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## May Newsletter

Friends—

After more than two years of holding our gatherings online, ACEEE will hold its first in-person event since early 2020 this month: our [14th Energy Efficiency Finance Forum](#). Leadership from the Department of Energy's (DOE) Loan Program Office will deliver a keynote address. I'm looking forward to being together with you as we explore the vital role of financing—including approaches such as energy efficiency as a service and the latest developments in C-PACE—for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and energy use.

At our International Symposium in April, experts from around the world took a close look at countries' efficiency policies, spotlighted global leaders, and discussed how the United States can improve. If you missed this free event, I encourage you to check out the [recordings](#).

Please keep us posted on your endeavors.

Best,

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

Steven Nadel  
Executive Director

## Efficiency Update

- [Light bulb standards](#) announced last week by the Biden administration will, at long last, essentially phase out incandescent and halogen bulbs in favor of LEDs. The efficiency standard—which had been set to take effect in 2020 until it was blocked by the Trump administration—will save consumers nearly \$3 billion annually and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 222 million metric tons over 30 years, according to DOE. DOE will

effectively allow companies to import noncompliant bulbs until January 2023 and allow retailers to continue selling them until July 2023.

- DOE is due to issue long-awaited efficiency standards for manufactured homes this month; it agreed in a legal settlement to finalize them by May 16. The department's proposal from last year featured a "primary" option that would leave many homes with standards little stronger than those created decades ago; an "alternative" option was significantly stronger. An ACEEE [report](#) in February showed that even stronger standards would best improve overall affordability for low-income residents.
- Maryland and its most populous county both passed building energy performance standards last month that will require many buildings to make efficiency or decarbonization upgrades. The county standards (based on site energy use intensity) will complement those passed by the state (based on onsite greenhouse gas emissions). Both are among the most ambitious policies to improve buildings' energy efficiency in the United States.

## Our Latest Research



### [Countries' Limited Energy-Saving Efforts Need Rapid Scaling to Meet Climate Crisis](#)

Despite an intensifying climate crisis and global uncertainty in energy markets, the world's largest energy-using countries are making only limited progress in reducing energy waste and planet-warming emissions, according to the *2022 International Energy Efficiency Scorecard*. To meet their climate goals, countries will need to scale their efficiency efforts rapidly.



### [Here's How to Scale Energy-Saving Commercial Building Retrofits](#)

Comprehensive retrofits of commercial buildings can reduce their energy use by up to 40% but are not happening anywhere near the scale needed to meet climate goals. Our recent report offers a roadmap for how utilities and policymakers can start or expand robust retrofit programs.

### [To Decarbonize Industry at Needed Pace, the Energy Department Should Reimagine Its Efforts](#)



Our recent paper offers a range of ideas that DOE could use as it reimagines its approach to industrial decarbonization. The agency's new funding—from the bipartisan infrastructure law and Energy Act of 2020, with potentially more on the way—needs to be applied in new ways—and quickly—to meet the climate challenge.



### [Affordable Housing Lags Behind in Decarbonization Programs](#)

Our research shows that the affordable housing sector stands to miss out on the many benefits of electrification and decarbonization because few utility programs target its particular needs and challenges.



### [The Benefits and Administrative Costs of Local Building Efficiency Policies](#)

Cities considering adopting policies to improve the efficiency of existing buildings still have limited data available on the benefits and administrative costs of doing so. A topic brief and accompanying fact sheets share new data—and insights some cities have learned about designing and implementing such policies.

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

## ACEEE in Action



Steve Nadel introducing Kathleen Hogan, DOE's principal deputy undersecretary for infrastructure, at the International Symposium last month

## What We're Reading

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

- The [New York Times](#) and [Associated Press](#) quoted executive director Steven Nadel and ASAP executive director Andrew deLaski on DOE's light bulb rules.
- [Canary Media](#) quoted buildings program director Amber Wood speaking about smart water heaters.
- [NBC New York](#) used ACEEE's GreenerCars ratings to compare electric vehicle efficiency and quoted transportation program director Shruti Vaidyanathan.

## Staff Update

**Stephanie Sosa-Kalter** joins our National Affordable Housing Retrofit Initiative as deputy director. She previously worked as a federal policy analyst for NYC's Department of Housing Preservation and Development, where she evaluated legislation and communicated the city's housing needs to elected officials. She earned a master of urban planning from New York University and a bachelor of arts from Siena College.



**Mark Rodeffer** joins ACEEE as press secretary. Mark previously worked as a writer, editor, and producer for various news organizations, including National Journal, The Hill, CNN, and C-SPAN. In his free time, he helps lead Sierra Club's DC chapter. He earned a bachelor of arts from Mary Washington College.



**Kristin Campbell** joins us as a state policy manager. Kristin previously

worked as an analyst with the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development and as a consultant for the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program. She holds a dual degree of a juris doctor and a master of arts in environmental law and policy from Vermont Law School, a master's degree in climate and society from Columbia University, and a bachelor's degree from Florida State University.



**Jonah Eisen** joins our industry team as a research assistant. Jonah previously worked at Growing Smart, an international agriculture project development firm, where he conducted market research on the agrotechnology and medical cannabis industries. He holds a bachelor of arts from UCLA.



**Ethan Taylor** joins ACEEE as a research program assistant. Ethan previously worked at the U.S. House of Representatives and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. He earned a bachelor of arts from the University of Maryland, College Park and is currently pursuing a master of public policy from American University.



**We're hiring!** ACEEE seeks a [senior analyst](#) for our industrial program and a [senior director for communications and marketing](#). Visit our website to learn more and apply.

## Upcoming Events

Energy Efficiency  
Finance Forum



May 23–25, White Plains, NY



November 13–16, Washington, DC



**SUMMER STUDY  
BUILDINGS**

August 21–26, Pacific Grove, CA



December 8, Washington, DC

## Community News

The **National Energy Screening Project** recently published a [reference guide](#) for those preparing a benefit-cost analysis for distributed energy resources, including utilities, regulators and regulatory staff, state energy offices, evaluators, and other stakeholders. It is a living document that will be updated as new tools, techniques, and resources become available.

What can governments, industry, and communities do to ensure that buildings keep us healthy, bring our communities together, and protect our climate? Theresa Backhus, associate director of the **Institute for Market Transformation's** Building Innovation Hub, shared [a few ways we can take action](#) to positively shape our buildings.

In a [webinar](#) on May 12, the **Southwest Energy Efficiency Project** will highlight the economic and greenhouse gas benefits of heat pumps and heat pump water heaters for new and existing single-family homes in the Southwest. A representative from ICAST will highlight the benefits of heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, and energy efficiency for multifamily homes in the region.

Join the **Building Performance Association** and the **New York State Energy Research & Development Authority** for the [Clean Energy for Homes Conference & Trade Show](#) in Saratoga Springs, New York, on June 1–2. Topics will include the latest on New York State's clean energy goals and the role of decarbonization and electrification, running a home performance business, cold-climate building science, workforce development, and much more.

Catalyzed by federal funds, progressive state and local regulations, and ambitious commitments, transportation electrification is poised for rapid acceleration. How can we ensure that the electric grid is ready? Read **TRC Companies, Inc.'s** [latest insights](#) and listen to its podcast on the potential for fleet owners and operators to work alongside utilities and industry partners.

**[Save energy, save the planet, support ACEEE today with a tax-deductible contribution!](#)**

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