



## September Newsletter

Hello Friends—

I write to you as extreme weather events—Hurricane Ida in the East, wildfires in the West—cause severe flooding, extended power and water outages, and other painful damage. These are the growing challenges of a warming climate and a reminder of the importance of our work to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and support resilient infrastructure.

August is typically a quiet month on the policy front, a break in the energy efficiency action as Congress heads into recess and ACEEE staffers go on summer vacations. Not this year. The infrastructure bill passed by the U.S. Senate in early August includes billions of dollars in energy efficiency funding and should tee up [historic efficiency investments](#) in the upcoming \$3.5 trillion economic plan.

One such investment is a national energy efficiency standard. Finding that such a standard could reduce carbon dioxide emissions by an amount exceeding those from all passenger vehicles in the United States for a year, our recent [analysis](#) developed and analyzed the specifics of including energy efficiency in a clean grid plan in Congress's upcoming bill.

We are proposing another federal effort: co-funding the first three production-scale installations of new technologies that decarbonize industrial processes. Our analysis finds that this co-funding could reduce emissions by an amount equivalent to the current combined annual emissions of California and Texas. We rallied environmental, industry, and labor stakeholders this week [to call on Congress](#) to include this proposal and other industrial decarbonization investments in the major budget bill this fall.

We published the first [report](#) on the role of energy efficiency in community choice aggregation, a utility alternative for providing customers with a cleaner mix of power, and recommended ways to overcome challenges to incorporating efficiency.

We also have successes to celebrate. In a [major step](#) to reduce energy waste from light bulbs, the Department of Energy proposed that some of the most common bulb types be required to meet federal energy efficiency standards. We're also pleased that [five states](#) have adopted energy- and water-saving appliance standards since late March.

Please keep us posted on your endeavors.

Best,



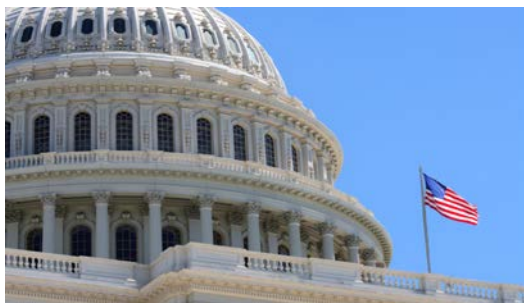
Steven Nadel  
Executive Director

## Highlights



### [Congress Can Slash Emissions by Supporting New Low-Carbon Industrial Technologies](#)

As Congress prepares its budget package, one of the most effective ways it can reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the industrial sector is by supporting commercialization of transformative industrial technologies.



### [Energy Efficiency Funds in Infrastructure Bill Should Tee Up Historic Investments This Fall](#)

Here is a brief recap of several of the wins for energy efficiency in the Senate's infrastructure bill and areas where we need to see far more—in other words, our priorities for the budget bill ahead.

### [Congress Can Pass a Carbon-Cutting Energy Efficiency Standard via the Budget Bill](#)



A national energy efficiency standard could dramatically reduce carbon dioxide emissions, by an amount that exceeds those from all passenger vehicles in the United States for a year, ACEEE found in an [analysis](#).



### [\*\*Biden Wants to Retrofit Affordable Housing. Energy Efficiency Should Be a Key Part.\*\*](#)

As Congress works on trillions of dollars in [investments](#) to help people recover from the pandemic and to transition to a clean energy economy, it should not overlook a critical but often neglected area: affordable rental housing.



### [\*\*Biden's Efficiency Proposal for Manufactured Homes Must be Strengthened\*\*](#)

A Biden administration proposal to set long-overdue efficiency standards for manufactured homes would yield some significant energy and carbon savings, but it risks allowing manufacturers to continue producing many inefficient models, leaving households—many with low incomes—with high energy costs.



### [\*\*Cities Are Using an Emerging Model to Boost Renewables, but What about Energy Efficiency?\*\*](#)

More local governments are adopting a utility alternative for providing customers with electricity that boosts use of renewable energy. Yet most taking this option—known as community choice aggregation (CCA)—do not yet pursue energy-saving initiatives that can help meet climate goals, according to [the first report ever](#) to assess the role of energy efficiency in CCA.



### [Biden Administration Takes Major Step to Ensure Light Bulbs Don't Waste Energy](#)

The Biden administration took a major step to finally ensure that light bulbs don't waste energy. In a draft rule, the Department of Energy [proposed](#) that some of the most common types of bulbs be required to meet federal standards for energy efficiency.



### [Five States Set Appliance Efficiency Standards in Banner Year](#)

As much of the United States continues to suffer from drought and extreme heat, five states have adopted energy- and water-saving appliance standards since late March, a rapid series of victories for consumers, businesses, and the climate.

## ACEEE in the News

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

- [NBC](#) quoted ACEEE's Shru Vaidyanathan in an article on access to electric vehicles in communities of color.
- ACEEE's research showing the potential impacts of a federal energy efficiency resource standard was cited by [Politico](#), [E&E Energywire](#), and [Utility Dive](#).
- A [US News](#) article on state efforts on zero-emission vehicles cited ACEEE's *State Transportation Electrification Scorecard*.

## Upcoming Events

### [2021 National Conference on Energy Efficiency as a Resource VIRTUAL](#)



**October 19–27**

EER is the premier U.S. biennial conference on policies and programs to reduce customers' energy waste and thus help utilities meet the grid's demand for electricity.

**2021 Behavior, Energy & Climate Change VIRTUAL****November 8–10**

BECC is the leading international conference focused on understanding human behavior and decision-making and using that knowledge to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon future.

## Community News

**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.

U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm, Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM), and Representative Melanie Stansbury (D-NM) joined the Community Energy Efficiency Project on August 18 to kick off the low-income energy efficiency and electrification project in the International District of Albuquerque. The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, Prosperity Works, and Energy Works are partnering on this project, which provides energy audits and free efficiency upgrades and electrification to low-income homes in frontline communities. Learn more [here](#).

**2021 Summer Seminar Series – Every other Thursday through Oct.**

**21** | The DOE Building Energy Codes Program is offering a series of online webinars as a follow-on to the 2021 National Energy Codes Conference. The series includes topics of interest to all energy code stakeholders—for both residential and commercial buildings.

**NEEP Summit Sessions 2021: Reimagining & Rebuilding Communities –**

**September 20–22** | As NEEP celebrates 25 years of partnerships to accelerate building energy efficiency across the region, its Summit Series 2021 will highlight climate stabilization and resilience, affordability and equity, economic recovery and growth, and public health and wellbeing. You can view more information, including ticket prices, schedule, and registration link, on the website.

**Getting to Zero Forum – October 27–29** | Don't miss your chance to gather with the world's leading experts at this event dedicated to zero-energy and zero-carbon buildings.



## Staff Spotlight

**Aimee Bell-Pasht** joins ACEEE as a senior research associate for federal policy. Aimee, who previously worked as an economist for the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, holds a master's degree in applied economics from the University of Massachusetts Boston and a bachelor's from McGill University.






**Pavitra Srinivasan** joins ACEEE as a senior researcher with the industry program. Pavitra received master's and doctoral degrees in environmental and occupational health from the George Washington University and a bachelor's from McGill University.



**We're hiring!** ACEEE and ASAP seek a [communications manager](#) and a [technical advocacy associate](#). 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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