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# WELCOME

## Co-Chairs Introduction

Welcome to the seventh biennial ACEEE Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Industry. The theme of this year's conference is *Cutting the High Cost of Energy*, and somewhat unfortunately, this theme could not be more relevant. With both natural gas and crude oil prices remaining near historic highs for months on end, never have energy efficiency measures been more levered to the bottom line.

The ultimate goal of this Summer Study is quite clear: to help industry cut energy costs. With presenters and experts from private industry, academia, government, consulting, and the nonprofit sector, we're leaving no stone unturned. American industry, energy-intensive industry in particular, is facing an unprecedented threat to their global competitiveness. The chemical industry, for example, has moved from being a major net exporter to being a net importer in just the two years since the last Summer Study, due to this loss in competitive cost position, and has seen a wave of plant shutdowns over the last four years.

Energy efficiency is a key component in a return to competitiveness in two ways: first, with natural gas at \$7 per MMBtu and crude oil over \$50 per barrel, individual companies may owe their survival, or at least their economic well-being to getting the most production possible from the least energy input. Second, the country as a whole needs much greater efficiency to limit demand of our key fuels, and to help relieve the supply/demand imbalances that have pushed prices up to their extreme levels. Energy efficiency improvements could go a long way toward solving the country's "energy problem."

As with past conferences, this year's Summer Study seeks to enhance communication between academic and government experts who conduct research in the field of industrial energy efficiency and sustainability, and the private sector

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who must ultimately implement energy efficiency measures. We also hope to stimulate additional research on the technologies, products, social aspects, and policies required to achieve significant industrial energy efficiency improvements. Paper presentations each morning will provide detailed and practical information on subjects related to *Cutting the High Cost of Energy*. The Summer Study is organized into six panels:

- 1) Industrial Energy Efficiency Measures and Technologies
- 2) Industrial Fuel Diversity
- 3) Leadership and Management Practices in Industrial Energy Efficiency
- 4) Industrial Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Issues
- 5) Role of Government and Programs in Industrial Energy Efficiency
- 6) Data, Analysis, and Modeling of Industrial Energy Efficiency

Afternoon informal sessions led by workshop participants will further explore research and activities related to industrial energy efficiency. Posters and displays will be available throughout the conference for further sharing of information. Tours of several local industrial sites are organized for Thursday afternoon.

There has never been a better time to spread the word on energy efficiency, and achieve meaningful efficiency improvements in industry. We thank all the authors, speakers, panel leaders, paper reviewers, poster presenters, funders, organizers, and attendees for the value they add to Summer Study. We welcome you to the 2005 ACEEE Summer Study, *Cutting the High Cost of Energy*, and trust that you will find the time and effort to participate rewarding.

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