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December Newsletter

Friends—

Simply put, we expect a tough road ahead for federal energy efficiency policy following last month's elections. But what that looks like depends on the work we do.

The incoming administration and Congress could [seek major cuts](#) to energy-saving programs. ACEEE staff will defend key Inflation Reduction Act programs and funding for other federal energy efficiency-related initiatives, including by demonstrating the benefits these investments are having across the country.

Despite the challenges, we anticipate some areas for maintaining ground or continuing progress across transportation, industry, and buildings. Our team is preparing to help shape the transportation reauthorization bill due in 2026, to improve industrial competitiveness through energy-saving investments, and to support housing affordability with residential efficiency efforts.

When the federal policy landscape becomes less favorable to clean energy, energy efficiency leadership efforts shift toward states, cities, and individual utility companies. In the months and years ahead, ACEEE will grow our efforts to [expand and transform efficiency programs and policies](#) and support communities in [scaling home energy upgrade programs](#).

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

Best,

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

Steven Nadel
Executive Director

Efficiency Update

- The Federal Highway Administration recently [announced](#) an award of \$1.2 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funds to 39 state transportation agencies to support purchases of American-made, low-carbon construction materials, including asphalt, glass, steel, and concrete, for transportation projects.
- Governor Polis announced [Colorado Transportation Vision: 2035](#), which commits to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, doubling non-auto transportation trips, increasing transit service miles by more than 80%, building thousands of new miles of bicycle lanes and sidewalks, and ensuring new housing is built in transit-oriented areas.

Our Latest Research



[Heat Pumps Would Save Many Texas Households \\$300 Annually](#)

This report finds that switching to heat pumps when existing central air conditioners need to be replaced would reduce utility bills and ease strain on the Texas power grid.



[Electrification of U.S. Industry: Applying Lessons from Denmark](#)

This white paper shares insights from an ACEEE-led study trip to industrial electrification sites in Denmark.

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

ACEEE in Action





Scenes from our [2024 Energy Efficiency Policy Forum](#)

What We're Reading

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

- The [Washington Post](#) quoted ASAP executive director Andrew deLaski on the outlook for appliance standards in the Trump administration.
- Industry program director Richard Hart joined the [Watt Matters](#) podcast to discuss industrial electrification and efficiency.
- [Government Technology](#) quoted senior director for research Nora Efram in an article featuring ACEEE research about using data centers as electric grid assets.

Opportunities

- The [Climate Smart Communities Initiative](#) is accepting grant applications for climate adaptation and resilience professionals to create or advance a climate resilience plan or project in collaboration with a community on the front lines of the climate crisis. Each grant will cover a 12-month period and include approximately \$100,000 in funding as well as access to training opportunities, technical experts, and cohort support.
- Applications for [Black Girl Environmentalist's Hazel M. Johnson Fellowship program](#) will open on December 9 and close February 21. The program is designed to invest in and nurture early-career Black women and gender-expansive people. The fellows are placed at leading climate organizations for the summer (10 weeks) and receive a wage of at least \$18/hour; a \$5,000 living wage stipend; 3 hours of weekly professional development support; an in-person, end-of-summer retreat; and a community of future climate leaders.

Staff Update

ACEEE on the road: Transportation director Rachel Aland will lead a discussion on improving community engagement approaches and coordination among public-sector stakeholders at the Thriving Communities convening at the U.S. Department of Transportation December 9–10 with

representatives from the 60 cities and towns that are receiving technical and capacity-building assistance through the program, including the 15 communities ACEEE is directly supporting as a capacity builder through the Complete Neighborhoods initiative.

Upcoming Events



March 4–6, Portland, OR
(Register by January 10 for the early bird rate)

[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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