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March Newsletter

Friends—

This week's [report](#) from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change delivered a clear warning: our window to slash greenhouse gas emissions and secure a safe, livable future is narrowing. On that note, we'll take a close look at countries' progress on energy efficiency in our (free) [International Symposium](#) on April 6; I hope you'll join us (registration opening soon).

Several pending developments offer opportunities for efficiency progress ahead:

- Congress may soon help industry become cleaner, more competitive, and better able to meet U.S. climate goals through the America COMPETES Act. The bill, passed by the House last month, contains three key [manufacturing provisions](#) to help spur decarbonization, elements that lawmakers should include as they negotiate the final legislation.
- The Department of Energy is working to issue its first energy standards for new manufactured homes in May (10 years late). ACEEE issued a [white paper](#) and provided [comments](#) on how strong standards would improve affordability for many low-income residents and could save residents \$5,544 over the lifetime of a typical smaller home.
- A major climate bill pending in Maryland's legislature (SB 528) contains several efficiency-related provisions, from adopting building performance standards for large buildings to increasing utility energy-saving targets. And a "buy clean" bill (HB 806) would set standards for buying environmentally friendly construction materials for state and local government buildings. ACEEE has submitted comments on the [wide-ranging bill](#) and the [buy clean bill](#).

Our [Hot Water Forum](#) (March 21–23) comes as new products and the Biden administration's emphasis on workforce development and building decarbonization drive fresh opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, boost grid resilience, and advance equity. We hope to see you then.

Finally, we are sorry to announce the passing of ACEEE fellow [Harry Misuriello](#). If you would like to commemorate Harry, please consider contributing to the Harry Misuriello Award for Advancing Building Codes Fund (checks payable to ACEEE - 529 14th Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20045).

Please keep us posted on your endeavors.

Best,



Steven Nadel
Executive Director

Our Latest Research



[Mercury-Laced Fluorescent Bulbs Should Be Phased Out—LEDs Now More Economical](#)

Fluorescent tube light bulbs, once embraced as an energy-efficient option, use far more energy than today's LEDs and are now a needless toxic health risk.



[Climate-Forward Efficiency: These Nine Strategies Can Help Utilities Cut Energy Use and Emissions](#)

Nine strategies can help shift utility energy efficiency programs so they no longer focus solely on reducing energy use but instead also reduce planet-warming emissions.



[Plug-In and Gas Hybrids Top GreenerCars' 2022 Ratings as Automakers Shift to Larger EVs](#)

All-electric vehicles now account for fewer of the dozen greenest cars available, partly because of a shift toward larger and heavier versions that are less environmentally friendly.

[Low-Income Residents Would Save If DOE Strengthened Manufactured Housing Plan](#)



Low-income residents of manufactured homes would have significantly reduced housing costs if the Biden administration strengthened proposed energy efficiency standards for these homes.



[Energy Equity for Renters Policy Tracker](#)

As part of our Energy Equity for Renters Initiative, ACEEE is launching a policy tracker. Browse the interactive or downloadable map of cities, counties, and states that have adopted policies and programs to promote both energy efficiency and equity in rental housing.

ACEEE in Action

A Roadmap for Climate-Forward Efficiency

<https://www.aceee.org/research-report/research-report/u2202>

Edward Yim

Steven Nadel

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Mike Specian

ACEEE's Mike Specian speaks at our Climate-Forward Efficiency Symposium.

ACEEE in the News

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

- [Utility Dive](#), [Grist](#), and [E&E Energywire](#) covered ACEEE's state scorecard update.
- [Forbes](#) and [The Auto Channel](#) covered ACEEE's 2022 GreenerCars ratings.
- A [Utility Dive](#) article on congressional Democrats pushing for more urgent action on appliance standards cited ACEEE and ASAP.

Staff Spotlight

Michael Waite joins ACEEE's buildings program as a senior manager. Mike previously worked as a research scientist in the Sustainable Engineering Lab at Columbia University and as a building technology engineer in the architecture, engineering, and construction industry. He holds a doctor of philosophy and a master of science in mechanical engineering from Columbia University; he is a licensed professional engineer.



We're hiring! ACEEE seeks a [state policy manager](#), [senior analyst](#) for our industrial program, [senior director for policy](#), [deputy director](#) and [coordinator](#) for our national affordable housing retrofit initiative, [conference and communications assistant](#), and [research program assistant](#). Visit our website to learn more and apply.

Upcoming Events



March 21–23, Virtual

As climate efforts intensify, the 14th Hot Water Forum will offer a singular look at how water systems can save money while reducing harmful pathogens and greenhouse gas emissions.



2022 International Symposium on Energy Efficiency | April 6, Virtual

Which countries are leading the world in energy-saving efforts? Join us for a free, half-day symposium to spotlight global leaders in energy efficiency, with a particular focus on opportunities for improvement in the United States.

Energy Efficiency Finance Forum



May 23–25, White Plains, NY

How do we finance a rapid scaling of deep building retrofits and other energy-saving initiatives? The 14th Energy Efficiency Finance Forum will explore how financing can help dramatically reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. It will be a hybrid event with in-person and virtual offerings.



August 21–26, Pacific Grove, CA

Come join professionals from around the world to discuss the science and policies that equitably advance efficiency in our built environment and reduce climate impacts.

Community News

Join **Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships'** [Ready, Set, Scale webinar](#) on March 22 to hear from energy equity leaders at the state and community level as they share the pathways they have taken to implement procedural, structural, and distributional equity through shared power and decision-making.

[Registration](#) is now open for Efficiency Exchange 2022, which will be held April 14–15. Presented by the **Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance** and **Bonneville Power Administration**, this year's virtual conference features an impressive lineup, with regional and national leaders presenting on pressing issues in energy efficiency.

Two bipartisan bills to support the home performance industry—the HOPE for HOMES Act and Blue Collar and Green Collar Jobs Development Act—currently hang in the balance and need your support to pass Congress and advance to President Biden's desk. **Building Performance Association** and other industry partners are [leading the charge](#) to get this legislation passed.

On February 15, the New Mexico Senate passed the Community Energy Efficiency Development Block Grant Act, which benefits low-income New Mexicans by bringing more equity to utility bills and supporting those communities most impacted by climate change. See **Southwest Energy Efficiency Project's** [press release](#).

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ACEEE, 529 14th Street., N.W., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20045

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