



February Newsletter

Hello, friend —

We hope you had a good start to the new year! To celebrate our love for all things efficiency, we're pleased to share highlights of our new reports on [Greener Cars](#), [City Resilience](#), and [Advanced Metering Infrastructure](#). We welcome new board members and look forward to our [Rural Energy Conference](#) (Feb. 25) and the release of our *2020 Utility Energy Efficiency Scorecard* (Feb. 20).

Please keep us posted on your own endeavors.

Best,

Steven Nadel
Executive Director

Research Spotlight:

**Measuring Three Rs of Electric Energy Efficiency:
Risk, Reliability, and Resilience**

Increasingly frequent catastrophic weather events such as forest fires, winter storms, hurricanes, and flooding that cause power outages are costing the United States hundreds of lives and billions of dollars in damages annually. At the same time, low-carbon power sources such as solar and wind are coming online and although these distributed energy resources bring many benefits, their variable power create new challenges for grid operators who must balance supply and demand. Given this flux, energy efficiency offers critical grid stability and resilience by reducing overall energy usage and peak demand. [This brief](#) highlights how stakeholders can quantify risk, reliability, and resilience (three Rs) in their cost-effectiveness tests for energy efficiency.

Highlights



Conference on Health, Environment, and Energy

More than 70 speakers met in the “Big Easy” last month to explore how energy choices can affect our health and environment, especially for vulnerable communities. Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association, discussed the health impacts of climate change.



“I found the whole conference really interesting. I’m particularly glad to see how effectively ACEEE is bringing equity issues to the fore. Well done.”

—Barb Gottlieb, Physicians for Social Responsibility



[City resilience](#)

Cities around the world are preparing for the challenges of the 21st century, including those related to climate change. While most include clean energy initiatives in their resilience plans, few do so extensively, according to [ACEEE's global survey](#) of 66 cities. Read about it in [Energy Central](#), [Energy News](#), and [US News](#).



[2020's greenest cars](#)

After several years of all-electric cars dominating the annual Greenest vehicles list, 2020 brings a surprise – a resurgence of the hybrid, whether plug-in or gasoline only. With slightly higher scores, hybrids account for nine of the 12 greenest vehicles in the 23rd [GreenerCars'](#) ratings. Read all about it in [Forbes](#) and [Energy News](#).



[Electric trucks are the next frontier for energy savings](#)

A promising array of new electric trucks, buses, and delivery vans is slated to soon enter the US market. To address climate change, California and a few other states are beginning to push for their wider use. Learn more in our new [paper](#).



[Smart meters gain popularity, but need to be optimized](#)

Despite billions of dollars invested in advanced metering infrastructure, ACEEE [research](#) finds that most utilities have vastly underused this technology to help customers save energy. Our report, which surveys the 52 largest US electric utilities, shows how utilities can tap such data to deliver energy savings. Read about it in [Utility Dive](#), [Energy Central](#), and [EE News!](#)

We welcome three new board members:



[Melanie Kenderdine](#) is a principal of Energy Futures Initiative and a non-resident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council. She is also currently a visiting fellow at the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC).



[Mark Johnson](#) is a professor of materials science and engineering and director of the Center for Advanced Manufacturing at Clemson University.



[Rosa Cassidy](#) has served as program manager, senior engineering manager, senior manager of operations and planning, senior manager for Eastern US Utility Services, and currently as deputy director for Lockheed Martin Energy.

Reports & Blog Posts



DOE rule undercuts top energy-saving policy

In another attack on energy-saving policies, the Trump administration approved a [rule](#) that will make it much more difficult to set new energy efficiency standards for appliances and equipment. The [2020 outlook](#) raises concerns.



Clean energy in rural US

By Mary Shoemaker

One of our speakers for ACEEE's 2020 Rural Energy Conference, [Sarah Mills](#), previews her research on the impacts of renewable energy development in rural communities.



DOE issues four new efficiency standards

By Andrew deLaski

The result of a court order, the first new US appliance efficiency standards since 2017 will cut energy waste for [portable air conditioners](#), [commercial boilers](#), [uninterruptible power supplies](#) and [industrial air compressors](#).



[US House to boost efficiency in climate plan](#)

US House members have unveiled a bold and necessary plan that could go a long way toward addressing climate change. The House Energy and Commerce Committee's leadership announced the [CLEAN Future Act](#), the first broad committee climate bill in 10 years.

Upcoming Events



[Rural Energy Conference](#)

February 25 2020, Chicago, IL

Our one-day event, immediately prior to the [Midwest Energy Efficiency's annual conference](#), will explore how clean energy can lower energy bills and improve the lives of rural residents

[2020 Hot Water Forum](#)

March 23–25, 2020, Atlanta, GA

In more than 25 breakout sessions, this forum will explore the smartest, most cost-effective technologies, programs, and policies to improve the efficiency of hot water.





[2020 Finance Forum](#)

June 2–3, 2020, White Plains, NY

Our 13th Energy Efficiency Finance Forum will explore cutting-edge initiatives to finance projects that save energy, reduce costs, and create jobs.



[Call for Abstracts: BECC 2021](#)

The Behavior, Energy & Climate Change Conference is accepting submissions for presentation abstracts. If you can't make it to the event (or want a sneak preview), register for our [BECC Webinar Series](#).

Community News

[New Stanford On-Line Course: Building Energy Efficiency: Technology, Policy & Finance](#)

Join [Dian Grueneich](#), former ACEEE Board member and Commissioner Emeritus, CA PUC, to explore the complexities of building energy efficiency and the new frontiers of data driven intelligent efficiency, building decarbonization, and efficiency's role in international climate efforts. This course features Steve Nadel and key ACEEE reports. *Please contact kdoughty@aceee.org for a 10% discount through April 30.*



Join the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) in New Haven on June 15-17 for [Summit 2020: Decarbonizing our Communities](#) to explore the opportunities, trends, and challenges of minimizing the carbon footprint of homes, buildings, and transportation



2020 Midwest Energy Solutions Conference: February 26-28, 2020, Chicago, IL

The Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance's annual [Midwest Energy Solutions Conference](#) brings together more than 680 of the industry's most influential professionals for three days of inspiring talks, unparalleled networking, and insightful panels.



As cities and states continue to work toward climate action goals, the U.S. Green Building Council ([USGBC](#)) has announced its list of [Top 10 States for LEED](#) green buildings. Learn more [here](#).



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