



**May 11, 2023**

To: Dear EJII members, partners and energy burden advocates

Subject: **The PIPP Investigation (Percentage of Income Payment Pilot) and LIFT Tariff (Low Income Forgiveness Tool) initiatives with WPSC.**

Greetings Everyone,

Last year's rate case led to the creation of two dockets - the PIPP investigation and the LIFT examination. The LIFT program currently exists and is what is known as a "tariff", a scope of services defining the components of the "LIFT" alternative payment program. The current scope and components of the program is being examined in the LIFT docket. The PIPP on the other hand lays the groundwork for a program that bills some customers based on their income and not their usage.

The goals of these dockets are to define the components of the PIPP program, implement the pilot, and examine and change the punitive policies that govern the current LIFT program.

Milwaukee residents' average monthly utility bill exceeds \$180, making energy a burden for many. We Energies' **data** shows that out of **56K eligible low-income customers**, only *22K are currently enrolled in the LIFT program*.

Therefore, we can conclude that up to 56K customers could be eligible for a PIPP program. PIPP could benefit these customers with savings of up to \$150 per month, resulting in potential monthly savings of \$2 million to \$3 million monthly, and over \$30 million annually, in our communities.

**LIFT and PIPP programs can work together.**

- The PIPP will create a pricing floor based on 6% of income for families earning less than \$35K a year.
- In the LIFT tariff, we must eliminate the penalties and change the rules that create barriers to customers' success and provide support for energy affordability.

As we prepare for the public listening sessions in Milwaukee on June 14th, let us remember the progress made in addressing the energy burden. Our role is to come up with solutions and share real stories to address the remaining parts of the system.

We now have the chance to create rules and policies that support families facing challenges in paying their bills. Working together, we can achieve our goal of ensuring that the policies and tariffs in place support and protect our communities' energy affordability. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to this crucial cause.

**It's our turn to write the rules!**

EJII Steering Committee  
Environmental Justice and Infrastructure Initiative

# Percentage of Income Payment Pilot (PIPP)

Utility bill keep rising?  
Wondering what can be done?



WALNUT WAY  
CONSERVATION CORP.

## WHAT IS THE PIPP?

A plan where low-income households pay a fixed percentage of their monthly income for utility bills, instead of a rate based on usage.

### WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

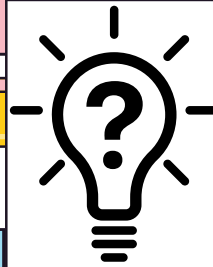
\$100 means a lot more to someone who makes \$1,000/month than someone who makes \$10,000/month.

### HAS PIPP WORKED BEFORE?

YES! Currently over a dozen states have successful PIPP programs, such as Ohio, New Jersey, and Maine.

### WHY DO WE NEED PIPP?

Each year over 20,000 households have their utility **TERMINATED** due to unaffordable bills.



### WHAT'S THE IMPACT OF ELECTRICAL SERVICE TERMINATION?

Loss of communication, Food spoilage, small business closure, prevents usage of medical devices, Lack of A/C & heating, and MORE!

## WHAT YOU CAN DO !

### 1. ATTEND NEIGHBORHOOD WORK GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

- STARTING THIS **MARCH**, EVERY **WEDNESDAY 12PM-1PM** @ WALNUT WAY CONSERVATION CORP

### 2. CONTACT THE PSC TO COMMENT

- [HTTPS://PSC.WI.GOV](https://psc.wi.gov)
- (608) 266-5481

### 3. LEARN MORE ABOUT PIPP

- [HTTPS://WWW.EJICWISCONSIN.ORG](https://www.ejicwisconsin.org)

Our collective strategy to solving for the issues of inability to pay We Energies bills.





# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE (EJII)



## What is EJII?

A new grassroots movement that addresses environmental justice concerns in the state. The program provides funding for projects that increase awareness and help to improve air quality, water quality, and reduce environmental health hazards.

## EJII Core Values

Work  
Accomplished in  
partnership with  
Black & Brown  
leaders

Understand  
Historical and  
Current Power  
Imbalances and  
Inequity

Policy  
Entrepreneurship

Integrated  
Outreach &  
Engagement that is  
Intergenerational  
and Linked Across  
Sectors

Account for  
Inequity in Public  
Processes and  
Systems

Convene and  
Create Spaces for  
Civic Education &  
Engagement

**Learn More & Support the  
Movement!**

<https://www.ejicwisconsin.org>



## LEAVE MESSAGES & ASK QUESTIONS

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