

See our latest publications and upcoming events

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January Newsletter

Hello Friends—

Happy New Year! I'm looking forward to what 2022 will bring as we continue our push for a vibrant, equitable clean energy future.

In December we published the [2021 City Clean Energy Scorecard](#), which analyzes the efforts of 100 major U.S. cities to make buildings and transportation more energy efficient and scale up renewable energy—and to do so equitably. "We're really, really proud of ACEEE for this increased emphasis on equity and how important it is," [said](#) Maribeth DeLorenzo, sustainability director of the District of Columbia, which ranked third in the *Scorecard*. I encourage you to check out the findings and see how your city scores.

Other recently released studies include a [report](#) on the effectiveness of remote home energy assessments (to be explored in a [webinar](#) next Wednesday), a [report](#) on home energy retrofit packages, and a [paper](#) on how ACEEE scorecards evaluate efforts related to equity.

Please keep us posted on your endeavors. And as the Omicron variant moves through our communities, stay healthy and safe.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve".

Steven Nadel
Executive Director

Highlights



[Scorecard: Cities' Climate Efforts Held Back by Lagging Transportation Initiatives](#)

The *2021 City Scorecard* finds that most large U.S. cities have yet to institute strong policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, and they have either not set climate goals for the sector or are not on track to meet their goals.



[Report: Deep Retrofits Can Halve Homes' Energy Use and Emissions](#)

Our analysis shows that upgrading homes with thick insulation, air sealing, efficient heat pumps, and other measures can cut their energy use and planet-warming emissions by more than 50%. Such retrofits offer a win-win opportunity to improve residents' comfort, reduce utility bills, and mitigate climate change.



[Here to Stay: Remote Home Assessments Prove Popular Option for Energy Upgrades](#)

Remote home energy assessments are a good alternative to in-person assessments and will likely continue after the pandemic ends, according to our recent report. Popular with many customers, they can encourage energy-saving upgrades.

[Biden's Auto Standards Set Stage for Transformative Progress Ahead](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency's revised standards for cars and light trucks will reverse



much of the damage of the Trump administration's rollback and save consumers money.



[DOE Opens Path to Cut Energy Waste from Gas Furnaces, Water Heaters, Boilers](#)

The Biden administration took a key step toward updating efficiency standards for gas furnaces, water heaters, and boilers—a move that could save consumers money and cut planet-warming emissions.



[ACEEE's Top Blog Posts of 2021](#)

What interested readers most this year? We got a clue by looking at our dozen most-read blog posts, which highlight some of our top priorities and help all of us prepare for further action in the new year.

ACEEE in the News

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

- ACEEE's *City Scorecard* was covered nationally by [US News & World Report](#), [Smart Cities Dive](#), and [Governing](#), and locally by outlets such as the [Wisconsin State Journal](#), [Las Vegas Sun](#), and [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#).
- [Utility Dive](#) quoted Lowell Ungar, ACEEE federal policy director, in a story about the Department of Energy's proposed standards for manufactured housing.
- [Bloomberg Environment](#) quoted ACEEE's Peter Huether on ensuring equity in federal investment in electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Upcoming Events

[Encouraging Home Upgrades and Meeting Climate Goals through Remote Assessments | January 12, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST](#)

In this webinar, ACEEE's behavioral science team will partner with remote assessment provider CLEAResult to discuss how these assessments are effective and how behavioral science insights can make them work even better. Join us to gain insights from our speakers and a new ACEEE report based on a survey of recipients of in-person and remote assessments, as well as interviews and program reviews. We will discuss how satisfied people are with remote assessments, who they work best for, how they encourage follow-up actions, and more.



[2022 Hot Water Forum](#)

March 21–23, Atlanta, GA

As climate efforts intensify, the 14th Hot Water Forum will offer a singular look at how water systems can not only save money but also reduce harmful pathogens and greenhouse gas emissions. It will be a hybrid event with in-person and virtual offerings.



[2022 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 tackle this question, acknowledging the vital role that financing will play in dramatically reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. It will be a hybrid event with in-person and virtual offerings.

Community News

[Controlled Environment Agriculture - Market Transformation Strategy Launch | January 25, 11:00 a.m. EST](#)

How can we save energy in indoor agriculture facilities? Resource Innovation Institute (RII) and ACEEE—with support from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service—will outline our market transformation strategy for controlled environment agriculture (CEA) in this free webinar. Experts will discuss plans to support CEA producers through rigorous benchmarking, promotion of industry best practices, and by convening policymakers, utilities, and key market actors to develop support systems and industry standards.

[2022 Midwest Energy Solutions Conference | February 1-3](#)

Join the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance next month for the 20th anniversary of the region's premier energy efficiency event. The [2022 Midwest Energy Solutions Conference](#) 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. [Register today.](#)

[US-EU Exchange: Building Standards and Codes to Drive Renovation](#) | January 11, 10:00 a.m. EST

How can we decarbonize buildings at the scale and pace needed to hit climate goals? To date, renovations have largely taken place on a voluntary basis, and engaging both building owners and the financial sector is a lengthy and uneven process. [Register](#) for a webinar hosted by the Buildings Performance Institute Europe to learn how building standards and codes are potential paths to support and boost renovations.

[Ready, Set, Scale](#) | January 25, 11:00 a.m. EST

When it comes to setting and reaching climate goals, each community is unique. No matter the differences, however, communities must combine real-world building efficiency and decarbonization solutions with a human-centric approach to move toward an equitable, clean energy future. Join Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships to hear from community leaders who will share stories of the roads they've navigated. The webinar will also highlight trends and best practices to scale up these comprehensive local-level efforts.

ComEd® Energy Efficiency Program Making Best-in-Class Even Better

In partnership with Power TakeOff and Chicago Public Schools (CPS), the Emerging Technologies Team launched a [Real-Time Virtual Commissioning \(VCx\) pilot](#) in late 2020. The project quantifies the impacts of integrating real-time Advanced Meter Infrastructure usage data into the current ComEd [AESP award-winning VCx offering](#) at select schools, helping CPS find energy-saving improvements for its building operations. More than 4 GWh of savings are expected to be generated from the first half of the pilot, which included more than 25 schools.

Climate-Forward Efficiency and Leading with Equity Initiatives

In addition to this newsletter, ACEEE prepares two other newsletters: one for our [Climate-Forward Efficiency Initiative](#) and one for our [Leading with Equity Initiative](#). Sign up for either (or both) to receive periodic updates and get involved.

Staff Spotlight

We're hiring! ACEEE seeks a [director](#) for zero-energy and -carbon new buildings. Visit our website to learn more and apply.

[Save energy, save the planet, support ACEEE today with a tax-deductible contribution!](#)

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