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March Newsletter

Friends—

In recent weeks, the federal government has made a string of announcements about equity-focused and community-based funding opportunities.

The Department of Energy has recently announced [\\$170 million in funding opportunities](#) to support community-based clean energy projects. More than \$22 million of that total is available through the [Buildings Upgrade Prize](#), which will provide assistance to teams that develop concepts for energy efficiency and efficient electrification initiatives for buildings in their communities. ACEEE and our partner organizations in the [Residential Retrofits for Energy Equity \(R2E2\) initiative](#) are collaborating with DOE to support applicants. Join R2E2's [upcoming trainings](#) to learn about topics that will help craft a strong application.

Meanwhile, the Environmental Protection Agency announced the [Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Program](#) last week, a \$550 million competition to select community-based organizations (CBOs) and their partners to serve as environmental justice grantmakers.

Thank you as always for your interest in our work.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve".

Steven Nadel
Executive Director

Efficiency Update

- New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy [announced](#) that the state will target electrifying heating in 400,000 homes and 20,000 commercial buildings by 2030—paired with a target that electricity generation is 100% clean by 2035. The state is also moving to become the latest to ensure all new cars sold in 2035 are zero-emissions. However, the governor also recently announced [continued](#) (albeit [reduced](#)) raids of the state's Clean Energy Fund, which supports efficiency investments.
- Virginia's General Assembly passed a [bill](#) last week to ensure that energy efficiency programs offered by the state's largest electric utility, Dominion Energy, will deliver energy savings of at least 1% annually for low-income households, seniors, customers with disabilities, and veterans. This builds on a requirement that 15% of program investment be directed to low-income customers. It also directs regulators and the utility to coordinate with programs that support health and safety upgrades that homes need before efficiency work can be done. The bill, which passed both chambers with broad, bipartisan support will now go to Governor Glenn Youngkin's desk.

Our Latest Research



[Improving the Process: Enabling Communities to Engage in Local Electricity System Planning and Use Clean Local Energy Resources](#)

Our latest brief outlines the typical regulatory processes related to the planning and construction of local electric utility infrastructure projects and illustrates where these processes could be improved to enable meaningful, productive community participation.

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

What We're Reading

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

- [Canary Media](#) featured senior fellow Jennifer Amann providing advice for homeowners preparing to use incentives from the Inflation Reduction Act.
- The [Washington Post](#) quoted ASAP executive director Andrew deLaski on new DOE efficiency standards for washing machines and refrigerators.
- [Wisconsin Public Radio](#) cited ACEEE's *State Scorecard* in a story on efficiency programs in the state.

News You Can Use

Resources that may be helpful to community-based organizations and others in the energy efficiency sector:

- [Sign up](#) for the White House Council on Environmental Quality's environmental justice email list to receive news alerts, funding notices, engagement opportunities, webinars, and other updates from the White House and across the federal government.
- DOE recently announced the \$15 million [Energizing Rural Communities Prize](#), which challenges individuals and organizations to develop partnership plans or innovative financing strategies to help rural or remote communities improve their energy systems and advance clean energy demonstration projects. The application period will open this month.
- Smart Growth America (SGA) is offering technical assistance to at least three CBOs across the United States to address climate and land use housing topics. SGA can support CBO partners in advocating effectively for housing, zoning, planning policies, and infrastructure that are better prepared for the impacts of climate change. The deadline to submit an [interest form](#) is March 15.

Staff Update



Ian Becker joins ACEEE as manager, Residential Retrofits for Energy Equity. Ian previously worked in the Green Housing Preservation Program at the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development and most recently at NYC Accelerator, an initiative to make buildings more energy efficient and reduce carbon emissions citywide. He holds a master's degree in community and regional planning from the University of Texas at Austin and a bachelor's degree from McGill University.

We're hiring! ACEEE seeks an [industry program director](#) and [development manager, corporate relations](#).

Upcoming Events



March 7–9, San Diego

July 11–13, Detroit



October 16–18, Philadelphia



November 12–15, Sacramento

Community News




The **California Public Utilities Commission** recently [launched](#) the California Market Transformation Administration, a program to develop energy efficiency transformation initiatives that will bring sustainable, cost-effective market changes to California and support the state's goals in greenhouse gas reduction, workforce development, and equity. Resource Innovations, a clean energy services provider, will administer the program.

The **Sierra Climate Adaptation & Mitigation Partnership** is partnering with **Sierra Nevada Energy Watch** to present a [webinar](#) describing the benefits of building energy upgrades, the process by which energy efficiency upgrades are completed, and other ways public agencies can work to reduce emissions. This event is on March 8 at 12 p.m. PST.

Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future's new [Multifamily Portfolio Carbon Emissions Calculator](#) allows multifamily portfolio owners to calculate their annual greenhouse gas emissions in CO2 equivalent. The tool will help multifamily owners understand their carbon emissions baseline, the first step toward measurable carbon reductions.

To contribute community news items, please email [Mary Robert Carter](#).

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