



Dear Partners:

Thank you for expressing interest in the [Climate-Forward Efficiency Initiative](#), ACEEE's ongoing effort to scale utility-administered energy efficiency programs and focus them on meeting the climate challenge. We are writing today with recent updates about the project. Read on for project news, updates from leaders taking action in this community, ways you can engage, and some relevant resources.

Best,

The ACEEE Climate-Forward Efficiency Initiative Team

Report Publication

In February, ACEEE published [A Roadmap for Climate-Forward Efficiency](#), the follow-up report to [The Need for Climate-Forward Efficiency](#). While the earlier report demonstrated the need for utility energy efficiency portfolios to meet broader decarbonization goals, the newer report presents practical guidance for achieving this alignment. It proposes [a roadmap of nine strategies](#) related to centering equity, aligning policy, preparing the market, and delivering programs. Each strategy includes recommended options for

stakeholders, a timeline for specific actions, and examples of recent successes. This roadmap is for legislators, utilities, regulators, and others who wish to meet ambitious decarbonization goals.

Climate-Forward Efficiency Symposium

[Register here](#) to join us for the second day of the Climate-Forward Efficiency Symposium **tomorrow, March 24, from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. (EDT)**. Participants will join one of three breakout rooms to collaborate with other stakeholders on practical steps to advance climate-forward efficiency. The topics of the breakout rooms are:

1. Advancing beneficial electrification energy efficiency measures to maximize reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
2. Measuring GHG reductions: moving forward on workable approaches and needed data
3. Facilitating legislative and regulatory change: which states might present good opportunities in 2022 and 2023?

ACEEE held the first day of this two-part symposium in February. Over 200 people attended to hear a summary of the roadmap and participate in a Q&A session. The day concluded with a lightning round of presentations from nine experts who shared how their work incorporates climate-forward efficiency strategies.

Below are some resources from the symposium's first day:

- [Recording of the webinar](#)
- [PowerPoint slides](#)
- [Transcript](#)

ACEEE would like to thank our nine guest speakers who presented:

- State Senator Mike Barrett, Massachusetts
- Carmen Best, Vice President of Policy and Emerging Markets, Recurve
- Justin Brant, Utility Program Co-Director, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project
- Jamie Fitzke, Director of Legislative Affairs, Center for Energy and Environment
- Rebecca Foster, Chief Executive Officer, VEIC
- Anthony Fryer, Conservation Improvement Program Supervisor, Minnesota Commerce Department
- Delmar Gillus, Chief Operating Officer, Elevate
- Scott Hinson, Chief Technology Officer, Pecan Street Inc.
- Nick Mark, DSM Strategy and Policy, Xcel Energy

Thank you for working to advance climate-forward efficiency!

News Spotlight

- After falling in 2020, U.S. GHG emissions surged in 2021. This increase has been driven by growing demand for freight transport, passenger travel, and electric power that have accompanied economic recovery from the pandemic. Charts from [Inside Climate News](#) demonstrate the importance of the transport sector electrifying to reduce its carbon emissions.
- North Carolina's governor [issued an executive order](#) that commits the state to stronger carbon reduction goals and net-zero emissions within the next 30 years. The decarbonization plan emphasizes a strong commitment to equity, particularly through a new requirement that directs state agencies to consider the social cost of GHG emissions. State agencies are also required to develop public participation plans that will grant underserved communities a greater say in environmental decision-making.
- [The Virginia State Corporation Commission](#) approved Phase II of Dominion Energy Virginia's \$776 million grid transformation plan. A notable project is the [advanced metering infrastructure proposal](#), which aims to deploy roughly 1.1 million smart meters. The smart meter deployment is paired with implementation of time-varying rates and an active experimental time-of-use rate. While this development does incentivize customers to reduce their energy consumption at times of peak demand, it does not include a universal peak-time rebate that some environmental groups had requested.
- [TECH Clean California](#) is a new initiative for advancing the state's goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2045. It works toward the adoption of low-emission space- and water-heating technologies, with special outreach for low-income customers and disadvantaged communities. The initiative features a centralized workforce development hub that can stand alone or complement existing programs. Among other skills, the hub teaches manufacturers, distributors, utilities, and existing contractor trainers "how to sell electrification."

Opportunities to Engage

If you would like to share feedback on the Climate-Forward Efficiency Initiative or offer relevant knowledge or services, please reach out to Jasmine at jmah@aceee.org.

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