



December 2020 Newsletter

Hello Friends —

We hope you enjoyed a safe and restorative Thanksgiving break. I was pleased to congratulate President-elect Joe Biden on his 2020 presidential victory a few weeks ago. His election offers the United States a historic opportunity to use energy efficiency to cut greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change.

In a letter last week, ACEEE and partners urged the incoming administration to use existing law to reduce energy waste from homes and buildings. The agenda in the letter embraces and expands on proposals we recently published in three briefs and a report on appliance standards.

We look forward to sharing the *2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard* with you this month, and we hope to see you at the [Energy Efficiency and Climate Policy Forum](#) this Thursday or at the [Behavior, Energy & Climate Change Conference](#) (BECC) next week.

Please keep us posted on your endeavors.

Best,

Steven Nadel
Executive Director

Highlights



Biden's election offers opportunity to cut emissions and fight climate change

We congratulate President-elect Joe Biden on his 2020 presidential victory and welcome his commitment to scale up energy efficiency and confront the climate crisis.



Groups urge Biden to use existing authorities to cut energy waste, carbon from buildings

In the Biden administration, federal agencies should use their authority under existing laws to create jobs, reduce consumers' utility bills, and mitigate climate change by reducing energy waste from homes and buildings, a coalition of groups urged the President-elect in a letter.



Biden could slash carbon pollution, energy costs with efficiency standards

The Biden administration could slash carbon emissions and save the average American household \$230 annually on utility bills by 2035 through strengthening energy efficiency standards for appliances and equipment, according to a new ACEEE and ASAP report.



COVID-safe and sustainable learning environments

Communities across the United States are trying to decide how and when kids can safely return to school. Schools and policymakers can take steps now to create safe, sustainable learning environments that could deliver long-term energy savings. Some efforts are already underway.



Canada and COVID: Great ambition, some progress on an energy-efficient recovery

Like most parts of the world, Canada continues to grapple with the twin health and economic crises created by the COVID-19 pandemic. There is some momentum on building back better and greener.



[DC joins leading states in setting strong appliance efficiency standards](#)

Washington, DC is set to become the eighth U.S. jurisdiction to adopt energy-saving standards for common household and commercial products since the start of the Trump administration.



[Reclaim the sharing economy for sustainability: Q&A with BECC keynote Juliet Schor](#)

Juliet Schor, author and sociologist, will discuss her decade of research on the "sharing economy" in a keynote address next week at the Behavior, Energy & Climate Change Conference.

ACEEE in the News

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

[Marketplace](#) quoted ACEEE's Ariel Drehobl speaking about the threat of home utility service disconnections during the pandemic.

[E&E Energywire](#) and [Politico Morning Energy](#) covered our issue briefs on executive actions the Biden administration could take to improve efficiency of buildings.

The ACEEE/ASAP report on updating federal appliance standards was featured by [E&E Energywire](#), [Politico Morning Energy](#), [Utility Dive](#), and [Washington Examiner](#).

[Commercial Property Executive](#) and [Smart Energy](#) wrote about our report on electrifying heating in existing commercial buildings.

Upcoming Events



[Energy Efficiency and Climate Policy Forum: VIRTUAL](#)

December 3, 2020

On the heels of the pivotal 2020 election, the virtual forum will discuss key steps and policies that can help the United States slash carbon emissions and meet climate goals. It will include speakers working in Congress and tied to the incoming Biden administration.

[2020 Conference on Behavior, Energy & Climate Change: VIRTUAL](#)

December 7–10, 2020

BECC brings together social scientists, practitioners, utilities, academics, governments, businesses, and nonprofits to share and disseminate best practices and research to encourage behavior change for energy and carbon reduction.



Community News

E4TheFuture released its [2020 Energy Efficiency Jobs in America](#) with state, local, and regional details on the efficiency workforce. The report found these jobs grew 2.3% in 2019—about twice the rate of nationwide employment growth (1.2%). From 2016 to 2019, energy efficiency added nearly 200,000 new jobs; it was projected to add another 71,000 in 2020, but the COVID-19 crisis derailed those gains.



Upcoming Webinars:

[Active Energy Forum and Stars of Energy Efficiency reception – December 2, 2020](#) | Join for a deep dive into the Alliance to Save Energy's Active Efficiency Collaborative. After the Active Efficiency Forum, the Alliance will co-host the United States Energy Association's (USEA's) 30th Annual Energy Efficiency Forum. It will also honor the Alliance's 2020 Star of Energy Efficiency Award recipients.

[Registration now open for the 2021 Midwest Energy Solutions Experience – February 16–19 2021](#) | Join the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) for the region's premier energy efficiency event. The virtual MES 2021 will expand your knowledge and facilitate important business opportunities. [Register today](#)—or get a sneak peek during [our preview event](#) on December 10.

Staff Spotlight

Brian Fadie is the new state policy associate for the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP). Brian previously worked as the clean energy program director at the Montana Environmental Information Center. He holds a master's degree in environmental policy and planning from the University of Michigan and bachelor's degrees in psychology and communication from Michigan State University.



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