

Check out our latest research and upcoming events

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April Newsletter

Friends—

The Department of Energy's [announcement](#) last week of \$6 billion in funding for transformational industrial decarbonization projects has a backstory—one we're rather proud of.

Rewind to late summer 2021, when ACEEE published a [policy brief](#) warning that “a gap remains between pilot-scale demonstration projects and full-scale implementation of innovative industrial technologies.” It called for federal co-funding to help industrial companies invest in commercializing new clean technologies. We worked closely with lawmakers introducing legislation for similar funding in the U.S. [House](#) and [Senate](#).

In the summer of 2022, the Inflation Reduction Act built on these ideas, dedicating nearly \$6 billion in funding for decarbonization grants—the lion's share of the funding announced recently. The winning companies can soon invest in innovative decarbonization measures that haven't been deployed yet in U.S. industry. True success lies a step further, when those once-new technologies are used widely. It will be an exciting few years ahead.

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

Best,



Steven Nadel

Executive Director

Efficiency Update

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently released new emissions standards for [new cars and light trucks](#). These standards will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 7 billion tons, the agency estimates, and are expected to lead to record adoption of hybrid and electric vehicles. Though the final rule is weaker than what ACEEE advocated for and delays the biggest benefits until 2030 and onward, it is still a big step forward for cleaner cars.
- EPA also issued new [standards for trucks](#) that will increase the adoption of electric truck technologies. The standards will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1 billion metric tons of CO₂e and provide \$13 billion in net benefits to society through 2055, according to the EPA. Some states already have stronger policies than these standards to ensure more rapid adoption of electric trucks, but the federal rules will help boost adoption nationwide.
- The International Code Council's board of directors recently defied its expert consensus committees, staff, and Appeals Board to [unilaterally remove](#) from an upcoming model building energy code provisions to ensure new buildings are wired for EV charging, include energy-efficient heating systems, and provide the electrical outlets needed to install a heat pump water heater. These provisions for homes were part of a compromise that did not push traditional energy efficiency measures as far as they could have gone, so the International Code Council's actions will cause higher utility bills and saddle homeowners with higher costs in the future for installing EV chargers or heat pump water heaters. ACEEE is exploring options to ensure states and localities have codes available to lower energy waste in homes and buildings in the face of climate change.
- Washington became the eighth state to enact a law to phase out the sale of most fluorescent light bulbs, which contain mercury and are far less efficient than LEDs.

Research and advocacy by ACEEE, the Appliance Standards Awareness Project, and our partners spurred these states to act. The policy is expected to save Washington residents and businesses \$393 million from reduced utility bills and avert 146 pounds of mercury waste through 2050.

Our Latest Research



[Getting Homeowners to Invest in Comprehensive Retrofits Is Hard: Here's How to Do It](#)

Our latest report presents the results of a survey of 1,500 U.S. homeowners that provides insight into which packages of home energy upgrades are most appealing, who is most open to them, and which messages work best to encourage action.



[Report: Government and Industry Can Cut Cement Emissions Using Calcined Clays](#)

This report examines the greenhouse gas reduction potential of limestone calcined clay cement and concrete as alternatives to their conventional counterparts and recommends strategies to support their adoption.

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

ACEEE in Action



Stacey Abrams of Rewiring America [delivered a keynote](#) at our Hot Water Forum and Hot Air Forum.

What We're Reading

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

- The radio program [Marketplace](#) quoted Steven Nadel commenting on the Department of Energy's \$6 billion in industrial decarbonization grants.
- The [Washington Post](#) quoted senior fellow Jennifer Amann on energy and water use by indoor farms.

News You Can Use

- DOE's [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program](#) is designed to assist states, local governments, and Tribes in implementing strategies to reduce energy use, reduce fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency. The deadline for local

governments to apply is April 30. A webinar on April 4 will address commonly asked questions about the application process, compliance, and reporting requirements. The webinar will be recorded.

- DOE's [Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy](#) grants will provide \$18 million in financial awards and technical assistance to advance community-identified energy priorities. Local governments and federally recognized Tribes are eligible to apply by May 31.

Staff Update

New ACEEE job postings! ACEEE seeks a [building decarbonization analyst](#) and a [research assistant, industrial program](#).

Upcoming Events



WEBINAR: Decarbonizing Residential Space Heating in Cold Climates | April 3, 1:00p.m. ET



August 4–9, Pacific Grove, CA

Community News

Our transportation director, Rachel Aland, will participate in the [Advanced Clean Transportation Expo](#) in Las Vegas from May 20 to 23. This 10,000+ person conference on sustainable

transportation technologies attracts many fleet operators and equipment manufacturers. If you plan to attend and wish to schedule a meeting, please contact Rachel at raland@aceee.org.

To contribute community news items, please email [Mary Robert Carter](mailto: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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