Climate change and persistent energy poverty threaten to undermine many new democracies in Africa. Even though Africa as a region contributes the least to global climate change, many African countries are most dramatically affected by changes in the environment. In Ghana, climate change has reduced water levels to historic lows in the large hydroelectric dams built in the post-independence era. These dams are now unable to generate enough power for the nation. Ghanaian citizens have responded to frequent black outs and unannounced loadshedding by taking to the streets, Twitter, and to the ballot box to protest and to demand reform. Indeed, in December 2016, the incumbent presidential candidate, who had become known as “Mr. Power Cut”, lost the election to the lead opposition party. Meanwhile, Western donors have urged Ghanaian politicians and policymakers to “leapfrog” over traditional fossil fuel technologies for electricity provision and adopt a new solution to these challenges – renewable energy technologies such as solar and wind. This presentation presents an overview of a new book project supported by the Carnegie Fellows program 2017-19. In this talk, I will be focusing on the electricity crisis as a lens for investigating how Ghanaian citizens think about citizenship and the social contract with the Ghanaian state.