



## April 2021 Newsletter

Hello Friends—

We are pleased that the Biden administration's new infrastructure proposal, released last Wednesday, includes major efficiency investments that would cut carbon emissions and the energy costs that are such a challenge for many families and businesses. It is a great starting point for Congress to build on. You can read my statement [here](#).

You can also read the recent [testimony](#) of Nora Wang Efram, ACEEE's senior director for research, who addressed a House panel on expanding the research and development of energy-efficient building technologies.

We are looking forward to hosting our virtual 2021 Finance Forum next month and celebrating Earth Day on the 22nd of this month. If you are looking to get inspired, our [interview](#) with Denis Hayes, one of Earth Day's original organizers, is an oldie but goodie from the archives. However you mark the day, just remember: save energy, save the planet.

Please keep us posted on your endeavors.

Best,

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

Steven Nadel  
Executive Director

# Research Spotlight

## Averting the Next Blackouts: Demand-Side Solutions to Winter Peaks

The devastating Texas blackouts provided a fresh reminder of the challenge of meeting electric demand in unusually cold weather. These threats are expected to increase as extreme weather events become more frequent and as more home heating is electrified. An ACEEE report to be released next week assesses the future of winter peaks in electricity use and shows how implementing energy efficiency and other demand-side measures could mitigate the threat, even in cold regions of the country. During a [webinar on the 15th](#), ACEEE researchers will present the findings, and an expert panel will discuss recommendations for policymakers, grid planners, regulators, utilities, and efficiency program administrators.

## Leading with Equity Initiative Updates

ACEEE launched the [Leading with Equity Initiative](#) to ensure that everyone has equitable access to and benefits from clean energy investments. [Sign up here](#) to receive bi-monthly newsletter updates about the initiative and provide input on equity metrics.

## Highlights



### [Biden Plan Sets Strong Starting Point for Transforming Outdated Infrastructure](#)

ACEEE considers Biden's sweeping plan "an excellent starting point for transforming our infrastructure to create jobs, increase equity, and enable a low-carbon future."

### [How Federal R&D Should Expand to Transform Our](#)



## **Buildings**

To quickly retrofit a large share of buildings, we need federal research and development. The Biden administration and Congress can expand R&D to develop and use integrated technologies and support the workforce in an increasingly high-tech field.



## **Massachusetts Steps Up Energy-Saving Policies in Major Climate Law**

In a new far-reaching climate bill, Massachusetts has committed to halving greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, partly by embracing energy-saving policies for appliances and buildings.



## **Biden Needs to Set Strong Clean Car Standards**

The Biden administration can reclaim lost momentum on reducing vehicle greenhouse gas emissions by setting clean car standards that catch up to those set by President Obama and ensuring they achieve real-world benefits.



## **Grid Operators Can Seize Efficiency Opportunity in FERC's Distributed Resources Order**

By summer, electric grid operators are required by a recent Federal Energy Regulatory Commission order to propose rules for deploying efficiency, demand response, and storage to meet grid demand. To optimize this opportunity, they need to get the rules right.



## [Biden, States Kick Off Pivotal Year for Appliance Efficiency Standards](#)

2021 is shaping up to be a big year for potential progress on new efficiency standards—progress that will contribute significantly to meeting climate and clean energy goals.



## [New Process for Setting Model Building Codes Raises Concerns](#)

The International Code Council's new process raises serious concerns. ACEEE will watch and hold the ICC to its stated interest in a balanced, fair process committed to the energy efficiency that is necessary to address the climate crisis.

## ACEEE in the News

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

- David Ribeiro, director of local policy, spoke about small cities' clean energy efforts on the inaugural episode of the [City Climate Corner](#) podcast.
- [The Hill](#) and [E&E Energywire](#) quoted Executive Director Steven Nadel welcoming a DOE proposal to undo key roadblocks to updating appliance standards.
- Ed Rightor, industrial program director, co-authored a [Greenbiz](#) op-ed on how corporations can jump-start industrial electrification.

## Upcoming Events

# Energy Efficiency Finance Forum



## [Energy Efficiency Finance Forum VIRTUAL](#)

**May 25–26**

Want to know how financing can drive a clean energy future? Join us for the 13th Energy Efficiency Finance Forum to explore cutting-edge initiatives and major opportunities to finance projects that save energy, reduce costs, and create jobs.



## [2021 Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Industry VIRTUAL](#)

**July 13–15**

Our 14th biennial conference will offer a provocative and dynamic discussion of industry on the brink of transformation. Join us as we explore an exciting mix of topics on low-carbon industrial products, processes, and policies.

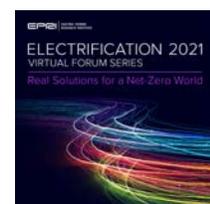
## Community News

According to Advanced Energy Economy’s newly released 2021 Market Report, building efficiency makes up the largest segment of U.S. advanced energy revenue and is now a \$94.5 billion industry nationwide. Products and services that support building electrification and energy conservation are poised for continued growth in the coming decade.

### ***Upcoming Events:***

[Electrification 2021 Virtual Forum Series](#) – **May 17–20, June 7–10, June 28–30** | Registration for the Electric Power Research Institute’s Electrification 2021 Virtual Forum series is now live! Each of the three forums (“Building to Zero,” “Frontiers of e-Mobility” and “A Net-Zero Energy System for All”) will enhance communication, collaboration, and education in key electrification areas. Check the conference website for full agendas.

[Provide Input on SLOPE Enhancements](#) – **April 8** | The Department of Energy and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory are hosting a



webinar to gather feedback on the [State and Local Planning for Energy \(SLOPE\) Platform](#), which delivers data on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and (coming in spring 2021) sustainable transportation to enable data-driven state and local energy planning.

[National Home Performance Conference & Trade Show – April 12–15](#) | Join the Building Performance Association for this virtual event, which will include five days of education, networking, and innovations in home and building performance. Topics include the latest developments in electrification and decarbonization, indoor air quality and healthy homes, air sealing and insulation, workforce development, and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. [Register](#) today. #NHPC21

[Informing the Evolution of HVAC Refrigerants – April 21](#) | Curious about the future of refrigerants and their role in meeting aggressive climate objectives? Join this webinar from Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships to learn the basics and hear from industry and policy leaders on life cycle climate performance and state strategies concerning the latest refrigerants.

## Staff Spotlight

**Nick Roper** joins ACEEE as a communications associate. Nick, who previously worked at Consumer Federation of America holds a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from the University of Colorado Boulder.



**We're hiring!** ACEEE seeks a [Buildings Program Director](#). 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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