



November Update

Friends of ACEEE,

As many of you know, I will soon be stepping down from my current role at ACEEE. I encourage each of you to get to know our new executive director, Jennifer Layke, who starts on Thursday. I'm confident you will be as impressed with her as our board of directors was when they selected her.

It has been my privilege to work with many of you over the past 24 years as executive director, and I sincerely appreciate your support for ACEEE's work.

We have accomplished a great deal in these years, including securing stronger standards and codes and helping expand and improve utility- and government-run efficiency programs. ACEEE has significantly expanded its work in this time, increasing our focus on the industrial and transportation sectors in addition to our long-standing efforts in buildings and utilities. We have pressed efficiency programs to deliver benefits equitably. We have published over 1,000 reports and papers, providing a fact-driven foundation for our own educational and advocacy efforts as well as those of many others.

I'll be taking some time off and will then return to ACEEE in the new year as a senior fellow, working on projects and mentoring. In this capacity, I look forward to continuing to cross paths with many of you.

Best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Steve', with a stylized, cursive script.

Remembering Geneva Jones

We are deeply saddened to share that Geneva Jones, a friend and colleague of ACEEE for more than 26 years, passed away on October 23. She was a kind and energetic anchor in the organization and a welcoming presence to visitors. If you would like to make a gift in Geneva's memory to a cause she valued, please consider the American Diabetes Association.



Efficiency Update

- Both chambers of the Illinois legislature passed a sweeping energy bill that aims to reduce electricity prices and make the grid more reliable. It establishes the state's first integrated resource planning process, enabling utility regulators to better meet forecasted electricity demand growth with the lowest-cost resources for ratepayers, like energy efficiency programs. The legislation expands electric utilities' efficiency investments while ensuring at least 25% of spending goes to low-income households—tripling the current requirement—and grows weatherization funding opportunities for gas customers. Governor JB Pritzker says he will sign the bill.
- A decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit today [protects](#) furnace efficiency standards set to reduce heating costs for many households. The federal standards, which will take effect in 2028, will save households replacing an inefficient furnace with a new model an average of \$350 over the life of the furnace.
- The federal government has been partially shut down for over a month, with wide effects including furloughs of many federal workers focused on energy efficiency programs. Low-income energy assistance funds are [set to be delayed](#) as winter approaches.
- The Department of Energy announced the cancellation of [\\$7.5 billion in grants for projects](#) based in "blue" states, including millions for work on building energy codes. A leaked list allegedly shows [even more grants](#) slated for future cancellation.
- The U.S. Senate [confirmed](#) Audrey Robertson to be the Department of Energy's Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, a position overseeing numerous federal energy efficiency programs and efforts. Robertson was previously CFO of Franklin Mountain Energy, an oil and gas company she co-founded. Alex Fitzsimmons has been named the new Acting Under Secretary of Energy, succeeding Wells Griffith.

Our Latest Research

[**Scorecard Finds Highest Energy-Consuming Countries Lag on Efficiency Policies**](#)

Our *International Scorecard* ranks the world's largest energy users on efforts to reduce energy use and climate emissions.



Data Center Efficiency and Load Flexibility Can Reduce Power Grid Strain and Costs

This white paper examines the numerous opportunities to enhance data center efficiency and leverage demand flexibility.



Energy Retrofits for Low- and Moderate-Income Households Require Coordinated Funding

This brief examines how coordinating and expanding existing energy efficiency programs can help increase their reach and make them more accessible to a broader range of families.



Best Practices for Local Governance Boards

This guide from R2E2, developed with HR&A Advisors, provides best practices for establishing and operating community-driven boards that shape decisions around building energy upgrade programs.

Energy Upgrade Risk Mitigation



This guide, developed by R2E2 in collaboration with HR&A Advisors, provides four strategies to mitigate the risk of rent increases, displacement, or disruption from energy upgrades in affordable housing.

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

Ally Spotlight: Cascade Energy

Start your [decarbonization roadmap](#) with energy management—not costly supply-side solutions—to cut emissions, lower costs, and build momentum.

Download Cascade Energy's eight-step playbook for profitable food-industry decarbonization from a 100% employee-owned leader in efficiency and innovation.



Cascade Energy is an ACEEE Pathfinder Ally. Learn more about our [Ally program](#).

ACEEE in Action



Scenes from our [2025 Energy Efficiency as a Resource conference](#) in Denver

ACEEE in the News

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

- [Utility Dive](#) and [Politico](#) featured ACEEE's *International Scorecard*.
- [Manufacturing Dive](#) quoted senior research analyst Andrew Hoffmeister in an article about breweries decarbonizing via heat pumps.
- A [Canary Media](#) story on Boston piloting window-mounted heat pumps in affordable housing cited ACEEE's research on the technology.

Staff Update

ACEEE on the road: Dave Ribeiro, local policy director, is at the [C40 World Mayors Summit](#) this week in Rio de Janeiro. Industry director Richard Hart, state and utility director Forest Bradley-Wright, and director of community solutions Maggie Kelley Riggins will each present at the [Southeast Energy Summit](#), which begins on November 17 in Atlanta.

Upcoming Events



March 24–26, 2026
Phoenix

[Learn more](#)



August 2–7, 2026
Pacific Grove, CA

[Learn more](#)

[Support ACEEE today with a tax-deductible contribution](#)

ACEEE is proud to earn a four-star rating from Charity Navigator. This is the highest possible rating, reflecting that our foundation, corporate, and donor funds are used responsibly and efficiently.

[Support Us](#)

Connect with us on social media:



ACEEE, 529 14th Street., N.W., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20045

Sent by aceeenews@aceee.org

[View email in browser](#)

[update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)