 50 local organizations** who already have strong grassroots connections and have worked closely with communities. These individuals and organizations are not just participants — they are seen as **community ambassadors** and **network builders** who will help lead the transition toward affordable, clean energy.

Key Features of Tier-01:

1. Leadership Development:

- Tier-01 identifies and nurtures **potential leaders** within local organizations who are already actively working on ground-level issues.

2. Strategic Capacity Building:

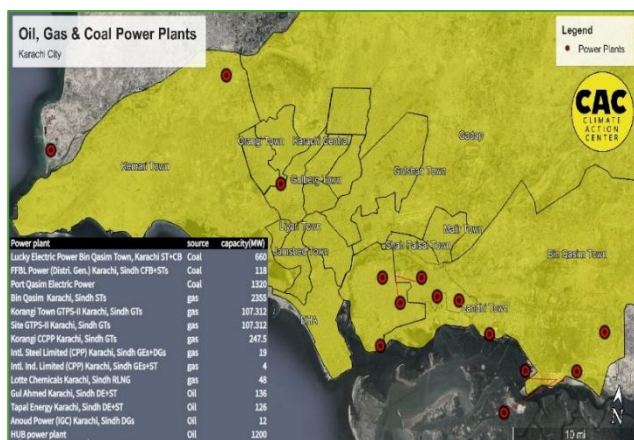
- Through multiple preliminary meetings and a final gathering, these leaders are trained on:
 - Understanding the **electricity crisis** and **solar alternatives**.
 - Developing and implementing **community-specific action plans**.
 - Planning meetings in their towns and neighborhoods (setting the stage for Tier-02).
 - Understanding the **stakeholder map** of Karachi's energy ecosystem.

3. Network Expansion Planning:

- The group brainstorms how to expand the campaign from this initial tier to **Tier-02**, where more localized community meetings will be held.
- Tier-01 leaders are tasked with identifying potential new leaders and **delegating responsibilities** for spreading the campaign further.

4. Digital Onboarding:

- A **closed WhatsApp group** is created exclusively for Tier-01 leaders to stay connected, aligned, and updated on the campaign's goals, messages, and events.



Power plant	source	capacity(MW)
Lucky Electric Power Bin Qasim Town, Karachi ST+CB	Coal	660
FFBL Power (Distri. Gen.) Karachi, Sindh CFB+STs	Coal	118
Port Qasim Electric Power	Coal	1320
Bin Qasim Karachi, Sindh STs	gas	2355
Korangi Town GTPS-II Karachi, Sindh GTs	gas	107.312
Site GTPS-II Karachi, Sindh GTs	gas	107.312
Korangi CCPP Karachi, Sindh GTs	gas	247.5
Intl. Steel Limited (CPP) Karachi, Sindh GEs+DGs	gas	19
Intl. Ind. Limited (CPP) Karachi, Sindh GEs+ST	gas	4
Lotte Chemicals Karachi, Sindh RLNG	gas	48
Gul Ahmed Karachi, Sindh DE+ST	Oil	136
Tapal Energy Karachi, Sindh DE+ST	Oil	126
Anoud Power (IGC) Karachi, Sindh DGs	Oil	12
HUB power plant	Oil	1200

1.2.2 TIER- 02

TIER-02 focuses on **decentralized, community-based outreach**, where trained area ambassadors and partners engage **directly with local communities** in different neighborhoods of Karachi. This tier takes the advocacy efforts from central planning (TIER-01) into actual communities, building grassroots momentum.

Key Objectives of TIER-02:

1. Community Engagement through Local Meetings:

- Meetings are organized in areas like Dhani Bux Goth, Baba Bhit Island, Korangi, Bhitayabad, Khadim Goth, etc.
- These are face-to-face sessions conducted with the help of local representatives who hold influence and trust in their communities.

2. Awareness Raising:

- The purpose is to **educate residents about the high cost of electricity**, their rights, and the **unfair pricing model of K-Electric**.
- Communities are introduced to **mini-grids as a potential clean, affordable, and community-controlled solution** to their energy needs.

3. Leadership & Network Expansion:

- Meetings aim to **identify and empower new community leaders**, encouraging them to take ownership of the issue.
- These leaders are supported to **host small local gatherings** of 15–20 people, continuing the conversation at the grassroots level.

1.2.3 TIER- 03

TIER-03 focuses on **digital mobilization and collective action**. It is the stage where the community's offline efforts from TIER-01 and TIER-02 are transitioned into **widespread online advocacy** through digital platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp. This tier helps build a **larger network of supporters** and pushes for **direct action** through petitions and social media campaigns.

1. Petition Finalization:

- The creation of a **petition** is one of the core actions of TIER-03. The petition will include **the cause, objectives, and demands** from K-Electric (KE), focusing on affordable and cleaner energy solutions.
- After **finalizing the petition** (post-TIER-01), it is circulated among the newly built network of local community members and online supporters.

2. Digital Connectivity:

- The goal is to **engage the broader public** beyond physical meetings by maintaining a strong presence on **social media platforms**.

3. Building Online Communities:

- Create **engaging social media content**—posts, videos, infographics—that highlight issues like **high electricity costs** and **K-Electric's inefficiencies**.
- Encourage people to **share their stories**, raising awareness about the struggles with electricity in Karachi, thereby building a **collective online voice**.

4. Gathering Signatures:

- The petition will be circulated across **Facebook and WhatsApp groups**, and a strong push will be made to gather **10,000+ signatures** from the network and beyond.

2. CASE STUDIES

2.1 DHANI BUX GOTH- SOHRAB GOTH TOWN

A community meeting was held at Dhani Bux Goth as part of the Green Energy Campaign, organized by Sachal Wadho of the Bahar Foundation. The event drew a large number of residents who shared deep frustration with the current electricity situation under K-Electric. People spoke about the severe hardships



Figure 1- DHANI BUX GOTH, SOHRAB GOTH TOWN, DISTRICT EAST, KARACHI

caused by daily loadshedding, which lasts up to 10 to 12 hours and is often accompanied by unannounced power cuts that disrupt their lives without warning.

Many participants expressed concern over the rising electricity bills, which they said do not reflect their actual usage. Despite consuming minimal electricity, their monthly bills have become unaffordable, pushing already struggling households further into financial stress. Some families, out of sheer necessity, have started shifting to solar energy. However, due to limited income, they are only able to purchase solar panels gradually, adding one panel at a time as savings allow.

The meeting highlighted the urgent need for accessible, affordable, and community-led renewable energy solutions. The voices from Dhani Bux Goth underscored a growing demand for justice in energy access and a shift away from reliance on unreliable and costly fossil fuel-based electricity.

2.2 BHIT ISLAND- MAURIPUR TOWN

The Green Energy Campaign team from Climate Action Center Karachi held a community engagement meeting at Bhit Island, a densely populated fishing community in Mauripur Town. The visit revealed alarming conditions: residents endure a recurring cycle of 1.5 hours of

electricity followed by 3 hours of load-shedding, severely affecting their daily lives. The island's population—primarily impoverished fishermen—struggles to meet basic living expenses.

Although electricity meters are installed, residents do not pay formal bills. Instead, they are compelled to pay a fixed amount of Rs. 2,500 per month to an informal intermediary allegedly connected to KE, regardless of actual electricity usage. Community members expressed deep frustration over this unofficial system and their inability to receive help from authorities, especially during peak summer months when the electricity demand becomes critical.

Due to the compact and overcrowded housing structure of the island, individual rooftop solar installations pose significant challenges. However, the team identified potential space that could be repurposed to set up a community-level solar park or mini-grid system. This could offer a long-term, sustainable alternative for clean and reliable energy access.



Figure 2- BHITT ISLAND, MAURIPUR TOWN, DISTRICT WEST, KARACHI

2.3 KHADIM GOTH- SOHRAB GOTH TOWN

As part of the ongoing Green Energy Campaign, the Climate Action Center Karachi team conducted an on-ground community engagement session in Khadim Goth, a low-income neighborhood within Sohrab Goth Town. The visit revealed a deeply concerning energy crisis—residents reported enduring 12 to 16 hours of daily load-shedding, severely affecting all aspects of life.

The impact was especially hard on children, who were unable to get adequate rest or complete their schoolwork due to the lack of electricity. Women, who remain home for most of the day, carried the burden of this unstable energy situation, struggling to manage household

responsibilities in extreme conditions. The community expressed deep frustration with the lack of accountability from K-Electric and the absence of government support.

Local businesses were also suffering, particularly those requiring uninterrupted electricity to operate machines. In response, some entrepreneurs took the initiative to invest in solar energy systems, despite the steep upfront cost. A significant example was a local wheat grinder who transitioned his high-energy machinery to solar power. This move eliminated reliance on the inconsistent grid and reduced the cost of production, enabling

him to sell wheat flour at lower prices and increase his output, benefiting both his income and the local consumers. The visit highlighted Khadim Goth's potential by showcasing how community-driven solar adoption can lead to economic and social improvement in underserved neighborhoods.



Figure 3- KHADIM GOTH, SOHRAB GOTH TOWN, DISTRICT EAST, KARACHI

2.4 BHITTAIABAD- SAFOORA TOWN

The Climate Action Center organized a community meeting at a local public school in Bhattaiabad, Gulistan-e-Jauhar Block 10. The meeting attracted 35-40 participants, primarily women, with only three male attendees. This gathering provided a unique platform for residents to voice the challenges they face in their households, many of which revolve around energy access and affordability.

Key issues raised included:

- Load Shedding and Disconnections:**
 Residents reported prolonged outages and frequent disconnections due to unpaid bills, even for households that previously paid regularly.
- Reliance on Minimal Solar Solutions:**
 Many families use small batteries and solar panels to power one fan and a light, but this is insufficient for their needs.



Figure 4- BHITTAIABAD, SAFOORA TOWN, DISTRICT EAST, KARACHI

- Health and Daily Life Challenges:** Extreme heat leads to dehydration and health problems. Due to non-functioning motors, women struggle with basic household tasks such as cooking, ironing children's uniforms, and ensuring water availability.
- Exorbitant Bills:** Participants shared their electricity bills, many exceeding 1,600K-1,800K for small 60 sq. yard homes with minimal electricity usage.

Despite these challenges, the community was hopeful that the CAC's campaign could lead to meaningful change. Attendees signed the petition and expressed their readiness to support any protests or activities aimed at achieving affordable and sustainable energy solutions.

2.5 YUNUSABAD- MAURIPUR TOWN

As part of the Green Energy Campaign, the Climate Action Center Karachi team held a community engagement meeting in **Yunusabad**, a coastal neighborhood in **Mauripur Town** with a mixed population comprising both **low-income and middle-income households**. While the majority of residents are **fishermen**, others are engaged in various professions including shopkeeping, skilled labor, and transport services.

Residents reported facing **frequent and unscheduled load-shedding**, often lasting for several hours at a stretch. This unpredictable power supply has severely affected household routines, business operations, and overall quality of life. What makes the situation more frustrating for residents is the **proximity of the KANUPP nuclear power plant**, located just a short distance away—yet **the community still suffers from unreliable electricity access**.



Figure 5- YUNUSABAD, MAURIPUR TOWN, DISTRICT WEST, KARACHI

Frustrated by the lack of improvement and increasing electricity costs, several residents have begun **independently transitioning to solar energy systems**. With limited incomes, many are sourcing **affordable batteries from the Sher Shah market**, a well-known hub for second-hand electronics and machinery. This grassroots shift toward solar power reflects both the community's resilience and its desire for **self-reliant, sustainable energy solutions** amid ongoing neglect from mainstream service providers.

2.6 PECHS BLOCK# 06- CHANESAR TOWN

The Climate Action Center Karachi team, with the support of **Caritas**, conducted a community engagement meeting in PECHS, Chanesar Town, focusing on energy challenges and potential solutions. The session brought together over 20 local Christian community representatives, who shared the electricity-related issues faced in their respective neighborhoods.

Participants highlighted frequent power outages, voltage fluctuations, and the high cost of alternative energy sources. To cope, some households have turned to shared generator systems, while others have installed basic UPS units that power only one or two rooms—barely meeting essential needs. These coping mechanisms, however, are expensive to maintain and often unreliable.

During the discussion, CAC introduced the concept of solar energy as a cleaner, more affordable, and sustainable alternative. The team emphasized how solar systems—especially when adopted at the household or community level—can significantly reduce dependence on generators and grid-based electricity. While some participants expressed concerns about the financial burden of solar installations, CAC explained that solar financing options are now available through banks. These loans can be accessed by individuals, cooperatives, or faith-based organizations, making solar adoption more feasible even for lower-income groups.

The session concluded with a shared interest in exploring solar energy as a long-term solution, with CAC

offering to facilitate further information and technical support on community-based solar planning and financing mechanisms.



Figure 6- PECHS BLOCK# 06, CHANESAR TOWN, DISTRICT EAST, KARACHI

2.7 NORTH NAZIMABAD BLOCK# P- NORTH NAZIMABAD TOWN

In Paharganj, North Nazimabad Block P, a community meeting was held at a local church after Sunday prayers, organized by Zahid Farooq of the Urban Resource Center (URC). The event was attended by the pastor, his team, and other community leaders, along with a large number of residents.

The Climate Action Center presented its vision for transitioning to affordable, renewable energy and shared practical tips for reducing electricity consumption. Hussain from CAC discussed energy efficiency measures to help alleviate the burden of high costs.

Participants highlighted the following challenges:

- **Extended Load Shedding:** Prolonged power outages severely affect households, especially children's studies and women's household responsibilities.
- **Impact of Extreme Weather:** Health concerns escalate during intense heat waves due to a lack of electricity for cooling.

The pastor and community leaders expressed their appreciation for CAC's campaign, recognizing it as a vital step toward addressing energy injustices. Attendees signed the petition and committed to participating in future initiatives and protests organized under the campaign.

This meeting underscored the potential of faith-based community support in advancing the goals of the Green Energy Campaign, with a strong emphasis on collective action and advocacy for renewable energy solutions.



Figure 7- NORTH NAZIMABAD BLOCK# P, NORTH NAZIMABAD TOWN, DISTRICT CENTRAL, KARACHI

2.8 CHISTIABAD- SAFOORA TOWN

A community meeting was held at a local community center in Chistiabad, Gulistan-e-Jauhar Block II, organized by Greenetic Avenue. The event saw the participation of 18-20 individuals, primarily comprising laborers, government servants, and teachers. Local activist & representative of the area, Madam Fatima, played a pivotal role in organizing the meeting and was vocal about the challenges faced by the area, including issues related to waste management, sewage, electricity, and gas.

The discussion revealed a range of pressing concerns:

- **Prolonged Load Shedding:** Residents endure over 12 hours of daily load shedding, severely disrupting their lives.

- **Disconnection of Electricity Lines:** Many households have had their connections cut due to unpaid bills.
- **Kunda System Prevalence:** The widespread use of illegal connections exacerbates the problem.
- **High Electricity Bills:** Despite minimal usage (only one or two fans in most homes), residents face monthly bills as high as ₹30,000 or more, making them unaffordable for many.
- **Impact on Daily Life:** Students struggle to study, and women face difficulties managing household chores, particularly in the kitchen during peak summer heat.

While some residents have started adopting solar panels, the financial burden prevents many from transitioning to renewable energy.

Nonetheless, there was strong community support for the Climate Action Center's (CAC) campaign, with participants signing the petition and expressing their willingness to actively support any actionable steps CAC takes.



Figure 8- CHISTIABAD, SAFOORA TOWN, DISTRICT EAST, KARACHI

2.9 REHRI GOTH- KAEMARI TOWN

The Climate Action Center (CAC) held a community engagement meeting in Rehri Goth under the Green Energy Campaign. The meeting focused on the electricity crisis faced by the local fishermen. It highlighted the intersection of energy injustice, environmental degradation, and public health issues in the area.

The residents shared that they face relentless load shedding, with only 1 hour of electricity followed by 2.5 hours of outage, repeating throughout the day. Many are unable to afford solar energy systems due to financial constraints. A unique concern raised was the mismatch between their income cycle (based on the lunar calendar due to fishing patterns) and the billing cycle (Georgian calendar), resulting in chronic late bill payments.

There are deeper social challenges as well—many families reported drug addiction issues within households, making long-term planning, like investing in solar, nearly impossible. Adding to this, a severe energy billing disparity exists: homes that pay bills face 12–16 hours of load shedding, while others access unlimited electricity through a third-party collector for just Rs 2000 per household—contributing to a dysfunctional and unjust system with outstanding bills of up to Rs 1.2 million per house on the paying side.

Kinza from CAC explained the purpose of the Green Energy Campaign—emphasizing the shift from fossil fuel dependency to cleaner, affordable, and community-controlled solutions

like solar energy and mini-grids. She stressed how decentralized mini-grids can offer reliable and independent energy for close-knit coastal communities like Rehri Goth.

Yasir Husain, Director CAC, underscored the severe health impacts of fossil fuel-based power generation. The area is surrounded by multiple polluting facilities, including Lucky Power Plant, FFBL Power Plant, Port Qasim Electric Plant (all coal-based), and a private Chinese fishmeal plant that burns furnace oil and mangrove wood. Residents, especially children, are suffering



Figure 9- REHRI GOTH, KAEMARI TOWN, DISTRICT KAEMARI, KARACHI

from respiratory illnesses, asthma, and emerging skin diseases due to constant exposure to mercury-laden air and low chimney emissions from these plants.

Yunus Khaskhali, the host and founder of *Mahigeer Samaji Sangat*, validated these concerns. He detailed how decades of unchecked pollution, deforestation of mangroves, and emissions have degraded both human and marine life in the area. He also listed the affected neighborhoods and nearby communities: UC-8 Rehri Goth (17 muhallay), Haji Mehmood Goth, Behns Colony, Labour Square, Muzaffarabad Colony, Lath Basti (only 1.5 km from the Lucky coal plant), Pipri, Gagar, and several colonies across UCs 2 to 7.

Ecologically sensitive sites like *Kutte ji Daarh*, a nursery home to over 15-20 sea species, are under threat. Authorities responsible for managing this region- the Port Qasim Authority, the Bahria Foundation, and the Sindh Forest Department- have failed to regulate the coal and mangrove wood trade, worsening the crisis.

This meeting was a crucial step in documenting the true cost of electricity in Rehri Goth, not just in rupees but in terms of human health, environmental damage, and social disintegration. CAC aims to use these findings to advocate for community-based renewable energy solutions and bring national attention to the environmental injustice in Karachi's coastal belt.

2.10 ORANGI II 1/2- ORANGI TOWN

A community meeting was held at Baba Wilayat Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Orangi Town, organized under the Climate Action Center's Green Energy Campaign. The event was attended by parents of the students enrolled in the school, with an equal participation of men and women. The discussion was marked by high levels of interest and involvement from the attendees. Participants shared their experiences, highlighting several key concerns:

- **Severe Load Shedding:** Residents reported extended hours without electricity, causing significant disruptions to daily life.
- **Lack of Unity:** Many acknowledged their own negligence in failing to stand united during challenging times.
- **Concerns About KE Staff Behavior:** Some participants shared instances where KE personnel's approach to disconnection processes



Figure 10- ORANGI II 1/2, ORANGI TOWN, DISTRICT CENTRAL, KARACHI

caused unease, particularly among women.

Despite these challenges, the community expressed strong support for CAC's campaign. Attendees signed the petition and committed to participating in any future activities aimed at achieving sustainable and affordable energy solutions. This meeting highlighted the community's readiness to mobilize for collective action and bring about meaningful change.

3. PETITION

The Climate Action Center Karachi (CAC) is leading a citizen-driven campaign demanding that K-Electric (KE) transition from expensive, fossil-fuel-based electricity to affordable, community-owned solar energy systems. Our petition⁵ aims to:

- Reduce electricity bills for Karachi's residents, especially those in underserved, high-loss areas.
- Push KE to fulfill its renewable energy commitments, particularly its pledge for 1200 MW in solar & wind.
- Explore injustices from discriminatory billing to exploitative third-party energy collection and seek accountability.
- Reach 10,000 signatures to build a collective voice for energy justice in Karachi.

We've already gathered hundreds of signatures from across marginalized communities like Rehri Goth, Bhit Island, Khadim Goth, Bhattaibad, and Orangi Town. These are areas where people suffer 12–16 hours of daily load shedding, pay exorbitant electricity bills, and often rely on unsafe, informal power arrangements.

3.1 WHY THIS CAMPAIGN MATTERS:

Karachi's working-class neighborhoods are hit hardest by KE's unjust billing and unreliable power supply. Through the Green Energy Campaign, CAC has mobilized:

- 50+ local organizations under Tier-1 leadership meetings.
- 50+ community gatherings in Tier-2 neighborhoods.
- Localized meetings through Tier-3 outreach and Whatsapp groups.

This structured, grassroots network is spreading awareness about the benefits of solar mini-grids, community-owned energy systems, and affordable off-grid solutions—empowering people to shift away from KE's dependency.

3.2 ACHIEVEMENTS

Here are some achievements of our campaign to date:

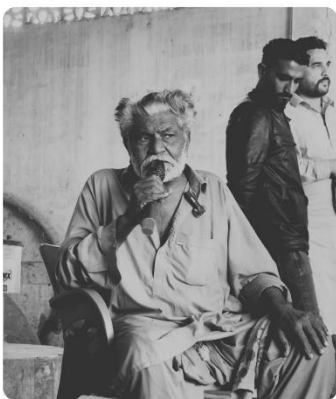
- 140+ online signatures collected via Change.org.
- 200+ manual signatures* gathered from town hall meetings and street campaigns in high-loss, low-income areas like Rehri Goth, Bhit Island, and Orangi etc.

⁵ Petition link: <https://chng.it/zhQJxvsbHy>

* Because many of our target communities have limited access to or trust in online platforms, we prioritized in-person outreach and physical petitions to ensure full participation.

- Built a grassroots network of 10+ community organizations.
- Trained community ambassadors in Sohrab Goth, Safoora, Mauripur, and Korangi to lead local renewable energy dialogues.

3.3 COMMUNITY VOICES



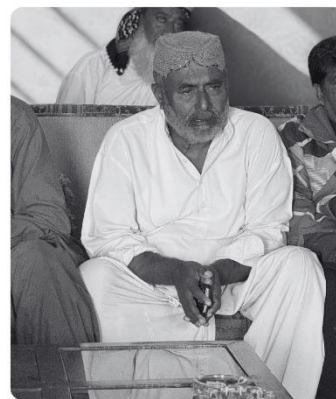
Resident, Bhit Island

We pay Rs. 2,500 every month to middlemen without knowing how much electricity we've used



Resident, Dhani Bux Goth

Even if we want to shift to solar, we can only buy one panel a year



Fisherman, Yunusabad

Our community is next to a nuclear plant, but we still suffer daily outages

3.4 WHAT'S NEXT?

- Scaling up signature collection to reach our goal of 10,000+ through both online and offline drives, especially in high-loss neighborhoods.
- Hosting policy roundtables with regulators, civil society, and utility representatives to push for a just and equitable solar transition.
- Piloting solar mini-grids in high-loss areas to offer clean, affordable, and reliable electricity as immediate relief for overburdened consumers.
- Partnering with financial institutions to co-design solar loan models for low-income households, enabling them to shift away from KE dependency.
- Expanding CAC's digital storytelling campaign to spotlight voices from the ground—residents, women, workers, students—who are demanding clean energy justice.
- Engaging youth through Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, and WhatsApp, mobilizing young climate advocates, student volunteers, and digital storytellers to strengthen and scale the campaign.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 MINI GRID PILOT PROJECT

4.1.1 OBJECTIVE:

To establish solar-powered mini-grid systems in high-loss areas of Karachi as a decentralized, affordable, and community-owned alternative to K-Electric's unreliable and costly electricity supply. These pilots will be demonstrative models for scalable, community-led renewable energy transitions.

4.1.2 PRIORITY LOCATIONS:

The following three areas have been tentatively identified based on their acute electricity distress, community readiness, and the presence of viable space for solar deployment:

1. **Rehri Goth (Kaemari Town):**

A coastal fishing community facing 18+ hours of daily load-shedding and high health risks due to the presence of multiple nearby coal power plants. Space is available on rooftops or public facilities.

2. **Bhit Island (Mauripur Town):**

Residents suffer from an exploitative flat-rate informal billing system (Rs. 2,500/month) even with access to formal metered connections. Rooftop and central compound areas offer potential sites.

3. **Khadim Goth (Sohrab Goth Town):**

A low-income area where small business owners are already independently transitioning to solar energy. Public institutions and local businesses provide suitable installation points.

4.1.3 TECHNICAL MODEL:

Each pilot mini-grid will be designed to:

- Provide 24/7 electricity to 500 households or key communal institutions (e.g., schools, clinics, mosques).
- Use basic smart metering⁶ for monitoring and, where appropriate, implementing a prepaid or cooperative billing system.

⁶ A smart meter is a device with a digital two-way communication system that measures when you use electricity and how much.

4.1.4 COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP & GOVERNANCE:

Each site will establish a local **Energy Committee (EC)** composed of 5–7 respected community members, including women and youth representatives. These committees will be trained and supported by CAC to:

- Manage the fair distribution of electricity.
- Collect basic maintenance dues (if applicable).
- Monitor system health and report faults or misuse.
- Facilitate routine maintenance and minor troubleshooting.

Climate Action Center Karachi (CAC) will also develop and distribute an Urdu-language **“Mini-Grid Maintenance Guide”** and facilitate in providing hands-on training sessions on operations and safety protocols.

5. CONCLUSION

The Green Energy Campaign has served as a critical intervention at a time when energy insecurity continues to shape the everyday realities of Karachi's underserved neighborhoods. Through sustained community engagement from Rehri Goth to Orangi, we have documented how inflated electricity bills and chronic load-shedding have deepened distrust in the formal energy sector. Yet, this campaign also surfaced a powerful counter-narrative: one of agency, solidarity, and an emerging willingness to pursue affordable, off-grid solar solutions as a pathway to energy independence.

This campaign marked a pivotal shift in how energy justice is imagined and pursued in Karachi by holding K-Electric accountable, promoting community-led solar adoption, and initiating the Green Energy Petition. It demonstrated that solutions do not need to be distant or elite-driven—people are ready to act, organize, and transition if given the knowledge, tools, and platforms to do so.

This campaign has amplified the voices of the underserved and laid the groundwork for a just energy transition rooted in affordability, accessibility, and sustainability. Moving forward, the Climate Action Center Karachi will continue to strengthen this effort through localized awareness campaigns, technical support for solar adoption, partnerships with civil society and financial institutions, and ongoing policy advocacy. The momentum created will be sustained by expanding the Greening network, pushing for decentralized energy planning, and ensuring that communities are at the heart of the renewable energy future.