

Plus, new upcoming events

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December Newsletter

Friends—

Last week we launched a major nationwide initiative to help communities often left out of climate investments develop energy-saving home retrofit strategies. ACEEE is partnering with Elevate, Emerald Cities Collaborative, and HR&A Advisors on [Residential Retrofits for Energy Equity \(R2E2\)](#), an initiative to provide training to state, local, and tribal governments as well as community-based organizations to jumpstart energy upgrades for affordable housing.

This multiyear, multimillion dollar effort will accelerate critical upgrades that will lower utility bills, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve residents' health, create good-paying local jobs, and help advance racial equity. R2E2 was made possible thanks to generous support from The Rockefeller Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, the Wells Fargo Foundation, and The JPB Foundation. The initiative will kick off its training and technical assistance with an [online summit](#) in January. [Sign up here](#) for periodic R2E2 updates and more information about the summit.

In other big news, yesterday we released our [2022 State Scorecard](#). Have you checked out how your state measures up in our rankings of the most energy-efficient states?

There's still time to register to attend our [Energy Efficiency Policy Forum](#)—coming up tomorrow—in person or online. Our first-rate speaker lineup includes a keynote from Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) and a plenary session with Ali Zaidi, assistant to the president and national climate advisor.

Another thing you won't want to miss: our new "News You Can Use" section in this newsletter features updates and resources that may be helpful to community-based organizations and others in the energy efficiency sector.

Please keep us posted on your endeavors.

Best,



Steven Nadel
Executive Director

Efficiency Update

- The global economy has used energy 2% more efficiently this year than in 2021, the International Energy Agency said in a [report](#) last week. That's much stronger progress than in the previous two years. Still, the organization says efficiency improvements need to average about 4% each year this decade to align with its scenario for achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.
- The Massachusetts Commission on Clean Heat, established by Governor Charlie Baker in 2021 to provide the state with a framework for long-term greenhouse gas reductions from heating fuels, released its [final recommendations](#) last week. Among numerous recommendations aligned with ACEEE's work to center equity as we accelerate energy efficiency and decarbonization, the Commission specifically encouraged the state's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and Department of Energy Resources to find ways to reduce the costs to residents—especially residents with low to moderate income—of operating clean heating technologies, such as air-source heat pumps. Our [Climate-Forward Efficiency](#) initiative plans to research and share recommendations for appropriate rate design for electrification and equity, a question that has arisen in a number of states, in 2023.
- Following a state law enacted earlier this year directing the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) to establish appliance efficiency standards, the agency proposed a suite of new standards this fall covering products such as air purifiers, commercial kitchen equipment, and water fixtures. Expected to be finalized before the end of the year, the standards are estimated to save New Yorkers \$519 million annually on utility bills by 2040 and cumulatively avoid 5.8 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions. NYSERDA largely adopted efficiency stringency levels in line with [recommendations](#) by the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP), which is based at ACEEE.
- Voters in Ann Arbor, Michigan, [approved a new tax](#) to fund the city's clean energy work earlier this month, making the city one of only a handful of local governments with a dedicated source of funding for clean energy work.

Our Latest Research



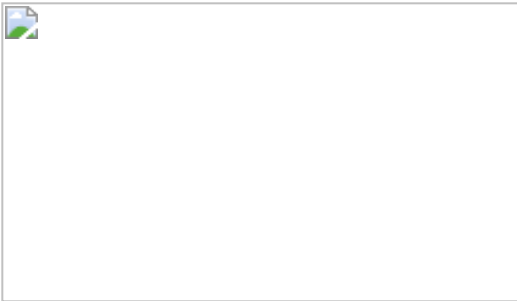
[Scorecard: Leading States Cutting Costs for Residents with Energy Efficiency, but More Is Needed](#)

The 15th edition of the *ACEEE State Energy Efficiency Scorecard* provides an update on state energy efficiency policies and programs that save energy, advance equity, and produce environmental and economic benefits.



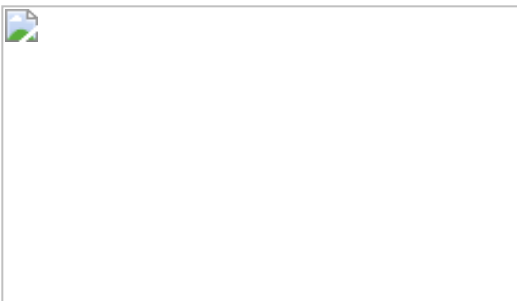
[Report: Despite Progress, Low-Income Households Underserved by Utilities' Efficiency Programs](#)

Gas and electric utilities have substantially increased energy efficiency investments for low-income customers in recent years, but most programs still serve a disproportionately small share of these households, our latest report finds.



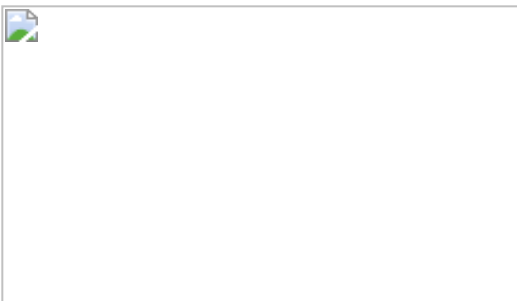
[Connecting Rural Communities with Historic Federal Clean Energy Investments](#)

Our new fact sheets describe federal funding opportunities to help local governments implement energy efficiency, renewable energy, and transportation efficiency projects.



[Local Governments Can Protect Renters While Cutting Emissions](#)

An ACEEE toolkit—available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese—provides guidance to communities looking to protect renters and preserve or create affordable housing while curbing needless greenhouse gas emissions.



["Carbon Handprint" Can Measure Companies' Positive Climate Impacts and Spur Action](#)

Our white paper reviews the literature on estimating and reporting handprints and recommends that companies factor handprint into corporate environmental, social, and governance policies.

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

ACEEE in Action



Dr. Tony Reames, deputy director for energy justice at the Department of Energy, delivered a keynote address at the [Behavior, Energy & Climate Change](#) conference (co-convened by ACEEE) last month. He discussed the Biden administration's Justice40 Initiative and how we can measure, track, and address energy poverty at the national level.

What We're Reading

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

- [Utility Dive](#) and [Canary Media](#) covered ACEEE's report examining energy efficiency program spending for low-income utility customers.
- A [Washington Post](#) article on the energy use of clothes washers and dryers cited ACEEE.
- Our *State Scorecard* was covered by media across the country, including [U.S. News and World Report](#), the [Bangor Daily News](#), and [Pacific Business News](#) (Honolulu).

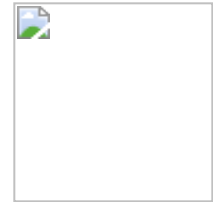
News You Can Use

In this edition of the newsletter, we're introducing a new section that features resources that may be helpful to community-based organizations and others in the energy efficiency sector:

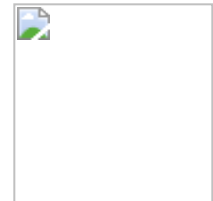
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the bipartisan infrastructure law, includes a grant program for energy efficiency materials for buildings owned and operated by nonprofit organizations. Organizations can [sign up for program updates](#) and, through December 22, comment on a recent [Request for Information](#) to weigh in on the structure of the program.
- Mosaic is accepting applications for a [grant program](#) to support organizations in building movement infrastructure and networks related to recent federal initiatives like Justice40, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the bipartisan infrastructure law. Applications are due December 9 at 5 p.m. (PST).
- The Just Transition Fund's [Federal Access Center](#) provides technical assistance and grants to help organizations apply for federal funding programs.
- Climate Justice Alliance's [Fund for Frontline Power](#) will award grants totaling nearly \$6 million for environmental justice and community-based organizations. Grant applications are due January 15, 2023.

Staff Update

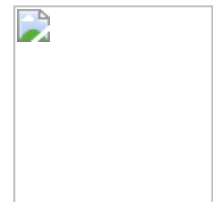
Camron Assadi joins ACEEE as senior director for marketing and communications. A member of our five-person executive team, Camron oversees ACEEE's marketing and communications efforts as well as our conferences. He previously led digital marketing initiatives at consulting firm ABD Direct, where he served nonprofit clients including The Century Foundation and Greenpeace USA.



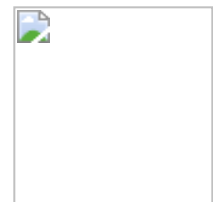
Destini Davis joins us as HR and finance assistant. Destini previously worked as a recruiting coordinator at West Alabama Works, where she assisted with providing employee onboarding, training, and career events as well as educational resources for job seekers. Destini earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama and an associate of arts from the College of Southern Nevada.



Krista Lee joins us as program assistant for R2E2. Krista previously worked at E. Holdings Inc. as a communications specialist. Before that, she worked at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Public Health as a student researcher and at the City of Pittsburgh's Department of Mobility and Infrastructure as an intern. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh.



Christi Nakajima joins us as transportation research analyst. Christi previously worked as a program manager at Midtown Alliance, where she worked with local stakeholders to promote sustainable transportation options and researched best practices for designing residential outreach programs. She earned a bachelor's degree from Georgia Tech.



We're hiring! ACEEE and ASAP seek a [Residential Retrofits for Energy Equity manager](#), [industry program director](#), [behavior and human dimensions program senior analyst](#), [state policy associate](#), and [advocacy coordinator](#). Visit our website to learn more and apply.

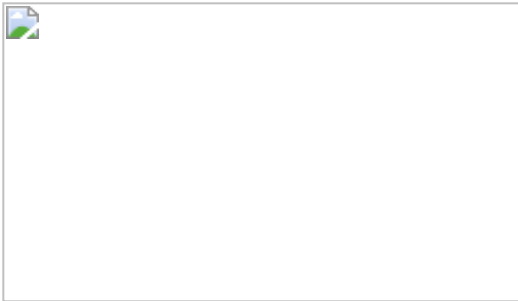
Upcoming Events



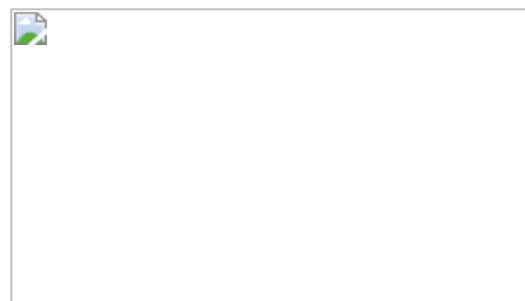
December 8, Washington, DC, and Virtual



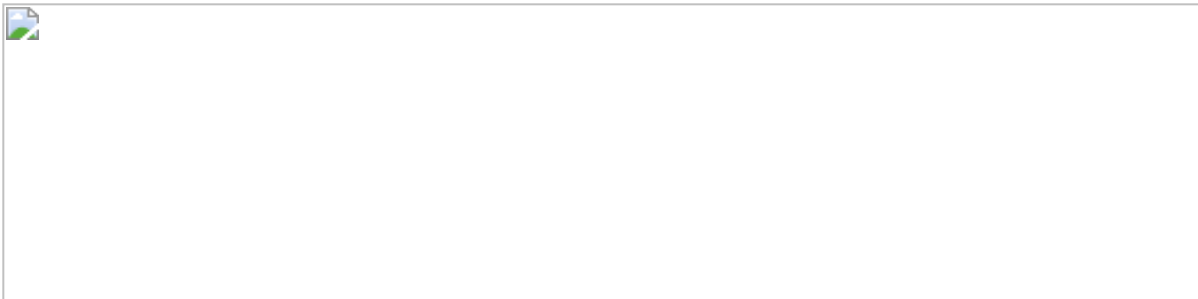
January 19–20, 2023, Virtual



March 7–9, 2023, San Diego



July 11–13, 2023, Detroit



October 16–18, 2023, Philadelphia

Community News

[Registration](#) is now open to join the **Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance** at the [2023 Midwest Energy Solutions Conference](#) (MES 2023), the region's premier energy efficiency event. MES 2023 will reunite the industry's top innovators and decision makers in the heart of Chicago for three days of inspiring talks, unparalleled networking, and insightful panels.

The **Department of Energy** published a [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#) last week for the Renew America's Schools grant program and Energy CLASS Prize, both of which will focus on

supporting rural and/or high-poverty local education agencies. Grant applications are open, with concept papers due January 26, 2023, and prize applications are open through February 20, 2023.

The **Institute for Market Transformation** has published several new resources about [building performance standards](#), including an implementation guide and short model law, to make it easier for policymakers to improve buildings.

A **Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships** [webinar](#) on December 13 will look at steps that states, utilities, and businesses can take now to get ready for incoming funding from the Inflation Reduction Act.

[Smart Energy. Clean Planet. Better Lives.](#)
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