

Check out our upcoming events and latest research

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April Newsletter

Friends—

We continue to help shape the implementation of federal funds from the Inflation Reduction Act and the 2021 infrastructure law. Our recent [comments](#) to the Department of Energy (DOE) about how it can best guide states as they set up rebate programs for home energy upgrades emphasized making the programs easy to access and effective for affordable housing. We've also published a new [topic brief](#) examining how the U.S. General Services Administration and Department of Transportation can reduce embodied carbon in buildings by deploying funding strategically. You can view ACEEE resources related to recent federal climate and infrastructure funding on our new [web page](#).

Several long-overdue appliance efficiency standards recently proposed by DOE are open for comment. To share your support for standards that reduce energy and water waste and help households save money, you can easily send a message to DOE urging it to finalize its proposed standards for [stoves](#), [washing machines](#), and [refrigerators](#).

It was great to discuss strategies for decarbonizing water and space heating with many of you at our Hot Water Forum and first-ever Hot Air Forum last month. We had a great turnout: nearly 400 attendees in total, including record attendance for Hot Water Forum.

Thank you, as always, for your interest in our work.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve'.

Steven Nadel
Executive Director

Efficiency Update

- Energy efficiency standards for manufactured housing—[finalized](#) by the Department of Energy last year and set to take effect on May 31—may be further delayed. In February, the Manufactured Housing Institute challenged the rule in court. And last month, DOE [proposed](#) postponing the compliance date for the standard until after the department conducts an enforcement procedures rulemaking (at some unspecified date). Meanwhile, an advisory committee recommended the Department of Housing and Urban Development adopt a weaker standard into the “HUD Code.”
- The Maryland House of Delegates has passed [two bills](#) to improve the EmPOWER MD energy efficiency programs, align the programs with the state’s climate protection goals, and set new targets to ensure low-income households benefit. ACEEE is encouraging the Maryland Senate to ensure the bills are consistent with the energy savings targets passed last year in the [Climate Solutions Now Act](#)—the House-passed bill appears to fall a little short—and send them back to the House for concurrence and on to the governor.
- The Minnesota Department of Commerce adopted a [new cost-effectiveness test](#) last month that will be used to assess utility energy efficiency programs in the state. ACEEE was active in the advisory committee that helped develop the new test, which reflects several of our recommendations, including a quantified value for avoided greenhouse gas emissions and greater recognition of efficiency’s utility system and nonenergy benefits.
- Following a proposal by Mayor Michelle Wu, the Boston City Council voted this week to approve a new building energy code. Finalized last year by Massachusetts’s Department of Energy Resources as a [“specialized stretch code”](#) that cities and towns could adopt, the code would boost the energy efficiency of new buildings and help lay the groundwork for electrification. Additionally, Mayor Wu recently [announced](#) the launch of a new grant program, bolstered by federal Covid relief funds, to support energy efficiency upgrades in Boston’s income-restricted multifamily buildings.

Our Latest Research



[Planned Strategically, Federal Buy Clean Investment Can Increase Its Impact Exponentially](#)

Our latest brief outlines how federal agencies can help reduce embodied carbon in buildings by deploying new federal funding strategically.

[Leading with Equity Initiative: Year Two Recap and Next Steps](#)



Our Leading with Equity initiative convenes community-based organizations and advocates to develop a shared vision for equitable decarbonization and works to ensure that ACEEE's state, city, and utility scorecards help realize that vision. This memo summarizes the initiative's workshops and findings in 2022.

See all our recent [blog posts](#) and [press releases](#).

ACEEE in Action



Scenes from last month's Hot Water Forum and Hot Air Forum

What We're Reading

A few of our favorite media highlights from the past month:

- [NPR](#) quoted executive director Steve Nadel discussing heat pumps.
- The [New Yorker](#), [Yahoo!](#), and [Forbes](#) cited ACEEE's newest GreenerCars ratings.

- [HuffPost](#) quoted federal policy director Lowell Ungar discussing Biden administration delays in setting efficiency rules for federally supported homes.

News You Can Use

Resources that may be helpful to community-based organizations and others in the energy efficiency sector:

- A request for proposals is open through May 9 for DOE's [Building America Program](#), which support projects focused on reducing carbon emissions from homes through community-focused retrofit solutions. Applicant teams will comprise community organizations, research institutions, utility and industry trades, and other appropriate experts.

Staff Update

Hellen Chen joins ACEEE's industry program as research assistant. Hellen previously worked as a graduate research assistant at the Baylor University Energy and Renewable Systems Lab, exploring behavior and mitigation techniques for bearing currents. She holds master's and bachelor's degrees from Baylor University.



Archie Fraser also joins our industry program as research assistant. Archie previously worked in the U.S. House of Representatives as a legislative aide, focusing on issues related to transportation and infrastructure. He holds a bachelor's degree from Carleton College.



Alan Raymond joins us as corporate relations development manager. Alan previously worked at EARTHDAY.org as its business partnerships and marketing manager. Earlier in his career, he worked at AT&T and as an on-air meteorologist at various national and local media outlets. He holds a master's degree from Mississippi State University and a bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma.



We're hiring! ACEEE seeks an [industry program director](#) and [transportation program senior research analyst](#).

Upcoming Events



**Buildings Upgrade Prize Training Webinars,
Multiple dates in April and May**

July 11–13, Detroit



October 16–18, Philadelphia



November 12–15, Sacramento

Community News

A new [report](#) from **Efficiency Canada** benchmarks and ranks U.S. states and Canadian provinces on electricity program savings and targets, natural gas and non-regulated fuel program savings, and per capita program spending.

The **Department of Energy** is holding a webinar series about applying for funding from the [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program](#), which will provide \$430 million to eligible state, local, and tribal governments for projects and programs to increase energy efficiency, cut emissions, and reduce energy use. Upcoming sessions will explain the option to receive a voucher instead of a grant (April 13) and technical assistance to support eligible entities (May 4).

A [webinar](#) hosted by the **Alliance to Save Energy** on April 20 will explore the Smart Electric Power Alliance's (SEPA) 2023 Utility Transformation Profile. Lakin Garth, SEPA's director of research and industry strategy, will discuss key learnings from the report and provide insights and recommendations that can help electric utilities accelerate the transition to carbon-free energy.

Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships and **PowerOptions** are hosting a "[Decarbonizing Communities & Campuses](#)" workshop on May 3 that will bring together energy and sustainability professionals from municipalities, hospitals, universities, housing authorities, and other nonprofits. Network with colleagues and learn what has worked and what remains challenging while collectively problem-solving in segment-specific tracks led by industry experts and peers.

A [webinar](#) from **Honeywell** on May 4—featuring ACEEE's Nora Wang Efram—will examine the Inflation Reduction Act's funding and tax credit benefits for energy and carbon reductions in buildings.

The [Industrial Energy Technology Conference](#) is scheduled for June 20–22 in Houston, Texas. After a two-year hiatus, the conference will bring together the industrial energy community to discuss topics including the latest technologies and expertise related to smart manufacturing, corporate energy management, energy opportunity analysis, and case studies of successful, real-world industrial efficiency projects.

To contribute community news items, please email [Mary Robert Carter](#).

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