

Newsletter from ACEEE

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## December Newsletter

Hello Friends—

The year may be winding down, but ACEEE's research is still in high gear. The past few weeks have been packed with research, and more is coming this month—including the *2021 City Clean Energy Scorecard*.

We have several new reports to share. One [report](#) evaluates the economics and benefits of replacing water heaters powered by fossil fuels with heat pump water heaters in multifamily housing. Another [study](#) examines the need for better tracking and measuring of embodied carbon in buildings in order to develop building codes that reduce it. A third [paper](#) explores how utilities can meet their climate goals by focusing their efficiency programs on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We are also continuing to push on federal policy. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which President Biden signed into law in November, is [a major positive step](#), but more is needed. Congress should follow up with historic investments in energy efficiency in the Build Back Better budget bill, now pending on Capitol Hill.

Have a wonderful holiday season, and please keep us posted on your endeavors.

Best,

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

Steven Nadel  
Executive Director

# Highlights



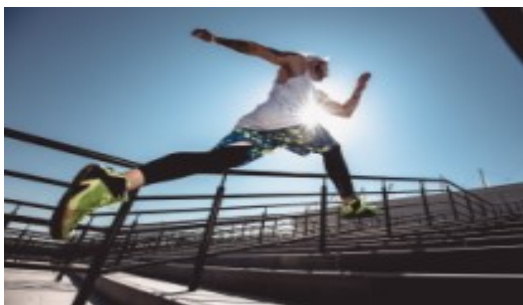
## [Report: Efficient Electric Water Heating Could Slash Multifamily Buildings' Carbon Emissions](#)

At a time of rising natural gas prices, a [report](#) by ACEEE and the New Buildings Institute calls for policymakers to ramp up efforts to help building owners replace old equipment with efficient electric options.



## [Utilities Need to Revamp Their Energy-Saving Efforts to Meet Climate Goals](#)

Utilities' energy efficiency programs have a proven record doing what they were originally intended to do: save energy. But that mission isn't quite the same as one focused on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. States and utilities should seriously consider redirecting their efficiency efforts toward tackling the climate crisis, according to a [report](#) released last week.



## [Ready to Go: State and Local Efforts Advancing Energy Efficiency](#)

A new ACEEE toolkit provides a resource for city and state governments and their partner organizations as they prepare to deploy federal funding, including that in the recently passed infrastructure bill.

## [Knowledge Infrastructure: The Critical Path to Advance Embodied Carbon Building Codes](#)



We need to reduce the carbon embodied in materials for building construction—from their manufacture to their transport, use, and disposal. Building energy codes can be an effective way to accomplish this, but we need more-detailed knowledge of the embodied carbon, according to a new study.



### [Achieving Freight Transport GHG Emissions Reductions through Emerging Technologies](#)

A new [working paper](#) and accompanying series of [topic briefs](#) explore the potential to reduce freight GHG emissions using emerging technologies that are commercially available today.



### [DOE Moves Toward Ensuring Light Bulbs Save Energy, but Hurdles Remain](#)

The Biden administration took a major step last week toward ensuring most new light bulbs do not waste the bulk of the energy they use, but it is unclear how long inefficient bulbs will remain on the market.



### [DOE Nixes Key Trump-Era Roadblocks for Updating Appliance Efficiency Standards](#)

The Biden administration finalized a [rule](#) that will help enable it to cut GHG emissions by updating energy-saving standards for dozens of types of appliances and equipment.

### [Weak Auto Efficiency Progress Shows EPA Needs to Rein in “Flexibilities”](#)



In a statement about an EPA report showing little progress in auto efficiency, ACEEE called on the federal agency to tighten rules for fuel economy.



**[ACEEE Seeks Partners to Tap \\$1B in Federal Funds to Improve Home Health and Efficiency](#)**

In a new initiative, ACEEE will help a small group of states that [sign up](#) as partners to pursue funding to incorporate health measures into energy efficiency programs. Many states have unused funds from the Children's Health Insurance Program that could be matched to address health needs via weatherization.



**[New Hampshire Regulators Order Drastic Cuts in Utility Energy Efficiency Funding](#)**

As winter approaches and heating bills rise, New Hampshire has taken a step backward that will make it harder for residents to save energy. In a radical departure from the state's prior progress, its Public Utilities Commission issued an [order](#) that slashes funding for utility energy efficiency programs.



**[Congress Needs to Build on Infrastructure Bill's Efficiency Funding with Additional Transformative Investments](#)**

In a statement, ACEEE calls on Congress to secure other critical efficiency funds by passing the Build Back Better bill that's now pending.

# ACEEE in the News

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

- [Reuters](#), [Autoweek](#), and [Forbes](#) quoted ACEEE's response to an EPA report showing inadequate progress on vehicle fuel economy.
- [Marketwatch](#) quoted Steve Nadel speaking about how the pending Build Back Better budget plan could help reduce energy costs in buildings.
- [E&E Energywire](#) and [Utility Dive](#) quoted Andrew deLaski and Steve Nadel on an Energy Department rule undoing some Trump-era hurdles for updating appliance efficiency standards.

## Upcoming Events

### [Ready to Go: Opportunities for Cities and States to Deploy Federal Funding to Advance Clean Energy and Equity](#)

**December 9, 1–2 p.m. EST**

Join us this Thursday for a webinar on how state and local governments can strengthen their clean energy programs. The lead author of a new ACEEE [toolkit](#) on guiding principles for governments will highlight key takeaways from this research. Officials from Connecticut and Washington, D.C. will share insights on how they are planning to leverage federal funding. And a representative from Elevate will discuss how governments can ensure that programs are deployed equitably to advance energy justice.

### [2021 City Clean Energy Scorecard: Are Cities Meeting the Climate Moment?](#)

**December 15, 2–3 p.m. EST**

Join us as we reveal the city rankings for the *2021 City Clean Energy Scorecard* and discuss trends across the country. Webinar attendees will hear from officials in several leading cities about what they are already doing, and planning, to advance clean energy while simultaneously lowering utility bills, improving resilience, and reducing pollution. Speakers will also focus on the ways their programs are based on community input and designed to serve all residents.

### [2022 Hot Water Forum](#)

**March 21–23, Atlanta**

As climate efforts intensify, the 14th Hot Water Forum will offer a singular look at how water



systems can not only save money but also reduce harmful pathogens and GHG emissions. It will be a hybrid event with in-person and virtual offerings.



## [2022 Energy Efficiency Finance Forum](#)

### May 23–25

How do we finance a rapid scaling of deep building retrofits and other energy-saving initiatives? The 14th Energy Efficiency Finance Forum will tackle this question, acknowledging the vital role that financing will play in dramatically reducing energy use and GHG emissions. It will be a hybrid event with in-person and virtual offerings.

## Community News

### Climate-Forward Efficiency and Leading with Equity Initiatives

In addition to this newsletter, ACEEE prepares two other newsletters: one for our [Climate-Forward Efficiency Initiative](#) and one for our [Leading with Equity Initiative](#). Sign up for either (or both) to receive periodic updates and get involved.

Take advantage of early-bird rates, ending December 10, for the 2022 [Midwest Energy Solutions Conference](#), February 1–3. Join the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance for the 20th anniversary of the region's premier efficiency event, which will reunite the industry's top innovators and decision makers in the heart of Chicago for three days of inspiring talks, unparalleled networking, and insightful panels. [RSVP today!](#)



## Staff Spotlight

**Alex Kellogg** joins ACEEE as a communications manager. Previously, he worked for an environmental justice nonprofit, a racial justice think tank and media outlets such as NBC News, the Wall Street Journal, and the Detroit Free Press. In his spare time, Alex enjoys playing volleyball, working out, reading, writing, and mentoring students at the University of Michigan and Harvard, his alma mater.



**We're hiring!** ACEEE seeks a [senior codes manager](#) and a [director of zero-energy and carbon](#) for its building program and a [director](#) for its National Affordable Housing Retrofit Initiative. Visit our website to learn more and apply.

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

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