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## September Newsletter

Friends—

The Inflation Reduction Act—signed into law by President Biden on August 16—is a huge win for our climate and for reducing energy costs for households and businesses.

The [historic investments made by this law](#) will enable upgrades in millions of homes and buildings to save energy and improve comfort and health, especially for low- and moderate-income households. They will [help American industry](#) decarbonize and become more competitive. And they will accelerate the shift to electric vehicles while widening access to affordable transportation and cutting air pollution.

We at ACEEE are heartened by the passage of this law. In the coming weeks, months, and years, we will be engaging with federal agencies, states, cities, and the private sector to help make its vision a reality.

As we head into fall, we are also gearing up for Energy Efficiency Day, which is on October 5. I encourage you to visit the [website](#) to learn about actions you can take to support this annual public awareness event, such as asking your city or state to issue a proclamation recognizing the day.

Lastly, it was a pleasure seeing many of you in person at the Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Buildings last month. I hope you left feeling as inspired and energized as I did by the incredible research and innovation shared throughout the week.

Please keep us posted on your endeavors.

Best,



Steven Nadel  
Executive Director

## Multimedia Project Shows Efficiency's Essential Role in a Clean Energy Future

In a [new multimedia project](#), ACEEE makes the case that energy efficiency—a remarkable success story in the past—will be just as important (if not more so) in coming decades. It shows that efficiency will play an essential role in equitably addressing the climate crisis, even as more renewables enter the power grid and often grab the spotlight.

The project explains that energy efficiency has evolved. Today's efficiency goes beyond a single product, vehicle, or building to optimize how we use energy throughout the economy. This systems-wide version is not your grandparents' efficiency. It uses big data, advanced technology, and sophisticated design to optimize how we do things.

We hope this StoryMap helps demonstrate to policymakers and potential partners the value and urgency of investing in energy efficiency—the heart of our clean energy future.

## Efficiency Update

- California is set to ban the sale of new gasoline-only powered cars by 2035. This first-of-its-kind policy, announced in the Advanced Clean Cars II rule issued by the California Air Resources Board last month, sets the stage for other states to take similar action to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles. More than a dozen states typically follow California's lead, meaning that similar emissions-slashing policies could soon apply to about a third of the U.S. auto market.
- States have also taken key actions in their legislative sessions this year to decarbonize buildings. Massachusetts enacted sweeping climate legislation last month that, among other things, requires energy usage reporting for larger buildings, a necessary first step to implement a building performance standard in the future; allows municipalities to begin pilot programs that prohibit the use of fossil fuels in new buildings; and promotes the use of ground-source heat pump systems. Maryland's Climate Solutions Now Act, passed in April, includes a building energy performance standard that will require owners of larger, inefficient buildings to make upgrades. And a recently enacted New York law strengthens efficiency standards for appliances and boosts energy savings through building codes.
- The Department of Energy released a long-awaited report this week identifying pathways to reduce emissions from the industrial sector. The [Industrial Decarbonization Roadmap](#) highlights the urgent need to curb these emissions and describes a plan for the department to work with companies to demonstrate and deploy low-carbon industrial

technologies to scale. ACEEE Industrial Program Director Ed Rightor served as a co-chair of the report team.

## Our Latest Research



### [Analysis: States Lag in Supporting Healthy, Affordable, Decarbonized Homes](#)

Our first-of-its-kind scorecard evaluates each state across 33 possible actions to reduce pollution and housing costs for residents through energy efficiency, electrification, and renewable energy investments.

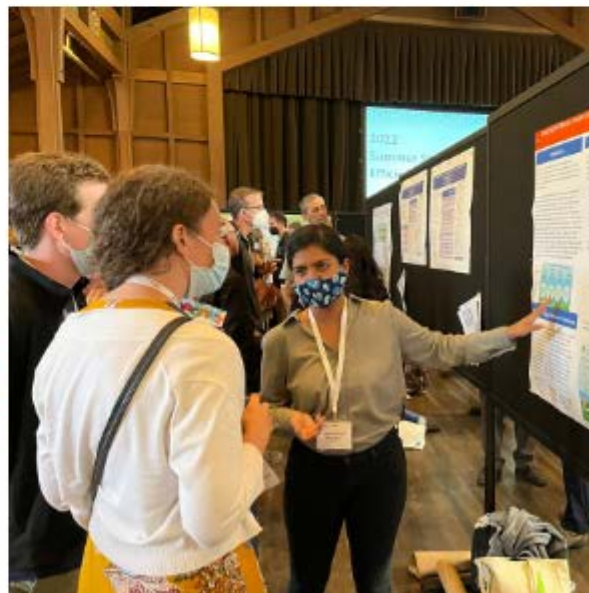


### [As EVs Surge, Utilities Need Transparent, Equitable, Comprehensive Plans to Support Them](#)

Our latest report finds that utilities are supporting an increasingly wide range of electrification efforts. The report calls for utilities to engage in more transparent and comprehensive planning and to expand their focus beyond personal passenger vehicles.

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

## ACEEE in Action



*We enjoyed brainstorming climate solutions, networking, and spending time at the beach during the 2022 Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Buildings, held last month in Pacific Grove, California.*

## What We're Reading

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

- [NPR](#) and [USA Today](#) quoted ACEEE's Lowell Ungar commenting on the new federal climate law.
- The [Texas Observer](#) cited ACEEE's research on the potential of expanded efficiency programs to reduce strain on the electric grid.
- ACEEE's report on utility programs supporting electric vehicles was covered by [Utility Dive](#).

## Staff Update

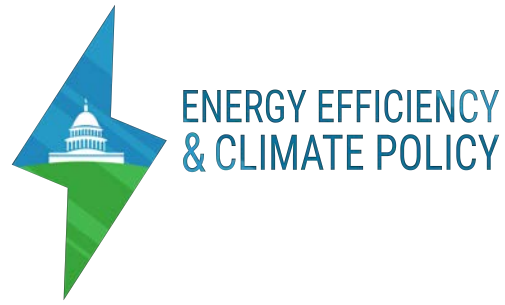


**Mark Kresowik** joins ACEEE as senior policy director. A member of our executive team, Mark oversees ACEEE's federal, state, and local policy initiatives. Mark previously managed federal and international policy for RMI's Carbon-Free Buildings Program and led clean energy campaigns with the Sierra Club for nearly 15 years.

## Upcoming Events



**November 13–16, Washington, DC**



**December 8, Washington, DC**

## Community News

The [call for speakers](#) for the 2023 Getting to Zero Forum—cohosted by **New Buildings Institute** and **RMI** on May 10–12 in Minneapolis and virtually—is open until September 30.

From September 15 through October 28, energy efficiency professionals are invited to submit session proposals for [Efficiency Exchange 2023](#), a networking and learning conference hosted by **Bonneville Power Administration** and the **Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance**.

The **Institute for Market Transformation** and **Poder Latinx** explore how a building performance standard could address the priorities of the Latinx community in Orlando, Florida, in a [report](#) available in Spanish and English.






A [report](#) from the **South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource** provides a historical review and examination of utility energy efficiency programs in Texas since 1999. It examines recent history and policy actions stemming from Winter Storm Uri in 2021, the potential of energy efficiency programs, and the current goals, achievements, and programs of investor-owned utilities in Texas.

On September 29, **SEEL** will host an online seminar, “The Possible Impact of Market Development Initiatives” ([register](#)), exploring Ameren Illinois’s Market Development Initiative and the planning and execution used to make it succeed. Topics covered will include the partnerships, approach, corporate buy-in, and transparency required to make change within the energy efficiency marketplace.

**Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships** will host a webinar ([register](#)) on September 27 on community approaches to electrification. The webinar will examine the spectrum of community-led policies and plans—from voluntary programs to mandatory requirements—that communities can implement to educate building owners, streamline access to financial resources, and address other critical needs.

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