

Check out our latest research and upcoming events

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December Newsletter

Friends—

ACEEE's work championing the adoption of more-robust building energy codes has expanded again. In addition to supporting stronger model codes and updates in states, we are playing a central role in pursuing a new federal opportunity. In a [letter](#) last week, ACEEE and dozens of organizations called for the Federal Housing Finance Agency to require all new homes with mortgages backed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to meet up-to-date model codes. This would cover nearly half the new homes sold in the United States and would lower households' energy costs, improve resilience in extreme weather, and help protect the climate.

We're also busy helping communities improve the efficiency of local rental housing. In the coming months, ACEEE's [Energy Equity for Renters](#) initiative will engage up to 10 local governments and community-based organizations nationwide to support their efforts to improve efficiency in rental housing. Through this technical assistance, we seek to help communities protect the climate, reduce energy costs, and preserve affordable housing. Applications are due January 5.

Have a wonderful holiday season, and as always, thank you 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 recently [announced](#) that it will award \$169 million to nine projects to boost U.S. manufacturing of a range of electric heat pumps. These are the first in a series of clean energy technologies to be supported through the Defense Production Act. As ACEEE recommended to DOE, some of the funds will support heat pumps for the industrial sector, including \$5 million toward the construction of an industrial heat pump manufacturing facility in Michigan.
- Governor Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan signed into law last week a [major legislative package](#) set to make the state a national leader in saving energy and reducing planet-warming emissions. The legislation includes strengthening utility energy efficiency program savings requirements, enabling the programs to support electrification, and increasing energy savings for low-income households. ACEEE was centrally involved in shaping these policies, working as part of a coalition of more than 40 individuals and organizations.

Our Latest Research



[Toolkit Shows How Energy Efficiency Programs Can Reach More Underserved Households](#)

A new resource shares best practices for reaching all underserved customers as well as several specific groups.



[Financial and Systemic Barriers to Scaling Energy Retrofits in Commercial Buildings](#)

Our latest report examines the root causes of the slow pace of efficiency retrofits in commercial buildings.

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

Meet Our Expanded Industry Team

Our efforts to decarbonize the industrial sector have expanded significantly in recent months and years. ACEEE launched its industry research and advocacy in the early 1990s, focusing on improving industrial energy efficiency. Today, our team has expanded its scope to champion a full range of activities for cutting industrial carbon emissions. Recent highlights include launching the [Industrial Heat Pump Alliance](#) and work to encourage new cement plants with [low greenhouse](#)

[gas emissions](#). ACEEE welcomes a new industrial program director, Richard Hart, to lead the [team](#)! We look forward to great things ahead.

Our experts:

- **Richard Hart**, *program director* (industrial energy efficiency)
- **Neal Elliott**, *director emeritus* (decarbonization technologies, energy markets)
- **Anna Johnson**, *senior researcher* (chemicals, clean power)
- **Pavitra Srinivasan**, *senior researcher* (cement)
- **Andrew Hoffmeister**, *research analyst* (industrial heat pumps, information and communications technology)
- **Hellen Chen**, *research analyst* (cement, industrial heat pumps)
- **Jonah Eisen**, *research assistant* (strategic energy management, behavioral change)
- **Archibald Fraser**, *research assistant* (chemicals, industrial policies)
- **Alexander Ratner**, *ACEEE's federal policy manager* (industrial policies and legislation)
- **Nora Wang Efram**, *ACEEE's senior director for research* (embodied carbon in building materials, thermal storage)

ACEEE in Action



Scenes from the [2023 Behavior, Energy & Climate Change conference](#) in Sacramento, California, co-convened by ACEEE

What We're Reading

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

- The [Washington Post](#) cited senior researcher Rohini Srivastava explaining the importance of home weatherization.
- [CNBC](#) quoted executive director Steven Nadel on how expanded home energy efficiency tax credits can be put to use.
- [Law360](#) (subscription required) quoted senior director for research Nora Wang Efram on the need for federal procurement of low-carbon building materials to spur their broader use.

News You Can Use

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

- The Environmental Protection Agency launched the [Community Change Equitable Resilience program](#) to help disaster-prone, disadvantaged communities apply for [Community Change Grants](#). The program will provide free design and project development assistance, community engagement, and partnership development workshops. Climate resilience projects that qualify for technical assistance will include a focus on new or expanded green infrastructure, open spaces, and/or retrofits of existing community buildings or streets to address climate change impacts. Requests for technical assistance are being accepted on a rolling basis.
- The Department of Energy's (DOE) [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant \(EECBG\) Program](#) is designed to assist states, local governments, and Tribes in implementing strategies to reduce energy use, to reduce fossil fuel emissions, and to improve energy efficiency. DOE recently announced that the [EECBG Program Voucher Application Portal](#) is now live. EECBG Program vouchers differ from the traditional grant option by providing a more streamlined application process and reduced administrative burden. DOE encourages applicants whose EECBG Program formula allocation is less than \$250,000 to pursue this option. The deadline to apply (for both grants and vouchers) is April 30, 2024.

Staff Update

Forest Bradley-Wright joins us as state and utility director. He was previously the energy efficiency director at the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and senior policy director at the Alliance for Affordable Energy in New Orleans. Forest has co-founded two workforce training nonprofits, Groundwork New Orleans and the Louisiana Green Corps.



Richard Hart joins ACEEE as industry program director. Richard previously led the development of Strategic Energy Management in California with Cascade Energy. He holds an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley, and a bachelor of science in chemistry from Cambridge University, UK.



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

Upcoming Events



WEBINAR: Electrifying Change: Leveraging ICT and Grid-Edge Technologies for a Decarbonized Future
December 14, 3:00 p.m. EST








March 12–14, 2024, Atlanta

August 4–9, 2024, Pacific Grove, CA

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

[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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