



March Newsletter

<<First Name>>,

Utility bills and affordability are top of mind for policymakers across the country right now, but it's clear that energy efficiency has not yet emerged as the obvious solution. It's even being attacked in some cases, as this month's news section below shows.

I've recently begun traveling across the country to meet with partners to discuss how we can work together to ensure that efficiency is seen and embraced as a suite of solutions that lower costs, reduce strain on the grid, and make our economy cleaner.

It's been encouraging to see so many people download, or view the [webinar](#) on, our [Faster and Cheaper](#) report, which helps get at a critical piece of this. The report finds that energy efficiency and load flexibility are by far the lowest-cost resources to address electricity load growth. We hope this analysis helps with your own work and advocacy in pursuing the opportunity of efficiency and flexibility.

Please be in touch with us as you consider what future analysis, convenings, and data ACEEE can provide to help you tackle state or local challenges. We're here to help.

Jennifer Layke
Executive Director



Efficiency Update

- **Vehicle standards repealed:** The Trump administration recently [repealed](#) greenhouse gas emissions standards for cars and trucks. The repeal significantly raises drivers' costs: under the standards, the average new vehicle in 2032 was projected to save drivers more than \$10,000 over the car's lifetime compared to a 2022 vehicle due to savings on fuel and maintenance.
- **Standards and rebates under attack:** The U.S. House of Representatives [passed a bill](#), H.R. 4626, that would give the Trump administration new powers to undo efficiency standards for appliances and equipment and reduce the Department of Energy's ability to strengthen standards in the future. It then [passed a bill](#) to repeal three programs: the High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebates, home energy efficiency contractor training grants, and assistance to states and cities that choose to strengthen their building energy codes. We are working to limit support for both bills in the Senate.
- **Virginia to rejoin RGGI:** Governor Spanberger signed into law [a bill](#) requiring the Department of Environmental Quality to file regulations within 90 days that will return Virginia to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the cooperative effort by multiple Eastern states to cap and reduce power-sector emissions. Another [bill](#), now awaiting the governor's signature, protects against future attempts to leave RGGI by clarifying that participation is mandatory under existing law. Half of Virginia's RGGI revenue will support home efficiency improvements for low-income households.
- **State and local building codes:** The Oregon Building Codes Division's Residential and Manufactured Structures Board [approved an update](#) to the state's residential energy code that will require that home builders who choose to install split-system cooling must use heat pumps, which provide both cooling and efficient heating. The code allows for other sources to provide additional heat. In Missouri, the Kansas City Council passed an ordinance, in a 7–6 vote, [rolling back](#) the city's requirement that new homes be built to the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code.
- **Massachusetts efficiency funding at risk:** The Massachusetts House [passed](#) a bill last week that would cut roughly \$1 billion from Mass Save, the state's utility-administered efficiency program. Mass Save's current 2025–2027 budget is \$4.5 billion. The program provides [nearly \\$3 in benefits](#) for every \$1 spent.

Our Latest Research



[Energy Efficiency Can Address Surging Electricity Needs at Half the Cost of Gas Plants](#)

This analysis finds that the fastest and cheapest way to mitigate rapid growth in electric load is to expand investment in energy efficiency and demand flexibility.

[Enabling Industrial Electrification in Illinois and Michigan](#)



This white paper highlights approaches for policymakers and regulators to modernize industrial rates and offer targeted incentives that support adoption.

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

ACEEE in Action



Forest Bradley-Wright, ACEEE's state and utility director, moderated a [webinar](#) exploring Faster and Cheaper, our new report on the essential role of energy efficiency and demand flexibility in an era of rapid load growth.

ACEEE in the News

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

- [Utility Dive](#) and [Grist](#) covered ACEEE's report on efficiency and demand flexibility as the fastest and cheapest way to address load growth. Co-author Mike Specian appeared on [Buildings Hub Live](#) to discuss the report.

- The [Associated Press](#) quoted ASAP executive director Andrew deLaski on proposed rollbacks of federal appliance standards.
- [Manufacturing Dive](#) quoted senior research associate Peter Huether on the costs of EPA's vehicle standards rollback.

Staff Update

ACEEE on the road: On March 4, senior manager Pavitra Srinivasan and behavior program director Reuven Sussman will deliver a guest lecture for the master of science program in environmental sustainability management at Georgetown University. On March 5, Reuven will present in a Clean Energy Transition Institute [webinar](#) on why behavioral science is essential to decarbonizing buildings. On March 19, transportation director Rachel Aland will speak on a panel about advanced freight electrification at the [EV Charging Summit & Expo](#) (receive 20% off registration using our exclusive discount: ACEEE20).

Upcoming Events



WEBINAR: Long-Haul Trucking's Future: Hydrogen and Battery-Electric Pathways
March 23, 11:00 a.m. ET

[Learn more](#)



March 24–26
Phoenix, AZ



August 2–7
Pacific Grove, CA

Save the date

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Learn more

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