



## February 2021 Newsletter

Hello Friends—

I hope this newsletter finds you well. We are pleased to share with you our first-ever *State Transportation Electrification Scorecard*, which we are releasing tomorrow. The report evaluates all 50 states, ranking the top 30 plus Washington, D.C., on their efforts to spur use of electric vehicles and access to EV charging stations. We invite you to a free [webinar](#) (February 3, 11:00 a.m. ET) to discuss the findings.

Speaking of scorecards, we updated our *Local Clean Energy Self-Scoring Tool* so you can score any community on the same metrics used in our *2020 City Clean Energy Scorecard*. Also, we just announced our [Leading with Equity Initiative](#) to develop more-comprehensive scorecard metrics for measuring how well cities, states, and utilities are enabling equitable access to clean energy investments.

Please keep us posted on your endeavors.

Best,

Steven Nadel  
Executive Director

## Highlights



### LEADING WITH EQUITY

### [Leading with Equity Initiative to Better Measure Progress on Energy Equity](#)

ACEEE is launching the [Leading with Equity Initiative](#) to ensure energy efficiency leadership clearly includes efforts to advance equity, and that everyone has equitable access to and benefits from clean energy investments.



### [Survey Shows Broad Bipartisan Support for Stronger Energy-Saving Standards](#)

A new survey shows broad bipartisan support for energy efficiency measures, notably stronger energy-saving standards for vehicles, appliances, and new homes and buildings.



### [Small Cities Can Lead on Clean Energy, Too](#)

An analysis of clean energy efforts by 30 small cities finds several leaders taking significant steps to cut energy waste and embrace clean energy—pointing the way for other small

municipalities across the country to do the same.



## **Trump's DOE Saddles Households with High-Cost, High-Emission Furnaces and Water Heaters**

In its waning days, the Trump administration's Department of Energy announced a [final rule](#) that will keep energy-wasting furnaces, water heaters, and boilers on sale for years to come—if it is not undone.



## **COVID-19 Fuels Real Estate Scramble to Repurpose and Retrofit Buildings**

Even before COVID-19, commercial real estate had been wrestling with existential questions of the future of office buildings. The pandemic has proven that most—if not all—office work can be done virtually. It has also heightened the need for flexible office space, repurposed office space, more-efficient homes that accommodate telework, and healthier buildings.



## **Biden Wants Zero-Emissions Buildings. No Tiny Windows Needed.**

With buildings accounting for 40% of U.S. energy use, zero-net-energy (ZNE) buildings will be vital for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. One of the keys to a ZNE building is optimizing natural light.



## **State Leaders Can Save Rural Residents Money with Energy Efficiency**

On average, rural residents spend 40% more than their metropolitan counterparts on their energy bills, relative to income. New research demonstrates that several states with different climates and politics are using effective policy tools to drive rural energy and utility bill savings.



## **This Is the Year for Florida to Get Utilities' Energy-Saving Programs Back on Track**

Utility-led energy savings programs are essential for bringing the benefits of energy efficiency to homes and businesses, but in Florida, many of them are being left out. Saving energy is particularly important now as many Floridians are struggling to pay their bills.



## [Halt to Progress of Utility Efficiency Programs Could Rob New Hampshire of Economic Boost](#)

Amid the COVID-19 recession, when the economic benefits of energy efficiency would be especially helpful, New Hampshire is on the brink of halting progress.

## **Self-Scoring Tool and CDP Partnership**

Our updated [Local Clean Energy Self-Scoring Tool](#) allows any community to score its energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts by using the metrics from ACEEE's [2020 City Clean Energy Scorecard](#), which ranks the 100 largest U.S. cities on these efforts. The tool highlight area of strength in clean energy policymaking, identifies areas for improvement, and benchmarks community efforts against the scorecard's median scores.

To facilitate the tracking of city sustainability efforts, ACEEE is continuing its partnership with CDP to collect data for our annual *City Clean Energy Scorecard*. This week, ACEEE and CDP will invite 100 of the largest U.S. metropolitan areas to provide data for the 2021 scorecard through CDP's global environmental disclosure platform. For more information, visit CDP's [website](#).

## **ACEEE in the News**

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

- The [Electrify This!](#) podcast hosted ACEEE industrial program director Ed Rightor to speak about electrification of the industrial sector.
- The [Washington Post](#) quoted ASAP's Andrew deLaski on DOE's rule on gas furnaces and water heaters, while [Gizmodo](#) cited the ACEEE/ASAP report on the potential of future standards.
- ACEEE's scoring of 30 small cities' clean energy policies was covered by local media including the [San Luis Obispo Tribune](#), [Santa Barbara News-Press](#), and [St. Louis Park Patch](#).

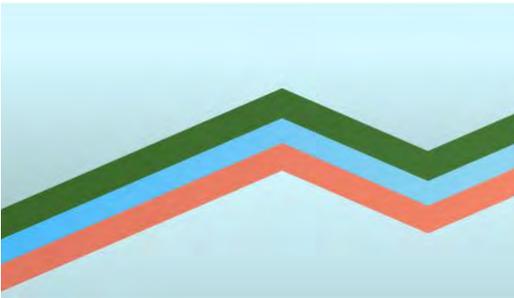
## Upcoming Events



### [2021 Hot Water Forum: VIRTUAL](#)

**March 10–11 and March 17–18, 2021**

The hot water industry is experiencing a renaissance. Join us as we explore new energy-saving technologies and methods for providing efficient hot water to users in commercial, multifamily, and residential buildings.



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

**May 25–26, 2021** 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.

## Community News

U.S. cities and states have set ambitious goals for economic recovery and growth, emissions reductions, and public health and resilience that cannot be achieved without improved building performance. IMT has published resources to advance building performance standards, including a [model ordinance](#), [model ordinance summary](#), [comparisons among building performance standards](#), and pieces highlighting how this building policy intersects with [commercial real estate](#), [social priorities](#), [energy codes](#) and the [future of our energy grid](#).

On January 13, E4TheFuture published an update illustrating job loss status for energy efficiency and clean energy jobs. After 10 months of the unemployment crisis, E4TheFuture's policy director Pat Stanton said: "We have a lot of work to do. The type of energy jobs that will help us to recover from losses endured in 2020 must be prioritized—

and that means focusing on workforce development and training in 2021.” See the jobs update [here](#).

### **Upcoming Events:**

[2021 Midwest Energy Solutions Experience](#) – **February 16–19** | Join MEEA and fellow industry leaders and innovators at the virtual [2021 Midwest Energy Solutions Conference](#). Stay connected, create important business opportunities, and expand your knowledge of energy efficiency policy, programs, innovations and more. [Register today](#).

[National Home Performance Conference & Trade Show](#) – **April 12–15** | Join BPA for this conference, hosted in Austin, TX, and online. It includes four days of education, networking, and innovation in home and building performance. Stay up to date on the latest developments in electrification and decarbonization, indoor air quality and healthy homes, and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. Plus, join us for insights into workforce development issues, business operations, and smart home technology. View the [full agenda here](#). Register today at [events.building-performance.org/national](https://events.building-performance.org/national). #NHPC21

## **Staff Spotlight**

**Sagarika Subramanian** joins ACEEE as a research analyst with the State Policy Program. She previously worked at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) as a research assistant and as an intern at the Alliance to Save Energy. Sagarika holds a bachelor's degree from UCLA and a master's degree from Yale University.



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