

December Newsletter

I want to start by sharing how thrilled I am to be here at ACEEE. I've long admired this wonderful organization, and I'm honored that our board has entrusted me to guide and advance it as its new executive director.

It is a privilege to step into this organization now, at precisely this moment, when we are needed most. Our country faces an energy affordability crisis and growing electricity demand, and improving energy efficiency offers the fastest, lowest-cost way to meet these challenges.

Despite this urgent need, the [International Energy Agency found](#) last month that U.S. energy intensity improvement in 2025 was less than 1%—far short of the global goal of 4% annually.

It's time to get serious about efficiency. I firmly believe that we can capitalize on this moment to deliver the system-level shifts in transportation, industry, and buildings that will provide a clean, affordable energy future that serves everyone.

In addition to getting to know our incredible staff in my first weeks, I've enjoyed meeting with a group of our Ally Circle supporters. I look forward to getting to know and collaborating with many more partners, event attendees, and supporters of ACEEE's work in the weeks and months ahead.

Warmly,

Jennifer Layke
Executive Director



Join Us This Giving Tuesday

Join ACEEE today in building a future where energy is affordable and accessible for all. Together, we can ensure families thrive while creating a more equitable energy future.

Make your impact today



Announcing New Board Members

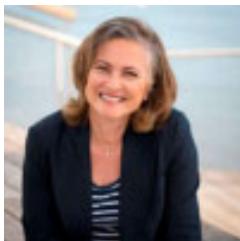
We are pleased to announce three additions to our board of directors who each bring valuable leadership and expertise to help steer ACEEE in advancing our mission.



[**Dr. Yue \(Nina\) Chen**](#) is the senior climate finance officer at the Office of the New York City Comptroller Bureau of Asset Management.



[**Kara Saul Rinaldi**](#) is the president and CEO of the AnnDyl Policy Group, an energy and environmental strategy firm.



[**Harriet Tregoning**](#) is the director of the New Urban Mobility alliance, which is hosted by the WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities.

Efficiency Update

- Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro recently signed into law a bill [withdrawing](#) the state from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). This blocks a key path for Pennsylvania to slash pollution from the power sector and raise revenue for clean energy investments, especially energy efficiency. Providing funding for energy efficiency programs accounts for the [largest share of investments](#) RGGI states have made with proceeds.
- New York Governor Kathy Hochul has agreed to [delay implementation](#) of the All-Electric Buildings Act, the first statewide policy in the country requiring most new buildings to use electric heat and appliances instead of fossil fuel-powered equipment. The law, which faces ongoing legal challenges, was set to take effect in January for buildings up to seven stories.
- A U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee advanced a package of bills that [attack energy efficiency](#). One sweeping bill would hand the executive branch new powers to undermine existing efficiency standards and create roadblocks to future updates; another would cancel recent standards for manufactured homes.

Our Latest Research



[Developing the Market Infrastructure for Multistage Home Retrofits: The Role for Programs](#)

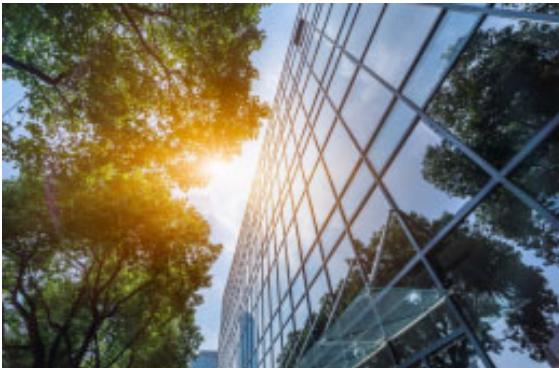
This report explores the feasibility of a market initiative to support retrofits conducted in sequenced stages.



[Reducing Peak Demand from Electric Fleets Through Rates and Incentives](#)

This brief examines utility rate designs and incentive programs to shift charging for medium- and heavy-duty EVs to off-peak hours, and the impact of these solutions on actual fleet charging.

[Smart Building Systems Are Cutting Energy Waste, and AI Is Making Them Even Smarter](#)



Three recent briefs examine building energy management and control systems for commercial properties.



Improving Energy Affordability in Rhode Island

This fact sheet describes the potential for a percentage-of-income payment plan to improve energy affordability in Rhode Island, one of the U.S. states with the highest energy bills.

Correction: Last month's [Best Practices for Local Governance Boards](#) guide from R2E2 was produced in collaboration with Emerald Cities Collaborative, not HR&A Advisors. Our partner HR&A Advisors produced the [Energy Upgrade Risk Mitigation](#) guide, also published last month.

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

ACEEE in Action



Scenes from the [2025 Behavior, Energy & Climate Change conference](#) in Sacramento, California, co-convened by ACEEE

ACEEE in the News

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

- R2E2 technical assistance manager Carolyn Conant spoke about energy efficiency as a guest on the [Recharged](#) podcast from the State Energy & Environmental Impact Center at NYU School of Law.
- The [Tampa Bay Times](#) quoted state and utility program director Forest Bradley-Wright on how inefficient housing can contribute to high utility bills.
- Utilities program research manager Mike Specian joined the [Maryland Energy Talk](#) podcast to speak about efficiency programs in that state.

Opportunities

- ACEEE's [Energy Equity for Renters](#) initiative is offering no-cost technical assistance for at least five local governments and community-based organizations (CBOs) to help improve the energy efficiency of rental housing while preserving or expanding housing affordability. Local governments and CBOs must submit their application no later than January 9, 2026.

- The Climate Smart Communities Initiative is [accepting applications](#) through March 12, 2026, for grants to help small and midsize communities accelerate their climate resilience plans and projects. Awards include funding, as well as training and technical support, to advance activities ranging from risk assessments and community engagement to project prioritization and implementation.

Staff Update

New job postings! ACEEE seeks a [senior director for research](#) and an [industrial sector research analyst](#).

Upcoming Events



March 24–26, 2026
Phoenix, AZ
Registration Now Open

[Learn more](#)



August 2–7, 2026
Pacific Grove, CA
Save the Date

[Learn more](#)

[Support ACEEE today with a tax-deductible contribution](#)

ACEEE is proud to earn a four-star rating from Charity Navigator. This is the highest possible rating, reflecting that our foundation, corporate, and donor funds are used responsibly and efficiently.

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