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January Newsletter

Friends—

Happy New Year! The United States made [significant progress](#) on energy efficiency in 2023. We must be even more ambitious to accelerate progress this year. We're committed to helping make that a reality.

For readers working to speed the transformation of space heating and water heating, I hope you'll consider joining ACEEE at our [Hot Water Forum and Hot Air Forum](#) in Atlanta in March. We'll dive deep into how these exciting industries can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve grid resilience, and center equity. Save \$100 by registering by January 11.

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

- The Department of Energy (DOE) recently finalized efficiency standards for [home refrigerators and freezers](#). The standards—a 10–15% efficiency boost—are based on a joint recommendation from the major home appliance manufacturers and consumer, climate, and energy and water efficiency advocates (convened by the Appliance Standards Awareness Project, which is based at ACEEE). States and utilities also endorsed the recommendation. DOE also proposed long-awaited standards

for [commercial and industrial fans and blowers](#) that, if finalized, would be among the highest-impact standards completed under the current administration.

- The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) issued a [groundbreaking order on the future of gas distribution](#). It is committing to opening a new proceeding on energy affordability in the transition off fossil fuels and is considering proposals from [National Grid](#) and [Unitil](#) to reduce rates for low-income customers and establish enhanced rates for electrification and heat pumps, respectively. ACEEE's work was referenced by both the DPU and the utilities in their filings.
- The Seattle City Council unanimously passed [building performance standards](#) requiring large commercial and multifamily buildings to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. All covered buildings will reach net-zero emissions intensity by 2045, except for multifamily housing, which will have until 2050 to achieve the net-zero standard. The city [projects](#) that the policy will reduce total buildings-related GHG emissions by 27% by midcentury.

Our Latest Research



[Funded Strategically, Industrial Decarbonization Can Cut Pollution in Disadvantaged Communities](#)

A new brief identifies places where industrial facilities emit high levels of carbon dioxide and air pollution near disadvantaged populations, using the cement and steelmaking sectors as examples.

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

ACEEE in Action



The ACEEE team gathered in Washington, DC, for a retreat and holiday celebration.

What We're Reading

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

- The [Washington Post](#) quoted executive director Steve Nadel on international energy efficiency pledges tied to the COP28 climate talks.
- [NPR](#) quoted ASAP deputy director Joanna Mauer in a story on appliance efficiency standards.

News You Can Use

- Residential Retrofits for Energy Equity (R2E2) would like to help local governments, community-based organizations, and other entities plan, launch, implement, or scale up plans to bring energy efficiency retrofits to low-income communities. If you're interested in learning more, please complete our [10-minute survey](#). We hope to provide grants to participating communities in addition to free, in-depth technical assistance, and your input via the survey will be a huge help to our fundraising efforts.
- ACEEE and partners are preparing to launch the [National Energy Codes Collaborative](#) to empower states and jurisdictions to effectively implement building energy codes. The Collaborative launches this year with the inclusion of all teams funded under DOE's Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation (RECI) program and with an invitation open to any state or jurisdiction implementing updated energy codes. Meanwhile, important [deadlines for Inflation Reduction Act funding for codes](#) are approaching:
 - January 31 - States must notify DOE of their intent to seek their part of \$400 million in formula funding

- February 9 - Concept papers are due for up to \$530 million in competitive awards to state and local governments
- April 30 - Full applications are due for the competitive awards
- The Building Performance Institute is [accepting public comment](#) on an update to the BPI-2400 standard. Retrofit projects seeking the Inflation Reduction Act's Home Efficiency Rebates under the modeled pathway are required to calibrate modeled energy savings to actual home energy use using the process specified in BPI-2400. The update incorporates guidance for homes without sufficient past energy use data (Annex E). Comment is open through January 16.
- ACEEE is offering a [no-cost technical assistance opportunity](#) for up to 10 local governments and community-based organizations. Our technical assistance will support communities seeking to improve rental home energy efficiency while preserving and expanding housing affordability. Submit [your application](#) by Friday, January 12.

Staff Update



Skye Gruen joins ACEEE as deputy director of the National Energy Codes Collaborative, a new initiative empowering states to implement updated building energy codes. Skye was previously vice president of new construction and on-site generation at Bright Power. She holds a master of science in mechanical engineering from the University of Washington and a bachelor's degree from Yale University.



Ellery Klein joins us as building decarbonization analyst. Ellery previously worked at the Center for Environmental Energy Engineering as a graduate research assistant researching high efficiency heating and cooling building technology. He holds a PhD, master's degree, and bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Maryland College Park.

We're hiring! ACEEE seeks a [buildings director](#) and an [IT support specialist](#).

Upcoming Events








March 12–14, Atlanta

August 4–9, Pacific Grove, CA

To contribute community news items, please email [Mary Robert Carter](mailto:Mary.Robert.Carter@aceee.org).

[Support ACEEE today with a tax-deductible contribution!](#)

ACEEE is proud to earn a four-star rating from Charity Navigator. This is the highest possible rating, reflecting that our foundation, corporate, and donor funds are used responsibly and efficiently.

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