



## May Newsletter

Kate,

With today's high housing and energy costs, energy efficiency is an important tool for improving affordability. That's why the Next Generation Codes Coalition, which we lead, recently released an [energy code](#) to help cities and states ensure that new homes are built to be highly efficient.

ACEEE and our coalition partners created this code because we saw a critical gap. The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), the leading model code for decades, has not kept pace with recent advances in energy-saving and emissions-reducing technologies. And as my colleague Skye Gruen recently [highlighted](#), a proposal this year by the organization that develops the IECC could stall or even reverse its progress.

The new code from the Next Generation Codes Coalition provides a practical step forward for states and cities seeking stronger alternatives. It's the first of three progressively more advanced options we'll be releasing this year, each set to significantly reduce utility bills and climate pollution.

We're excited to be underway in this ambitious project, and we look forward to helping state and local governments with adoption and implementation in the months and years ahead.

Jennifer Layke  
Executive Director



## Efficiency Update

- **New laws expand efficiency in Virginia:** A [series of bills](#) designed to reduce residents' energy costs by ramping up efficiency programs have been signed by Governor Abigail Spanberger or await her signature. Key measures include new targets for utilities to help low-income families who use oil or propane for heating switch to heat pumps, the extension of bill assistance and weatherization programs, and a backstop to protect consumers from potential rollbacks of federal efficiency standards for appliances and equipment.
- **Maryland efficiency cuts headed for law:** Both chambers of Maryland's legislature passed final versions of a [bill](#) that will significantly reduce energy savings targets for utility efficiency programs. ACEEE [estimated](#) that an earlier version of the bill could cost Maryland electric customers a net of \$592 million, and the current version could cost even more by further delaying the return to original program levels. The bill awaits the signature of Governor Wes Moore, who has championed it.

## Our Latest Research



### [Industrial Capital Investment Decisions: Pathways to Energy Program Engagement](#)

Our latest report identifies approaches for overcoming obstacles for industrial efficiency projects and makes recommendations to maximize participation in utility-run efficiency programs.



### [Strategies for Enhancing Resilience and Minimizing Vulnerabilities to Extreme Heat Events](#)

This brief highlights strategies to strengthen grid reliability, maintain habitable indoor conditions, and protect vulnerable residents.

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

## ACEEE in Action



*Emily Sims, senior policy associate, presented on how utilities can support state and local building performance standards in a panel during DC Climate Week.*

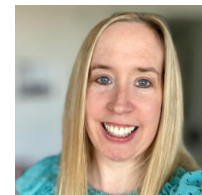
## ACEEE in the News

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

- The [American Prospect](#) quoted executive director Jennifer Layke on the Trump administration seeking to cut weatherization assistance and LIHEAP.
- State and utility director Forest Bradley-Wright spoke to [Canary Media](#) about the short-sightedness of states reducing energy efficiency programs.
- Baltimore public radio station [WYPR](#) quoted senior policy manager Anna Johnson on the increased costs expected from cuts to efficiency programs in Maryland.

## Staff Update

**Jennifer Callahan** joins ACEEE as research editor. Jen previously worked at the International Council on Clean Transportation as managing editor. She holds a master of environmental studies in sustainability management from the University of Waterloo and a bachelor's degree from St. John's University.



**Emma de Leon** joins as research analyst, industry program. Emma previously worked at LifeCity as a sustainability associate. She holds a bachelor of arts in environmental studies and communication.



**ACEEE on the road:** On May 18, executive director Jennifer Layke will speak about federal energy and environmental policy in a panel at the [AHRI Policy Symposium](#) in Washington, DC.

## Upcoming Events



August 2–7

Pacific Grove, CA

*Register by June 5 for the early bird rate*

[Learn more](#)

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