

The logo for ACEEE is displayed in white on a dark blue circular background. The letters 'A', 'C', and 'E' are in a bold, sans-serif font. The second 'E' is significantly larger than the others. The final 'E' is followed by three small white dots. Below the logo, the tagline 'Smart Energy. Clean Planet. Better Lives.' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

ACEEE
Smart Energy. Clean Planet. Better Lives.

The cover features a dark blue background with large, overlapping circular cutouts. The leftmost cutout shows a city skyline with a prominent skyscraper. The middle cutout shows a lush green field. The rightmost cutout shows a group of people, including a child with glasses. The text 'Annual Report' is positioned in the lower-left area, with 'Annual' in a regular weight and 'Report' in a bold weight, both in white sans-serif font.

Annual
Report

2023

RESEARCH. POLICY. **PROGRESS.**

A Message From **ACEEE Leadership**

In a world facing the urgency of climate change and escalating living costs, ACEEE is at the forefront of innovation, transforming these global challenges into opportunities for growth and environmental stability. Our dedication to advancing energy efficiency directly confronts critical energy challenges and carbon pollution, simultaneously spurring job creation, reducing household expenses, and fostering a resilient and more equitable future.

The promise of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 is being realized through initial investments of tens of billions of dollars in energy efficiency, ushering in a new era of innovation and growth. ACEEE has been pivotal in working with federal agencies and allies to steer these investments toward high-impact, practical projects that will equitably benefit communities nationwide.

To harness the Inflation Reduction Act's potential, Residential Retrofits for Energy Equity (R2E2), a major initiative by ACEEE and partners, is working to jumpstart energy upgrades for affordable housing. R2E2 collaborated extensively with the U.S. Department of Energy to shape its \$22 million Buildings Upgrade Prize and support applicants and winning teams.

ACEEE also launched a collaborative effort to help industries implement industrial heat pumps, a critical yet underused technology. The Industrial Heat Pump Alliance convened heat pump suppliers, end users, and other decision makers to discuss ways to accelerate the transformation of the domestic industrial heat pump market.

We continued to champion stronger emissions standards for cars and trucks, which helped secure historic progress by the U.S. Environmental Protection



STEVEN NADEL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND PENNI MCLEAN-CONNER, CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Agency in early 2024 to address emissions from the transportation sector.

We also led campaigns for strengthened efficiency standards for appliances. These standards, including many that will be completed in 2024, will reduce household costs and make energy-saving features from top products available to all consumers. A finalized standard for home furnaces will cut average annual home heating bills for consumers replacing an inefficient furnace by about \$50 per year, and by mid-century, will be cutting carbon pollution by an amount equivalent to shutting off 24 gas power plants. This achievement exemplifies our approach: tangible benefits for consumers today and substantial carbon reductions for our planet.

A majority of nations signed a pledge in December that calls for doubling global energy efficiency improvements to 4% per year. Achieving this will require significantly increased and sustained efforts. Our dedication to this hard work is fueled by the support of our community and our shared vision of a sustainable, thriving world.

Thank you for being part of our journey toward a brighter, more efficient tomorrow.

Steven M. Nadell *Penni McLean-Conner*

Our Team

ACEEE's team grew to 82 people in 2023. As our organization has grown, so has our impact.



Photo credit: Yazan Aboushi

Driving Down Transportation Emissions

Transportation is the largest contributor to planet-warming emissions in the United States and a significant source of other unhealthy air pollution. We helped advance electric vehicles and other solutions that enable cleaner, more equitable transportation systems.

The Environmental Protection Agency's greenhouse gas emissions standards for cars and trucks are among the most powerful tools available to help reduce transportation emissions. We advocated for robust new standards to drive greater adoption of electric vehicles and continued efficiency improvements in conventional ones.

With more electric vehicles hitting the road, utilities and utility commissions must plan for their significant charging needs, especially for commercial fleets. Our efforts contributed to decisions to prepare for fleet electrification in Massachusetts and New York.

While essential to climate efforts, electric vehicles alone are not enough to reach net-zero emissions and create transportation systems that work better for everyone. Local policymakers must also accommodate and encourage transit, walking, and biking to lower emissions equitably. The U.S. Department of Transportation selected ACEEE and its partners to support the agency's Thriving Communities program and help disadvantaged communities implement equitable, low-carbon transportation projects. ACEEE is leading efforts with three cities, beginning by assisting them with community engagement.

Q&A with Rachel Aland Transportation Director

What is the most important thing that communities can do to ensure transportation works better for everyone?

In ACEEE's work with local communities as part of the Department of Transportation's Thriving Community Program, we are connecting community-based organizations to transportation officials so that transportation plans better incorporate the needs and desires of the communities being served. Broader stakeholder engagement earlier in the planning process means that transportation projects can be improved by feedback from the community members who use these roads and services every day.



What are the biggest challenges, and how can ACEEE help address them?

When it comes to vehicle electrification, a significant amount of charging infrastructure needs to be built in a very short timeframe. ACEEE's relationships with utilities, public utility commissions, and state transportation agencies mean that we can support the development of best practices and guidance on accelerating infrastructure deployment. Through this work, we can act as a bridge between the decision-makers working to address the utility and transportation sides of the infrastructure deployment question.

Supporting the Transformation of Industry

U.S. manufacturing is growing at a pace unseen for decades. ACEEE worked to ensure that new and existing industrial plants incorporate transformative decarbonization technologies and strategies, helping build a more competitive and equitable industrial sector.

Investments from the Inflation Reduction Act and other recent federal laws are spurring industrial companies to build new U.S. factories and strengthen their supply chains. ACEEE helped shape federal investment decisions and encouraged stakeholders to take advantage of this once-in-a-generation opportunity to advance industrial decarbonization.

We expanded our campaign to accelerate the adoption of industrial heat pumps, a proven technology that can slash energy use and emissions associated with generating the heat used to produce manufactured goods. We launched the Industrial Heat Pump Alliance with partners, a collaborative effort to promote this critical technology. We also recommended that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) boost U.S. manufacturing of electric heat pumps, helping secure \$5 million toward the construction of an industrial heat pump manufacturing facility in Michigan.

We provided input to DOE to help ensure the productive implementation of its Advanced Industrial Facilities Deployment Program, a nearly \$6 billion program to support companies deploying innovative decarbonization technologies. The program was partly shaped by ACEEE's "first three" plan, which called for federal co-funding to help industrial companies invest in commercializing new clean technologies.



Improving Homes and Buildings

Constructing new buildings to be energy efficient and upgrading existing ones is vital to cut greenhouse gas emissions, lower utility bills, and make the places where we live and work safer and more comfortable. We pushed to accelerate action and ensure everyone benefits.

Not only are home energy upgrades critical for addressing climate change, but they can meaningfully reduce utility costs and improve residents' quality of life. Yet many communities are too often left out of climate investments. Residential Retrofits for Energy Equity (R2E2), a major nationwide initiative led by ACEEE and partners, supported underserved communities in developing strategies to boost energy-saving home retrofits.

Through R2E2, ACEEE worked closely with DOE to influence the shape and scope of its \$22 million Buildings Upgrade Prize. In October, DOE announced 45 winning teams, awarding up to \$400,000 for those focused on affordable housing or underserved commercial buildings. We are working with many winning teams to help them develop innovative energy upgrade initiatives.

After years of ACEEE advocacy, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Agriculture finally proposed an update to an energy efficiency requirement for new homes that receive federally insured loans or other assistance. ACEEE led the opposition

Q&A with Annika Brindel

Director of R2E2

What have you learned from working with dozens of communities seeking to design and implement home energy upgrade plans?

Unaffordable housing and high energy bills are just two of the crises that make it challenging for disinvested communities to access energy upgrades. The Inflation Reduction Act can change the game, but communities need help figuring out how to harness its programs. The teams we work with have a wealth of local community knowledge and ingenuity that they are applying to challenges like health and safety deficiencies, high upfront upgrade costs, and more. We are thrilled to be able to problem-solve together.

What's next for R2E2?

Since December, we have received technical assistance requests from over 200 communities nationwide looking to scale affordable housing upgrades! Requests have come in from local governments, community-based organizations, and others. We're pursuing expanded support so we can serve as many of these communities as possible. We're also continuing to work with DOE—through the Buildings Upgrade Prize—to assist dozens of teams to rapidly and equitably scale retrofits. We're very excited for an impactful 2024!



that defeated, in a bipartisan vote, a Senate amendment that would have blocked action. Now finalized, the requirement will lead to more than 30% energy savings compared to the previous standards. At ACEEE's urging, the Federal Housing Finance Agency is now conducting outreach on directing Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to adopt a similar requirement.

ACEEE worked to advance strong building energy codes. DOE awarded ACEEE \$9.6 million to establish the National Energy Codes Collaborative, a nationwide capacity-building network to empower states and jurisdictions to implement up-to-date, cost-effective building energy codes.

To address the dual crises of climate change and a lack of affordable housing, our Energy Equity for Renters initiative provided technical assistance to five local governments and their community-based partners. Supported by our research and guidance, Duluth, Minnesota, is directing applicants to its housing trust fund to resources to improve their properties' energy efficiency and refining its plans to require parking at new multifamily housing to include EV chargers, and Tacoma Public Utilities officially launched its Income-Qualified Rental Property Program.



Securing Robust Appliance Standards

The Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP), which is housed at ACEEE, mobilized broad coalitions, negotiated with manufacturers, and countered false political narratives to secure stronger appliance standards that will cut planet-warming emissions and other air pollution, save water, and ease the strain of energy bills for households and businesses.

Federal efficiency standards for common appliances and commercial and industrial equipment ensure that new products for sale meet a minimum level of efficiency performance. Many have fallen out of date in recent years, resulting in energy waste and higher utility bills. ASAP's advocacy is helping ensure that DOE catches up on legal deadlines and sets strong energy-saving standards.

Our ambitious campaign contributed to the roughly dozen new or updated federal standards finalized in 2023. Among them are crucial standards for home furnaces, room air conditioners, and commercial water heaters. By midcentury, the home furnace standards alone will be cutting carbon emissions by an amount equivalent to shutting off 24 gas power plants.

In July, DOE proposed strong new standards—now finalized—for home water heaters based on a joint recommendation from an ASAP-led coalition and manufacturers that will shift much of the market for electric water heaters to heat pumps, saving many households about \$170 per year on electric bills. Another agreement between ASAP and allies forged with home appliance manufacturers paved the way for DOE adoption of strong new standards for refrigerators, washers, dryers, dishwashers, stoves, and beverage coolers.



Andrew deLaski, ASAP's executive director, spoke at a press conference at DOE's headquarters to urge the department to finalize strong efficiency standards for water heaters. Photo credit: Athel Rogers.

DOE projects that recently completed standards and the standards expected to be finalized in 2024 will together avert 2.5 billion metric tons of CO2 emissions and save consumers and businesses nearly \$1 trillion.

Right: State policy associate Josh McClenney testified before a Rhode Island House committee on the need for a clean lighting policy in the state.

Campaign for Clean Lighting Prompted State Action

Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Oregon, and Rhode Island enacted laws in 2023 to phase out fluorescent lighting based on its mercury content. Eight states now have such laws, including one enacted by Washington State in early 2024.

Our research and advocacy spurred these states to act. A 2022 report published jointly by ACEEE, ASAP, CLASP, and the Clean Lighting Coalition showed that fluorescent light bulbs use far more energy than today's LEDs and are a needless toxic health risk. We worked with a broad coalition to organize a clean lighting campaign to protect families and workers and reduce energy waste.

We estimate that in the eight states where sales of fluorescent bulbs will end over the

coming years, the transition to LEDs will lead to a total reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of about 9.4 million metric tons by 2050, the equivalent of emissions from about 2.2 million gas-powered vehicles driven for one year. These standards will also prevent about 1,700 pounds of mercury from being shipped into these states, enough mercury to contaminate about 85 trillion gallons of water.

Our efforts dovetail with a global campaign that achieved a decision at the fifth Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury to phase out mercury lighting across much of the globe. With the United States exempt from the provisions of the Convention, our work is essential for ensuring this phaseout happens in the United States too.



Strengthening Utilities' **Energy-Saving Efforts**

We challenged states and utilities to restructure and scale up their energy efficiency efforts to better address climate change and support low-income households, securing important wins.

Michigan is set to become a national leader in saving energy and reducing planet-warming emissions, thanks to a major legislative package Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed into law in 2023. 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.

We supported passage of a Maryland law requiring at least 1% incremental energy savings annually for low-income households.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce adopted a new cost-effectiveness test to assess utility energy efficiency programs in the state. ACEEE was active in the committee that helped develop the new test, which reflects several of our recommendations, including a quantified value for avoided greenhouse gas emissions and greater recognition of efficiency's utility system and nonenergy benefits.

Our research influenced utility proposals. In New Jersey, PSE&G referenced its ranking in ACEEE's 2023 *Utility Scorecard* in its filing proposing \$1 billion annually in

Q&A with Sagarika Subramanian

Senior Research Analyst and *State Scorecard* lead author

What state policy trends are you most excited about?

There's a lot to be excited about. More and more states are starting to focus efforts on underserved and low-income households through innovative solutions to limit energy bills and increase overall affordability. States that have ramped up their annual energy savings targets are adding specific requirements to prioritize low-income households. And we're starting to see states designing new programs and strengthening existing programs to deploy home energy rebates using federal funding.

How is ACEEE helping push those policies forward?

ACEEE has been advising states and utility regulators in thinking through potential energy affordability mechanisms, such as percentage of income payment plans, that are linked to energy efficiency and weatherization programs to sustainably reduce energy burden over time. We also have many resources and webinars on designing successful programs using federal funding.



energy efficiency investments through 2027. National Grid proposed discounts designed to ensure no households pay more than 6% of their income on energy as well as improved rates for heat pump customers, as outlined in ACEEE's research on energy burdens and rates.

Prioritizing Equity at ACEEE

ACEEE is committed to advancing equity in our work, relationships, and organizational culture. We are dedicated to addressing past harms and eradicating systems, policies, and behaviors that perpetuate inequities at ACEEE and in U.S. energy systems broadly.

ACEEE is working to build an inclusive, racially diverse organization that embraces anti-racist principles and practices. In 2023, we issued a racial equity statement describing our commitment to dismantling racism within our organization and in U.S. energy systems, sharing our progress transparently, and continually improving.

ACEEE scorecards—long-time drivers of clean energy actions by states, cities, and utilities—now include significantly expanded equity-related metrics. In the last few years, we regularly convened community-based organizations and advocates to refine these metrics through our Leading with Equity initiative. 22% of the metrics in our 2023 *Utility Energy Efficiency Scorecard* were related to utilities' equity efforts, up from 6% in the previous edition of the report. We compensated community partners for contributing their time and expertise to our Leading with Equity initiative and R2E2.

Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee worked to prioritize equity in ACEEE's research and policy work and our internal operations. And many staff members participated in our Racial Equity Learning Group, which has been meeting regularly since 2019 to discuss books, articles, and other materials examining race and racism in the United States.

We continued our partnership with the RAY Diversity Fellowship Program, bringing on our fourth RAY fellow in four years. The program focuses on increasing opportunities for emerging leaders of color to learn about, engage with, and enter the clean energy NGO sector.

“Low-income communities and communities of color often face significant barriers preventing them from participating in utility efficiency programs. Centering equity in energy efficiency means not just providing efficiency incentives to underserved communities but also working with them to design programs that best serve them.”

—Mike Specian, Utilities Manager at ACEEE and *Utility Scorecard* lead author

Fostering Collaboration through Convenings

ACEEE conferences convened experts in the energy field to network, discuss pressing climate and energy system challenges, and brainstorm innovative policy and technology solutions. We also hosted more than a dozen free webinars throughout the year.

Residential Retrofits for Energy Equity (R2E2) Summit

More than 1,100 participants joined us to kick off the R2E2 initiative, which provides deep technical assistance to state, local, and tribal governments and community-based organizations to jumpstart energy upgrades for affordable housing. Our lively and engaged participants shared resources, made connections, and inspired us with their passion for this vital work.

Hot Water Forum & Hot Air Forum

With a record-breaking 312 Hot Water Forum attendees and 260 attendees at our first-ever Hot Air Forum, we explored the latest opportunities to slash energy use and climate pollution while saving consumers money with new technology and strategized how to take advantage of new federal funding opportunities.

“Excellent forum to discuss equity and expanded electrification adoption from technology, consultancy, and policy directions. The variety of perspectives was electrifying!”

—John Beaumont, New Ecology

Industry Summer Study

Our Industry Summer Study is the leading conference exploring strategies and technologies to reduce emissions from the industrial sector. Our 15th biennial event convened experts to discuss how to capitalize on

recent federal climate legislation and turn the ambitious decarbonization goals set by the Biden administration into achievable action plans.

Energy Efficiency as a Resource

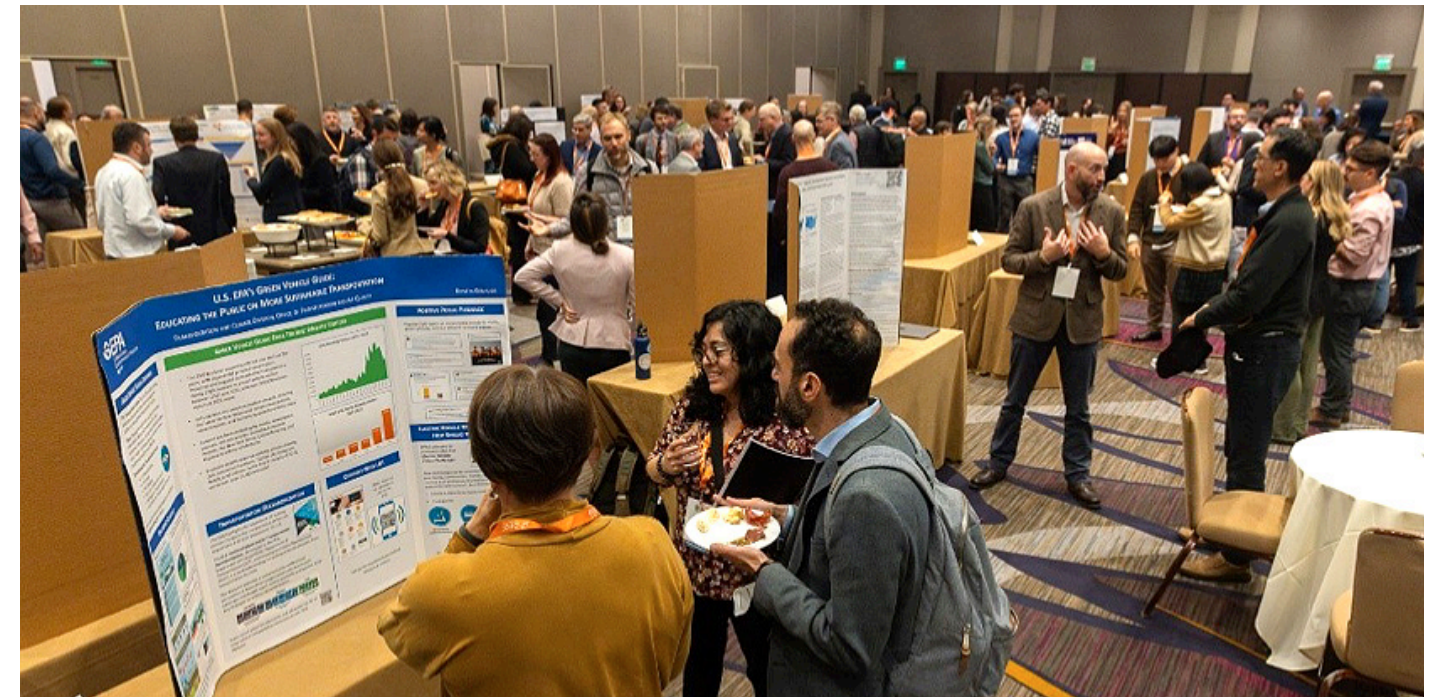
A record-breaking 444 attendees strategized about enabling utility efficiency programs to achieve greater greenhouse gas reductions, improve bill affordability and health for low-income households, and embrace more electrified and grid-interactive equipment in our homes and buildings.

“The wide array of breakout sessions helped me focus on the topics most relevant to my work and armed me with resources, lessons learned, and professional connections that will help my team work more efficiently and effectively towards our shared goal of a just clean energy future.”

—Anna Shugoll, City of Philadelphia, Office of Sustainability

Behavior, Energy & Climate Change Conference

Cohosted with U.C. Berkeley’s California Institute for Energy and Environment and Stanford University’s Environmental and Energy Policy Analysis Center, the Behavior, Energy & Climate Change conference explored human behavior and decision-making related to energy, climate change, and sustainability to help us accelerate the transition to a low-carbon future.



Thank You, Donors

ACEEE is grateful for the generous support from our many friends and supporters in 2023. Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this report. Due to space constraints, we are not able to include General Fund donors under \$100, but we are grateful for donations of all sizes.

Climate Response Leaders (\$10,000+)

Anita and Josh Bekenstein
Yassen Roussev/Roussev Family Fund
Anonymous (1)

Climate Response Champions (\$1,000–9,999)

Jan Berman	Colette Haider in honor of Sasha Haider	Lawrence P. Reinhold Charitable Fund
Carl Blumstein for the BECC Fellows Scholarship program	William Warren Hill	Robert Socolow
Natalie Buike	Vicki Kuo*	TJS Sigma Earth Fund
Helena Chum	The Marwin Fund	Bart Wilking
Linda and Roger Easley	Penni McLean-Conner*	Anonymous (1)
Karen and Neal Elliott Fund	Stephen Morgan	
EMWIGA Foundation	Francis J. Murray Jr.	

Climate Response Pace-Setters (\$500–999)

Simone Aloisio	MAG Fund	Susan Stratton
Danielle Sass Byrnett	Katie McGinty	Harriet Tregoning
Rosa Cassidy	Duncan McVey	Wanna Lei and Winson Wei
Feinberg Family Fund	John Parker	James Wolf
David Hart	Alison Silverstein	Anonymous (1)

Climate Response Advocates (\$100–499)

Corinne Abbott	Mark Johnson	Mary Ann Piette
Naomi Baum	Robert and Raissa Heretz Johnson	Richard Russman
Roger Berliner	John "Skip" Laitner	PB Schechter
Thomas and Mary Florence Brink	Nanette Lockwood	Brian Sesterhenn
Chris Currier	Karen Mah in honor of Jasmine Mah	Stephen Simon
Emshoff Giving Fund	Judith Myers	Susan and David Richman
Mary Gaitan	Colette Pichon Battle	Bing Tso
John Byron Harvey		Sara Via

*Doubled by a corporate matching gift

ACEEE is grateful for grants from the following foundations from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023.

Barr Foundation
Breakthrough Energy Foundation
Carbon Advocacy Project
Climate Imperative
ClimateWorks Foundation
Conscience Bay Research Foundation
E4TheFuture
The Energy Foundation
Energy Innovation
The JPB Foundation
JPMorgan Chase Foundation
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
The Kresge Foundation
Merck Family Fund
New Venture Fund
The Rockefeller Foundation
The Summit Foundation
The Tilia Fund
United Nations Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation
Anonymous (1)

Thank You, Allies

The following companies and organizations were members of the ACEEE Ally program in 2023. We are grateful for their commitment to advancing energy efficiency.

Pathfinders

California Energy Commission
Daikin Comfort Technologies
Honeywell
National Grid
PSE&G
Sealed
Southern California Edison
SoCalGas
Tennessee Valley Authority
TRC Companies

Leaders

2050 Partners
American Efficient
A.O. Smith
Apple
Avangrid (NYSEG / RG&E)
Cadmus Group
Carrier
Cascade Energy
CLEAResult
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Franklin Energy
GEA
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Grundfos
Guidehouse
ICF
Intel
Johnson Controls
Lennox International
Mitsubishi Electric
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New Jersey Natural Gas
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Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
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Alliance to Save Energy
Cardinal Glass Industries
Efficiency Canada
Michaels Energy
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance
Willdan

Scholarships & Awards

Linda Latham Scholarship

The Linda Latham Scholarship Fund supports undergraduate and graduate students interested in careers in energy and the environment in attending ACEEE’s Summer Study conferences. The scholarship was created in memory of Linda Latham, a visionary leader who helped launch the ENERGY STAR® program and served as ACEEE’s chief operating officer.



Left to right, from top to bottom: **Jonas Algiers** (Lund University), **Micah Anglin** (Howard University), **Erin Donnelly** (Virginia Tech), **Amirsalar Jafari Gorizi** (American University), **Ovais Khan** (University of California Davis), **Melissa Popeil** (Colorado School of Mines), **Nathaniel Smith** (Texas A&M University)

Linda Latham Scholarship Fund Donors

- | | |
|---|--|
| Sharyn Barata | Jim McMahon |
| Karen and Neal Elliott Fund, in memory of Dr. Robert N. and Elizabeth Elliott | Clay and Donna Nesler/The Nesler Family Fund |
| Mark Johnson | Harvey Sachs |
| Geneva Jones | Maxine Savitz |
| Monica Martinez | Chris Smith |
| Penni McLean-Conner | Stephen Wiel |

Champions of Energy Efficiency

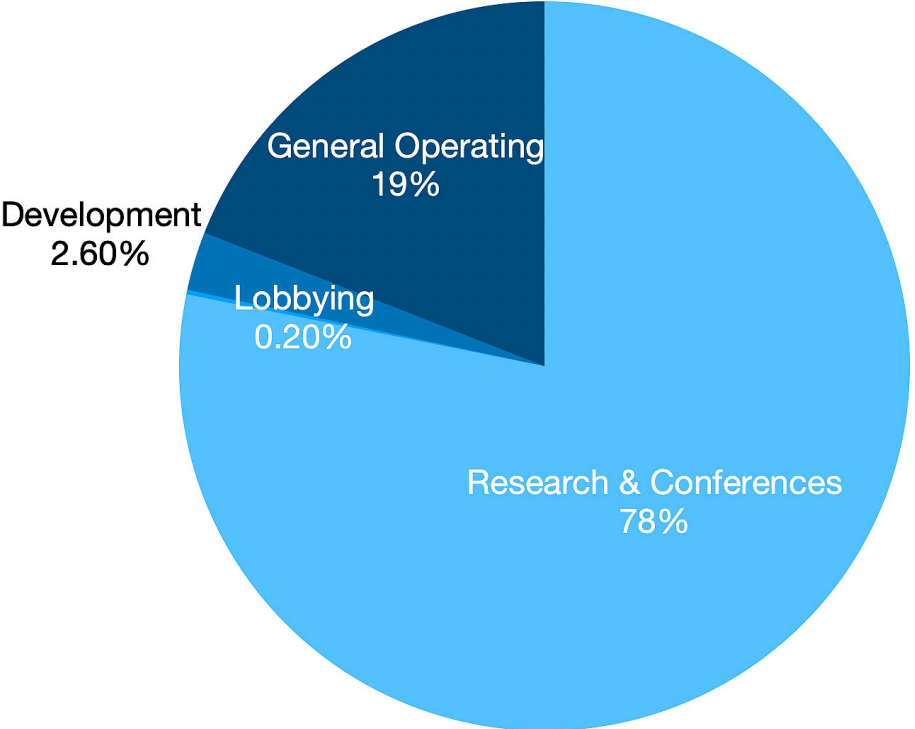
These efficiency leaders were recognized at Industry Summer Study 2023 for their extraordinary contributions to the field.

- William “Bill” Allemon, Constellium
- Jessica Bailey, Nuveen Green Capital
- Kitt Butler, Advanced Energy
- Alli Gold Roberts, Ceres
- Simran Kohli, Greenlite
- Virginia Lew, California Energy Commission
- Genevieve Sherman, Nuveen Green Capital

Financial Overview

In 2023, ACEEE’s unrestricted revenues totaled \$6.1 million, including contributions from foundations, public agencies, utilities, corporations, nonprofit organizations, and individuals.

Total unrestricted operating expenses for the year were \$14 million. Expenditures for research programs and conferences accounted for 78% of these expenses. Development costs and lobbying costs were 2.60% and 0.20%, respectively, with the remaining 19% attributable to general operating costs.



Leadership

Executive Team

Steven Nadel, *Executive Director*

Naomi Baum, *Chief Operating Officer*

Camron Assadi, *Senior Director,
Marketing and Communications*

Nora Wang Efram, *Senior Director, Research*

Mark Kresowik, *Senior Director, Policy*

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Scott Bernstein, formerly of Center for
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Mary Ann Piette, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab

Danielle Sass Byrnett, National Association of Regulatory
Utility Commissioners

Harriet Tregoning, New Urban Mobility Alliance

Lauren Westmoreland, Stewards of Affordable Housing for
the Future

*Our thanks to Jan Berman, Robert Jackson, Nanette Lockwood,
and Suzanne Shelton, who rotated off the board in 2023.*



ACEEE ::

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