



July 2020 Newsletter

Hello friend,

We hope you are safe and healthy during these unprecedented times. We continue to monitor COVID-19 impacts and adapt to current circumstances. We've looked at how energy efficiency programs can retool and help address health inequities. We released a Mayor's Toolkit with seven energy-saving strategies for reviving and strengthening local economies. And we're bringing our popular conferences directly into your home through our virtual Hot Water Forum this month (don't forget to register!) and Summer Study Buildings next month.

At the same time, we are looking longer term at efficiency. Our latest research explores how building performance standards and programs to electrify space heating can help lead us toward a cleaner energy future.

Please keep us posted with your own endeavors.

Best,

Steven Nadel
Executive Director

Highlights



[Building standards necessary to combat climate crisis](#)

Retrofitting buildings to reduce their energy use is one of the most powerful tools to reduce carbon emissions, yet at current rates, most offices and homes will not be retrofitted for decades or even centuries, a new [report](#) warns.



[Programs to electrify space heating are growing](#)

Across the United States, programs that electrify space heating in homes and buildings — primarily using high-efficiency heat pumps — are growing rapidly, according to a new [ACEEE topic brief](#).



[How efficiency programs can retool during the crisis and plan for a strong recovery](#)

Energy efficiency programs that were largely halted by the COVID-19 crisis have adapted significantly, but now must restructure and

retool in preparation for resuming full operations.



[Mayor's Toolkit for efficiency](#)

As city leaders focus on mitigating the hardships wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic, a new toolkit [released](#) by ACEEE offers them seven energy-saving strategies to help revive and strengthen urban economies.

ACEEE responds to new state and federal policy



- A long-awaited [U.S. House committee report](#) includes robust energy-saving policies as part of a broad plan to cut carbon emissions and fight climate change.
- The U.S. House [approved an infrastructure bill](#) with energy efficiency provisions that would create jobs and cut emission.
- A [new House transportation bill](#) would steer federal funding toward projects enabling lower-carbon transportation and better mobility.
- [A New Jersey Board of Public Utilities order](#) sets the stage for the state's utilities to implement far more ambitious energy efficiency programs that help households and businesses reduce energy costs.



[How efficiency can address health inequities](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic underscores how living conditions can adversely affect communities of color and how energy efficiency programs can help by improving these conditions.



[These states are showing how to encourage the lowest-carbon HVAC](#)

Electric heat pumps (and other technologies that use electricity instead of fossil fuels) are now often the lowest-carbon and most energy-efficient choice for heating and cooling a home. Yet policies in most of the country do not incentivize their installation.

[U.S. cities join a new clean energy challenge](#)

ACEEE partnered with the Sustainable Cities Network and five state-level sustainability programs, including Connecticut, California, Maryland, Minnesota, and New Jersey to help small and mid-sized US cities to achieve their clean energy goals.

SUSTAINABLE STATES network

Shared Vision. Local Impact.

ACEEE in the news

- Energy News Network interviewed researcher Ariel Dreihobl twice on energy and equity. [The articles discuss on racial disparities in electric service](#) and [how clean](#)

[energy programs can help address other racial disparities](#). They cited ACEEE's high energy burden report in a story on the [intersection between energy and civil rights](#). They also cited an [ACEEE brief on programs to electrify space heating](#) in an article on a Rhode Island report on heating technologies

- An article citing our equity work was published by [Bloomberg](#) and was widely circulated in dozens of publications, most notably [Boston Globe](#), [MSN](#), and [Yahoo finance](#)
- Our report on mandatory building performance standards was covered by [U.S. News & World Report](#), [E&E Energywire](#), [Washington Examiner](#), and [Smart Cities Dive](#)
- The [Energy and Policy Institute](#) cited ACEEE's high energy burden report in an article about demand charges from Georgia Power.
- [Blue Virginia](#), writing about potential adoption of an updated building code in the state, cited ACEEE's *State Scorecard*.
- A [BloombergNEF](#) blog post on the need for efficiency progress globally in the post-COVID recovery cited ACEEE's *State Scorecard*.
- Utilities Program Director Rachel Gold was quoted in [NJ Spotlight](#), [Utility Dive](#), [Politico](#), Bloomberg Law, [Daily Energy Insider](#), and [Energy Central](#) responding to a New Jersey BPU order on efficiency programs. She was also quoted in an [E&E Energywire](#) story on the impacts of the pandemic on the electricity sector and climate.
- [Greenbiz](#) published Senior Director of Research Neal Elliott's op-ed on industrial decarbonization, including promoting recommendations from two recent reports.
- A [Reuters](#) column on cities coping with COVID-19 cited ACEEE research.

Upcoming Events



Hot Water Forum Virtual

July 21-22 and 28-29, 2020

At this popular annual forum, we will explore the smartest, most cost-effective technologies, programs, and policies to improve the efficiency of hot water systems. Topics will include healthy hot water systems, multifamily

buildings, decarbonization, electrification, and equity.



[Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Buildings Virtual](#)

August 17-21, 2020

Our biennial SSB will explore energy-efficient building (retrofits and net-zero construction), market transformation, smart grid, utilities of the future, resilient communities, energy behavior, equity issues, technologies, and U.S. policy.

Community News

[Webinar: Clean Energy Virginia - Energy Efficiency](#)

This webinar, partly developed by ACEEE local policy staff, reviews the energy efficiency components of the Virginia Clean Economy Act. It is presented by Governor Northam's office, Virginia's Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy.



Team Zero is embarking on its fifth annual Zero Energy Residential Buildings Inventory in the U.S. and Canada. To help make it as comprehensive as possible, please add information about your project to the secure [Team Zero Inventory Database](#).



The **Missouri Energy Initiative** presents the [Energy Efficiency event of the 2020 Midwest Energy Policy Series](#) virtually from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM on August 13 and 14. View live-streamed presentations from experts, including ACEEE staff, on the most pressing topics in energy efficiency. Registrants will have exclusive on-demand access to the sessions following the event.



The HOPE for HOMES Act of 2020 was introduced with bipartisan support last week in the House and the Senate. It includes immediate relief and long-term support for residential energy efficiency contractors impacted by COVID-19. Building Performance Association was integrally involved in drafting the bill and is now asking our allies to join us by [signing on to this letter](#) and ask for congressional support



LEED Safety First Pilot Credits: The U.S. Green Building Council released new [LEED guidance](#) to support sustainable best practices for cleaning, workplace re-occupancy, water systems, and indoor air quality during the COVID-19 pandemic.



IMT and the Better Buildings Alliance announced the [2020 Green Lease Leaders awardees](#) in June.



NEEP announces upcoming webinars: [Building Decarbonization Policy Framework Webinar Series](#) and [Smart Energy Homes and Buildings 2020: Evolving Homes and Buildings to Keep up With the Evolving Grid](#)



The 2021 Getting to Zero Forum Call for Speakers is open! Join leading industry experts to share your knowledge of zero energy and zero carbon buildings. Submit by July 10!



We're Hiring!

ACEEE is looking for a new **Senior Director for Research** to oversee research on [a range of topic areas](#) including buildings, industry, transportation, behavior, health, and more. Visit [our website](#) to learn more and apply.

ACEEE seeks a **HR Generalist** with a working knowledge of HR policies, practices, and compliance requirements, including recruiting and hiring, compensation and benefits, employee relations, discrimination and harassment, leave and disability management, payroll, records management, and HRMS-related systems. 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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