

Joint Action Agencies

What Are Joint Action Agencies?

Joint action agencies (JAAs) are membership organizations formed by groups of public power utilities. Like public power utilities themselves, the structure and governance of JAAs vary to best serve the needs of their member utilities. JAAs are generally nonprofit or not-for-profit organizations designed to leverage economies of scale and strength in numbers to give their members access to a range of operational, business, and advocacy services that might not otherwise be accessible, especially to small- and medium-sized public power utilities.

The Role of Joint Action Agencies

Many JAAs own and operate generation and transmission assets and/or collectively purchase power to serve their member utilities' needs. Working together and harnessing their collective buying power can help

public power utilities achieve scale and keep electricity affordable for their customers.

JAAs may also provide a range of business, compliance, engineering, customer energy solutions, information technology, safety, training, administrative and communications services to their members. These can include community efforts, including sponsoring scholarships and economic development grants, training for member utility staff in critical areas like cybersecurity and lineworker safety, and rebate programs for residential or commercial customers making investments to increase the energy efficiency of appliances, lighting, or refrigeration. JAAs may also educate members regarding best practices, engage in research and development, and participate in advocacy efforts to ensure member utilities are positioned to serve their customers and communities amid changing energy industry trends and technologies.

Key Statistics

Approximately **80 JAAs** serve public power utilities in **43 states**

Over **1,000 public power utilities** are members of a JAA, serving roughly **34 million people**

Joint action agencies account for approximately **25%** of public power net generation, or power output, and **18%** of public power generation capacity

