

See our latest publications and upcoming events

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## October Newsletter

Friends—

The annual [Behavior, Energy & Climate Change](#) (BECC) conference will be back in person next month for the first time since 2019. Cohosted by ACEEE, BECC is the leading conference exploring how understanding human behavior and decision-making can help us accelerate the transition to a low-carbon future. This year's theme, "Engaging All Voices," calls us to center equity and inclusivity as we brainstorm behavioral solutions to the climate crisis. We hope to see you there.

In [buildings efficiency news](#), the commercial provisions of the proposed 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)—a model code adopted by states around the country—are open for public comment through October 21. ACEEE is a voting member of the IECC Commercial Consensus Committee, and we have worked to ensure that the International Code Council—which runs the IECC development process—delivers on its promise to maximize energy efficiency that is "safe, technologically feasible, and life cycle cost-effective."

Energy codes are one of the strongest tools for reducing energy use and emissions from new buildings. In states and localities that adopt it, the proposed 2024 IECC would be a major step toward zero-net-energy and carbon-neutral commercial buildings. The proposed residential provisions are expected to be released for public comment later this month, but we expect less energy reduction there since the [new code development process](#) limits the influence of state and local officials who delivered major efficiency gains in the 2021 IECC.

Lastly, I hope you'll join us in celebrating [Energy Efficiency Day](#) this Wednesday and help spread the word that energy efficiency saves money, cuts pollution, and creates jobs!

Please keep us posted on your endeavors.

Best,



Steven Nadel  
Executive Director

## Efficiency Update

- As part of its air-quality plan for ozone, California is set to ban the sale of new gas furnaces and water heaters [beginning in 2030](#). This first-of-its-kind policy—which comes with rebate money to help residents make the switch to zero-emission alternatives—could lead other states to take similar action to accelerate the transition to electric space and water heating.
- In Connecticut, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority released a [draft decision](#) last month proposing discounted electric rates for low-income residents. The plan is intended to ensure that no residents face a high energy burden—defined as energy costs exceeding 6% of a household's income. Under the plan, households with incomes at or below 60% of state median income would receive a 10% discount and households earning no more than 160% of federal poverty guidelines would receive a 45% discount. In taking this step, Connecticut joins Virginia, where a similar effort is being made.
- Speaking of Virginia, the [2022 Virginia Energy Plan](#), released by the Youngkin administration this morning, does not do enough to advance energy efficiency. By law, the plan must identify actions over a 10-year period that are consistent with the state's goal of achieving a carbon-neutral economy by 2045. [Comments](#) ACEEE submitted last month outlined how maximizing energy efficiency can help Virginia improve energy affordability, create jobs, and enable a more reliable energy system. The Youngkin administration is also [expected to take steps](#) in the coming weeks to pull the state out of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a voluntary program of 11 eastern states to reduce emissions from the power sector.

## Our Latest Research

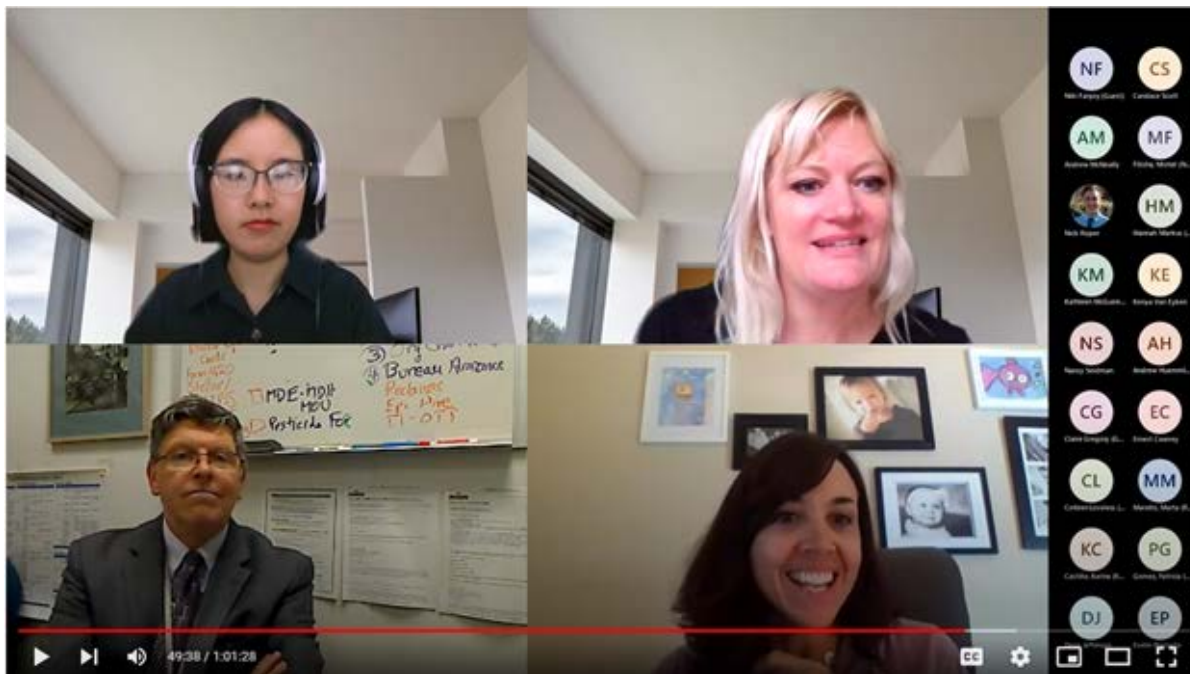


### [Home Energy Upgrade Incentives: Programs in the Inflation Reduction Act and Other Recent Federal Laws](#)

Our latest policy brief summarizes provisions in recent federal climate laws that will or could provide significant resources for energy efficiency retrofits for existing single-family and multifamily homes.

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

## ACEEE in Action



ACEEE's Jasmine Mah (top left) and Sara Hayes (top right) led a convening last month to discuss unlocking Children's Health Insurance Program funds for home health and efficiency.

## What We're Reading

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

- [Yahoo! News](#) quoted Industry Program Director Ed Rightor speaking about the industrial decarbonization roadmap recently released by the Department of Energy (DOE).
- ACEEE's report on utility programs supporting electric vehicles was covered by [Utility Dive](#).
- The Appliance Standards Awareness Project's [updated progress tracker](#) on DOE efficiency standards was covered by Politico's Morning Energy newsletter (subscription required).
- [WBHM Birmingham \(public radio\)](#) featured ACEEE's recent research on healthy, affordable, decarbonized housing.

## Staff Update

**Emily Chang** joins the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP), which is based at ACEEE, as a Ray Fellow. Emily conducts research supporting ASAP's federal and state policy advocacy. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan.



**We're hiring!** ACEEE seeks a [buildings and affordable housing finance analyst](#), [HR/finance](#)

[assistant](#), [executive and engagement assistant](#), [national affordable housing retrofit initiative program assistant](#), and [research assistant](#). Visit our website to learn more and apply.

## Upcoming Events



**November 13–16, Washington, DC**



**December 8, Washington, DC**

## Community News

The **Institute for Market Transformation's** [Social Priority Briefs](#) are creative, impactful policy toolkits that drive cities, counties, and states to address complex societal challenges in building performance standards. You can watch an overview of the concepts, then download the Resilience, Housing Affordability, and Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality briefs.





Join **Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships** on October 19 to 20 for [Heating Electrification 2022](#) to explore approaches for electrifying the heating and cooling sector while guaranteeing quality, comfort, and accessibility. This virtual event will provide a collaborative setting to foster audience interaction while delving into topics including consumer confidence, technology advancements, equity and workforce, and policies and programs.

**Environment America Research & Policy Center** brought together top researchers, state leaders and advocates in a [webinar](#) last month to discuss the role of states in the United States' ongoing effort to meet our energy needs with entirely clean renewable energy sources. The efficiency of electric technologies was highlighted in the discussion.

**DOE** will host a [webinar](#) on October 18 including an overview of [Home Energy Score](#)<sup>™</sup>—a standard assessment of a home's energy-related assets allowing homeowners, buyers, and renters to easily compare energy use across the housing market and learn how to make improvements—and a conversation with state and local partners on how they're using the Score to add value to their programs and policies.

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