



## August Update

Friends—

We are encouraged by Congress's show of support for ENERGY STAR, the popular efficiency certification program. The Republican-led appropriations committees in both the House and the Senate recently advanced spending bills that would maintain roughly the same level of funding for the program in the coming fiscal year.

Most years, this wouldn't be notable—ENERGY STAR has enjoyed bipartisan support for decades. But it follows the Environmental Protection Agency's plan from the spring to scrap the program, which prompted [pushback](#) from a wide range of businesses and organizations. EPA has not yet resolved the future of the program, and Congress may never pass a final appropriations bill this year; however, the strong congressional support is a very positive step.

While it's a welcome development for one critical efficiency program, several others face deep cuts by the agencies and under the House committee's plan (the Senate numbers are much stronger).

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

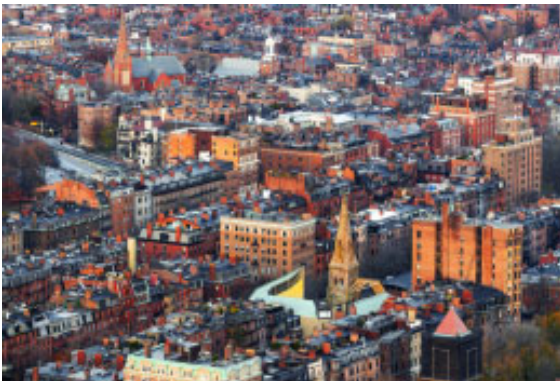
Best,

## Efficiency Update

- The Environmental Protection Agency recently proposed repealing its greenhouse gas emissions standards for cars and trucks. The plan is part of a [proposed rule](#) that would rescind a 2009 finding that greenhouse gas emissions harm human health, a finding that, by law, requires the agency to regulate them. The proposed rule is open to public comment before it can be finalized. A final rule would likely be challenged in court.

- The New York State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council recently approved an [updated building code](#) that will require most new buildings to use electric heating and appliances instead of fossil fuel-powered equipment. The move codifies the All-Electric Buildings Act of 2023, the first statewide policy of its kind, which a federal court upheld in a recent decision. The code takes effect for most buildings up to seven stories in 2026.
- The New Orleans City Council passed an [ordinance](#) requiring owners of buildings larger than 20,000 square feet to track and report their annual energy use. Benchmarking energy use will help building owners identify opportunities to lower utility bills, plan for upgrades, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Large commercial buildings account for roughly 20% of New Orleans's greenhouse gas emissions.

## Our Latest Research



### [New Heat Pump Type Is Lowest-Cost Decarbonization Option for Big Apartment Buildings](#)

Large multifamily buildings with central heating systems that burn fossil fuels are among the hardest to decarbonize. Window-mounted heat pumps often provide the lowest-cost option, this study finds.



### [Home Energy Ratings Help Avoid Costly Utility Bill Surprises](#)

This paper examines how home energy ratings can inform buyers and help reduce their energy costs.



## [Why Aren't We Repurposing More EV Batteries?](#)

This brief examines the benefits and challenges of repurposing EV batteries and identifies policy solutions that can expand repurposing.

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

## ACEEE in Action



*Scenes from our 2025 Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Industry, which included the presentations of this year's [Champions of Energy Efficiency awards](#).*

## What We're Reading

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

- [CBS News](#) quoted executive director Steve Nadel on how the major tax and policy legislation signed by President Trump will raise costs and strain the electric grid.
- The [New York Times](#) and [NPR](#) quoted federal policy director Lowell Ungar on using federal energy efficiency tax credits before they expire.
- [Utility Dive](#) quoted state and utility program director Forest Bradley-Wright on the need for increased efficiency program performance by Georgia Power.

## Staff Update

**Brooke Lockwood** joins the Appliance Standards Awareness Project, which is housed at ACEEE, as a state policy advocate. Brooke previously worked as public policy and advocacy manager at the Alzheimer's Association New Jersey Chapter, where she directed a network of more than 80 volunteers in support of health equity and long-term care legislation. She holds a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University.



**ACEEE on the road:** Senior policy director Mark Kresowik will present on ACEEE's *State Scorecard* as well as weatherization and health and safety repairs programs on August 27 at the [National Community Action Partnership's 2025 Annual Convention](#).

## Upcoming Events



October 7–9, Denver

[Learn more](#)



November 2–5, Sacramento

[Learn more](#)

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