

Research shows few communities seek to municipalize

Cost to taxpayers, other priorities cited as top reasons

When it comes to municipalizing, about a dozen communities across the U.S. have started down this path in the last decade, citing local control and lower costs as the drivers. However, upon digging deeper, the cost to acquire the local electric system often places an unnecessary burden on taxpayers. This cost is what's deterred many communities from municipalizing.

For example, in:

- Chicago, Illinois, the Mayor halted municipalization efforts due to high cost for customers, [severance costs are estimated to be approximately \\$3.9 billion](#) (p. 7).
- Bainbridge, Washington, the City Council voted against moving forward with the municipalization process after [estimates showed costs of up to \\$147 million](#)
- Pittsburg, Kansas, City Council decided against moving forward with the municipalization process based on cost ([estimated \\$126 million](#)) and city priorities.

In addition, there are examples of communities who have sold or are currently exploring selling their local municipalized utility to an investor-owned utility, including

- Waukege, Iowa, holding a special election on March 4, 2025, for [voters to determine if the city should consider selling](#) its municipal gas utility to a private provider
- Vero Beach, Florida ([sold to Florida Power & Light](#), p. 16-17)
- Sebring, Florida ([sold to Florida Power & Light](#), p. 16-17)
- Jacksonville, Florida, commissioned a report on the value of their utility for potential sale ([Public Utility Research Center](#))

In Decorah, choosing Alliant Energy means savings of up to \$58 million. This is based on the 2018 Feasibility Study which revealed Municipal Electric Utility (MEU) rates in Decorah could be as much as 48% higher than Alliant Energy's rates over a 20-year forecast.