

Check out our latest research and upcoming events

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## November Newsletter

Friends—

Improving a home's efficiency can make the home safer and more affordable while cutting planet-warming emissions. That's why [Residential Retrofits for Energy Equity \(R2E2\)](#), an initiative launched last year by ACEEE and partner organizations, assisted hundreds of teams with their applications to the U.S. Department of Energy's Buildings Upgrade Prize. We are now excited to transition to [helping the winning teams](#) bring energy retrofits to underserved communities. Now the real work begins!

In another area of our work to ensure effective Inflation Reduction Act funding implementation, we're about to hold the second webinar in a four-part series on how state energy offices and stakeholders can launch successful rebates for home energy efficiency and electrification. [Join us tomorrow](#) (November 2) at noon ET to learn how states can leverage new funding from the Department of Energy to train, test, and certify energy efficiency and electrification contractors.

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 a significantly strengthened [federal efficiency standard for home furnaces](#). According to the agency, the standards will reduce

average household costs by \$350 over the life of a furnace compared to using old-style models and cut 332 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions from furnaces sold over 30 years. Furnace standards had not been meaningfully updated since Congress set them in 1987. DOE made a slight update in 2007, but to an efficiency level that 99% of models already met. The new standards will take effect in 2028.

- In a bipartisan vote last week, the U.S. Senate [rejected an amendment](#) to block a federal proposal to ensure that more new homes are built to up-to-date energy codes. The proposal would require newly constructed homes to meet 2021 energy efficiency codes to qualify for loans from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or the Department of Agriculture (USDA). ACEEE was part of a broad coalition of organizations championing housing affordability, energy efficiency, and climate mitigation that successfully urged senators to oppose the amendment.
- In Michigan, the state Senate passed three clean energy bills that are now under consideration in the House. This package of bills would speed the transition to renewable energy (SB271), increase the state's energy waste reduction standard, and direct utilities to invest 25% of their total energy efficiency spending in low-income communities (SB273). One of the bills (SB502) would also strengthen the Public Service Commission's authority to consider clean energy- and equity-related factors when reviewing utilities' planning. ACEEE senior fellow Dr. Martin Kushler, a Michigan resident, was integrally involved in the efforts to craft the legislative package.

## Our Latest Research



### [Proactive Steps Needed to Reduce Burdens for Households Experiencing Energy Insecurity](#)

Our latest brief identifies valuable lessons from entities taking action to increase energy affordability.

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

## ACEEE in Action



*Scenes from our Energy Efficiency as a Resource conference in Philadelphia last month*

## What We're Reading

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

- [Utility Dive](#) quoted Steve Nadel, executive director of ACEEE, and Andrew deLaski, executive director of the Appliance Standards Awareness Project, in articles about DOE finalizing new efficiency standards for residential gas furnaces.
- [Energy News Network](#) quoted senior fellow Jennifer Amann in a story about energy efficiency upgrades in existing buildings in the aftermath of the North Carolina legislature's passage of a law prohibiting building energy code updates in the state.
- [Inside Climate News](#) quoted from a letter ACEEE and other groups sent to Senate leaders asking them to reject an amendment that would reverse the federal government's plans to require that newly constructed homes meet 2021 energy efficiency codes to qualify for HUD and USDA loans.

## News You Can Use

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

- DOE's [Energy Future Grants](#) will provide \$27 million to local, state, and tribal government-led partnership efforts to advance clean energy program innovation. Teams should ideally be 3-4 or more government partners joining together on a planning project,

and they are also encouraged to partner with community-based organizations. With these funds, teams should address barriers preventing low-income and disadvantaged communities from realizing the benefits of clean energy in and across the power, transportation, and building sectors. Grant applications are due November 10.

- Through the [Communities Local Energy Action Program \(LEAP\) Cohort 2](#), DOE will provide technical assistance services valued at more than \$18 million to support 24–32 communities to develop and advance their community-driven clean energy transition approaches. Eligible applicants are low-income, energy-burdened communities that are either disadvantaged or experiencing direct economic impacts from a shift away from historical reliance on fossil fuels. Multi-stakeholder applicant teams must include at least one community-based organization and one local government or tribal entity. The application deadline is December 14.

## We're Hiring

ACEEE seeks a [transportation program director](#), [National Energy Codes Collaborative senior manager](#), [building decarbonization analyst](#), and [conference intern](#).

## Upcoming Events



**Webinar Series: Designing Successful State Energy Office IRA Rebate Programs**  
November 2, 9, 16



**Behavior, Energy & Climate Change Conference**  
November 12–15, Sacramento

## Community News

**The Coalition for Home Repair** is partnering with several organizations, including the National Center for Healthy Housing, National Low-Income Housing Coalition, and Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, to develop a multi-sector advocacy campaign focused on policy improvements and increased funding for home repairs—often a needed first step before weatherization and other energy upgrades in affordable housing. Register to join the [Inaugural Advocacy Summit](#) on November 7 to learn more.






Join **Emerald Cities Collaborative**, **The Climate & Clean Energy Equity Fund**, and **Just Solutions** for a [webinar](#) on November 9 about the experience of applying for and receiving

federal funding. As opportunities for federal funding for environmental justice efforts become more available, it is essential that community organizations understand the process and challenges of being a federal grantee.

*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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**Our mailing address is:**

ACEEE, 529 14th Street., N.W., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20045

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