



April Newsletter

<<First Name>>,

The war in Iran is first a human tragedy. I have been watching it unfold with growing alarm at the scale of destruction and the tragic loss of lives.

It is also an energy wake-up call. The conflict has sent oil markets into turmoil, pushing gasoline and diesel prices higher for American consumers and businesses. Unlike natural gas, where domestic production insulates the U.S. from much of the volatility, oil is a global commodity. What is happening in the Persian Gulf is showing up at the pump and could lead to inflation for a wide range of everyday goods.

This is not a new vulnerability. It is a familiar one. Every oil price shock in the past half-century has made the same argument: the less we depend on oil, the less exposed we are to international crises. Efficiency, demand flexibility, and clean energy are not just climate strategies. They are long-term energy security strategies that reduce our exposure.

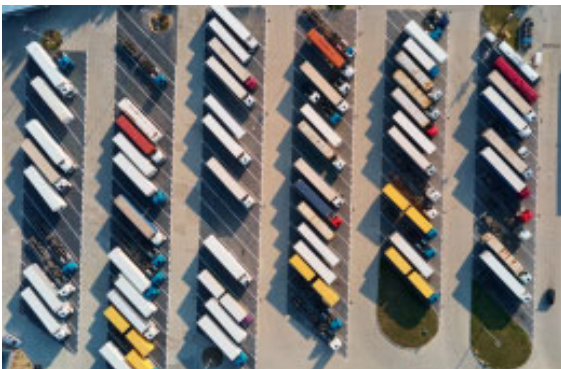
Jennifer Layke
Executive Director



Efficiency Update

- **ENERGY STAR to DOE:** The Trump administration issued a [memorandum](#) transferring leadership of ENERGY STAR from EPA to DOE. The agencies have 90 days to issue plans for executing that change. ACEEE and our partners are encouraging the agencies and congressional appropriators to ensure that those plans fully address funding, staffing, contracting, and data management to sustain ENERGY STAR's success.
- **Inefficient federally backed homes:** A federal judge in Texas [blocked](#) HUD and USDA's 2024 efficiency requirements for U.S.-supported homes. Those rules—repeatedly delayed by this administration—would reduce energy costs in affected homes by nearly \$1,000 a year. The decision still leaves future administrations with a clear path to develop and update standards for the homes that are not based on the IECC and ASHRAE.
- **Energy insecurity on the rise:** Data recently released by DOE indicate that the proportion of U.S. households experiencing energy insecurity is [increasing](#) across the country. 33% of households reported energy insecurity in 2024, up from 27% in 2020. Energy insecurity, which accounts for hardships such as having to forego other necessities to pay one's utility bills, continues to impact households of color disproportionately.
- **Possible rollbacks in Maryland:** The Maryland House of Delegates passed a [bill](#) that would effectively reduce energy-saving targets for participating utilities from 2.5% annual savings to 1.5% for the 2027–2029 program years. ACEEE published an [analysis](#) showing that the cuts would increase net costs for electricity customers by \$592 million. We are working with partners to defend energy efficiency in parallel legislation in the state's senate.

Our Latest Research



[Pathways to Zero-Emission Freight: Infrastructure Needs for Regional and Long-Haul Trucking](#)

This study, which examines how to prioritize investments for zero-emission trucks, aims to support states, utilities, and private stakeholders shaping clean freight corridors.



[Funding and Financing for Rental Home Energy Upgrades](#)

This guide from R2E2, produced by HR&A Advisors and Elevate, provides funding and financing strategies to support upgrades in affordable rental housing.

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

ACEEE in Action



Scenes from ACEEE's 2026 Hot Water & Hot Air Forums

ACEEE in the News

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

- [Inside Climate News](#) quoted state and utility program director Forest Bradley-Wright on the importance of data center developers funding energy efficiency and demand flexibility locally.
- Maryland's [Daily Record](#) cited ACEEE's analysis on the potential increased costs from a bill that would cut energy efficiency programs in the state.

Staff Update

ACEEE on the road: On April 8, executive director Jennifer Layke will speak about solutions to improve long-term resilience at the [Global Impact Investors Network Forum](#) in San Francisco. On April 18, senior advisor Steve Nadel will be giving talks on efficiency policies and programs for new construction and existing buildings at [Accelerating the Transition](#) in San Francisco. On April 30, technical assistance manager Carolyn Conant will present on the opportunity to save money on utility bills through energy efficiency during a webinar from the Colorado Renewable Energy Society and Clean Energy Credit Union.

Upcoming Events



August 2–7

Pacific Grove, CA

Register by June 5 for the early bird rate

[Learn more](#)

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