June Newsletter

Friends—

I'm pleased to share our 2021 annual report and video. From new or expanded appliance standards in six states to unprecedented federal investments in efficiency, our work helped tackle the climate crisis and improve people's lives. ACEEE is able to have impact because of your support, so thank you for being part of our community.

After more than two years of online events, it was wonderful to reconnect with many of you in person at our Finance Forum last week. A few photos are shared below.

Lastly, ACEEE and I share the nation's collective grief about the recent school shooting in Uvalde and the targeted shooting of Black shoppers in Buffalo. We shouldn't accept inaction in the face of violence and racism; our policymakers must step up.

Best,

Steven Nadel
Executive Director

Efficiency Update

- Long-awaited standards from the Department of Energy (DOE) will boost the efficiency of most new manufactured homes (often known as mobile homes) but require little improvement for smaller models, leaving future low-income residents with high energy bills. The standards will save consumers $5.06 billion in costs and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 80.4 million metric tons over 30 years, according to DOE. Even so, the homes will still be allowed to be far less efficient than site-built homes in states with up-to-date codes. And the smaller
models known as single wides—representing about 45% of today's new manufactured homes—will still be allowed to be made with thin insulation and single-pane windows.

- On May 19, Vermont Governor Phil Scott signed H.500 into law to end the sale of four-foot fluorescent tube lights by 2024, thereby allowing LEDs—which do not contain mercury and are more energy efficient—to take their place. Four-foot lights are by far the most common type of fluorescent, and their removal from the market will save Vermont about 1,000 gigawatt hours of electricity cumulatively by 2040. Vermont became the first state to adopt this policy, which was based on findings from a recent ACEEE/ASAP report on the topic.

Our Latest Research

Study: Energy Scores in Rental Listings Could Steer Renters to Homes with Lower Utility Bills

Local or state policies requiring landlords to disclose efficiency information in rental listings could help tenants find lower-cost housing and spur building owners to make energy-saving upgrades, our study shows.

Biden Could Save Families Thousands on Energy Bills with Efficiency Rules for U.S.-Backed Home Loans

The Biden administration could save many low- and moderate-income households thousands of dollars—and cut greenhouse gas emissions—by updating energy efficiency requirements for new federally supported homes, according to our study.

See all our recent blog posts and press releases.

ACEEE in Action
Experts discussed innovative ways to finance clean energy projects at Finance Forum last week in White Plains, New York.

New Project Grant

ACEEE Announces New Grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

ACEEE is pleased to announce a new grant of $250,000 from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The grant will support ACEEE’s work with Mississippi agencies and nonprofits to design workforce development programs that prepare people for energy efficiency jobs in Jackson, Biloxi, and their surrounding areas, with a focus on low-income populations. To learn more about this new initiative, please contact Mary Shoemaker at mshoemaker@aceee.org or Kristin Campbell at kcampbell@aceee.org.

What We're Reading

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

- Bloomberg, Grist, and Marketwatch covered ACEEE’s report on efficiency labels in rental listings.
- E&E Energywire quoted senior research analyst Peter Huether on equity in electric vehicle charging.
• The National League of Cities published an ACEEE-authored blog post featuring our research on the costs and benefits of local buildings efficiency policies.

Staff Update

Carolyn Conant joins ACEEE's National Affordable Housing Retrofit Initiative as technical assistance coordinator. Carolyn previously managed Fort Collins Utilities' award-winning residential energy efficiency program, Epic Homes. She earned a master of arts in environmental sociology from Colorado State University and a bachelor of arts from New York University.

Amelia Armstrong joins ACEEE as a conference and communications assistant. Amelia previously worked as a corporate events intern and operative at AF Group. She earned a bachelor of arts from Michigan State University.

Upcoming Events

August 21–26, Pacific Grove, CA
November 13–16, Washington, DC
December 8, Washington, DC

Community News

The Annual PACENation Summit is the premier global event for Property Assessed Clean Energy
(PACE) financing professionals. Held June 13–15 in New York City, will feature content and networking opportunities for PACE experts and newcomers. More than 400 people with backgrounds in finance, commercial real estate, home performance, public policy, and clean energy are expected to participate. Register now.

A recent study by the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project finds that Southwest homes in warmer-climate cities such as Phoenix or Las Vegas that are built with highly efficient electric heat pumps rather than gas HVAC will reduce their annual heating cost by 30% and reduce climate emissions by 60%.

Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships is creating a resource on embedding equity in energy efficiency plans using data and metrics. This resource will identify six strategies that states and program implementers can use to center program design and evaluation on equity. Please take this quick, anonymous survey to offer your thoughts. To provide additional input or learn more about the report, contact public policy manager Erin Cosgrove at ecosgrove@neep.org.

Join NEEA’s Product Council on June 14 for a webinar about the impacts of placing heat pump water heaters in small rooms. This session will provide quantitative data to understand the effectiveness and impact of passive venting, louved doors, and different grille sizes and positions. It will look at exhaust ducting and "best-case" airflow. Register here.

The California Energy Commission (CEC) recently approved the scoping order for the 2022 Integrated Energy Policy Report update. The Combined Heat and Power Alliance submitted public comments highlighting that CHP using renewable and lower-carbon fuels such as clean hydrogen can enable significant emissions reductions that will be critical to achieving California’s goal of carbon neutrality by 2045. The CEC will hold public workshops through December 2022 before adopting a final report update in Q1 2023.

Op-eds by Advanced Energy Economy were recently published in the Evansville Courier & Press and Arizona Republic. Both op-eds focus on utility proposals for natural gas plants and make the case that investments in efficiency would be a better deal for businesses and consumers.

After a two-year hiatus, the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA) will host the Southeast Energy Summit in Atlanta, October 3–5, to reconnect with friends and colleagues, explore innovative efficient energy solutions, and plan for a brighter, more prosperous future in the Southeast. At this year’s summit, SEEA will celebrate 15 years of regional leadership of advancing energy policy and programs that benefit all people. It will also hold the first annual Summit Awards to honor the individuals and organizations that are creating lasting change in the region. Early bird ticket prices are available through June 30. Register today.

The Building Performance Association (BPA) is pleased to announce its new Allied Partner Network. Join this network to help support BPA’s mission to advance the industry by delivering improved energy efficiency, health, and environmental performance of homes and buildings.