



June 2020 Newsletter

Hello friend,

I'm sending you this newsletter at a particularly disturbing time in the United States. At ACEEE, we share the outrage of protesters who, sparked by the latest police killing of a black man, George Floyd, are speaking out against racial injustice. Our country has a painful legacy of racism, and I hope one day we're able to look back on these coming weeks as, somehow, a moment when we made progress out of pain. But I know that will be true only if we *make it* so.

In the areas our organization knows best, we see gross racial inequities. Our [research](#) shows that communities of color, for example, bear higher energy burdens — the share of income spent on energy bills — than their white counterparts. These burdens force too many people to choose between paying such bills and buying necessities like food or medicine. And they represent just one facet of injustice.

Equity is a core value of ACEEE's mission, as our new [Call to Action](#) emphasizes. Today, our energy and transportation sectors are responsible for pollution that disproportionately impacts low-income people and communities of color. These communities are bearing an [inordinate brunt](#) of both the current pandemic in terms of illness and the resulting unemployment, as well as the longer-term impacts of toxic pollutants and the climate crisis. We believe our efficiency work must consider equity and can help right these wrongs.

If there's ever a time to address equity issues, now is it. We've created a [COVID-19 response webpage](#) that explores the pandemic's impacts, we're preparing a report that updates our seminal research on energy burdens, and we're hosting a virtual [Summer Study Buildings](#) this

August that features a panel and at least 30 research papers on equity issues. We're also working on economic stimulus and other policy proposals that focus on the needs of low- and moderate-income families.

Of course, we need to do more—including pushing harder to tackle racial inequities and injustices in our work, the energy efficiency community, and in our lives. We welcome your input and hope you join us in this endeavor. We wish you safety, health, and peace in these trying times.

Best,

Steven Nadel
Executive Director

Highlights



[Equity in Local Clean Energy Policy](#)

In a new document based on research from the 2019 *City Scorecard*, we identify four top opportunities for local governments to expand their work on equitable clean energy initiatives and summarize how cities across the United States are setting examples for others to follow.



Decarbonizing industry is vital in climate fight

With industry accounting for more than one-fourth of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, its decarbonization is essential for combating climate change, according to a [report](#) that shows energy efficiency is a key way to slash these industrial emissions. While industry continued to make [efficiency gains last year](#), it can still do a lot more to improve efficiency.



COVID-19 cuts incomes and hikes home energy bills

Before the COVID-19 crisis, [one-third](#) of American households had trouble paying their energy bills. Now, as they shelter in place, we expect their energy costs to rise at a time when tens of millions of Americans have lost jobs.



Fuel economy rollback sets the U.S. behind

The United States will fall well behind leading countries on passenger vehicle fuel economy, thanks to the Trump administration's recent [rollback](#) of federal standards.

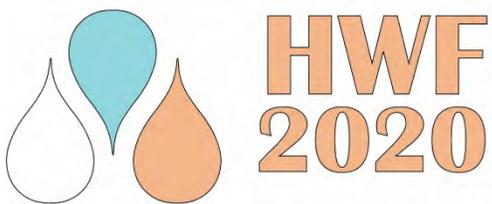
ACEEE in the news

- [E&E Energywire](#) quoted Andrew deLaski on the need to retain federal energy efficiency standards.

- [E&E Climatewire](#) noted the low score for Dominion Energy, Virginia's largest utility, in ACEEE's *Utility Scorecard*.
- [Yale Climate Connections](#), reporting on energy efficiency work during the pandemic, cited the *Halfway There* report and quoted Jen Amann.
- [Pro Builder](#) published an article on ACEEE's recent report on the health benefits of efficiency programs.
- A [Utility Dive](#) op-ed calling for continuing efficiency efforts during COVID-19 cited ACEEE's energy efficiency impact report.
- The [Appalachian Voice](#), looking at energy bills during the pandemic, cited ACEEE's report on the high cost of energy in rural America.
- A [NJ Spotlight](#) op-ed by PSE&G and the NAACP cited ACEEE's *Halfway There* report.
- [Midwest Energy News](#) published an article on ACEEE's recent report linking local policy and building energy use, focusing on Minneapolis.
- An op-ed in the [Chippewa \(WI\) Herald](#) cited Minnesota's and Wisconsin's scores on ACEEE's state scorecard (also published in a couple other small WI papers).

Upcoming Events

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we're holding our next two conferences virtually. We're planning robust, interactive experiences with plenty of networking opportunities and added benefits. Consider this: You can attend from the safety and comfort of your home, register at less than half the in-person fee, and feel good about avoiding travel-related emissions. Plus, you'll have exclusive online access to presentations and, for Summer Study Buildings, more than 430 papers on cutting-edge research. You can view these resources at your convenience, giving you an event that lives on.



[Hot Water Forum](#)

July 21-22 and 28-29, 2020

At this annual forum, we will explore the smartest, most cost-effective technologies, programs, and policies to improve the efficiency of hot water systems. Topics will include decarbonization, electrification, and equity.



Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Buildings

August 17-21, 2020

Our biennial SSB will explore energy-efficient building (retrofits and net-zero construction), market transformation, smart grid, utilities of the future, resilient communities, energy behavior, equity issues, and U.S. policy.

Community News

USGBC announces a new strategy to support economic recovery – [Healthy People in Healthy Places Equals a Healthy Economy](#).



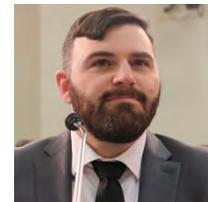
NEEP's Building Decarbonization Policy Framework Webinar Series

NEEP's policy framework lays out a pathway to decarbonize buildings with a comprehensive set of actions across different sectors and levels of government.



Staff Spotlight

Bryan Howard is our new state policy director. He previously worked as a legislative assistant for five years on Capitol Hill before moving to the U.S. Green Building Council, where he worked for 12 years and was the legislative director.



Avi Mersky joins us as our new senior researcher for transportation. Most recently a visiting assistant professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology's Department of Public Policy, he holds a Ph.D. in civil and environmental engineering from Carnegie Mellon University.



Emma Runge is our new executive and engagement assistant. She earned a bachelor's degree from Cornell University where she majored in government and minored in inequality studies.

We are also pleased to welcome **John O'Neil** as our new local policy

intern and **Julia Harisay** as our new behavior and human dimension intern.



We're Hiring!

ACEEE is looking for a new **Senior Director for Research** to oversee research on [a range of topic areas](#) including buildings, industry, transportation, behavior, health, and more. Visit [our website](#) to learn more and apply.

ACEEE seeks a **Federal Policy Manager** to lead our outreach activities and help define the organization's strategic direction. The manager acts as the primary liaison with Congress and other federal policy stakeholders. 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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