



March 2021 Newsletter

Hello Friends—

Spring is right around the corner now, and rarely have its longer days and higher temps been so welcome. I hope you are able to get outdoors to enjoy it.

We released our [GreenerCars'](#) 2021 ratings last week. You might not be surprised to hear that electric vehicles (EVs) and plug-in hybrids topped the list. These ratings came just a few weeks after our [State Transportation Electrification Scorecard](#) evaluated states' actions to make it easier for residents and businesses to use and charge EVs. Yesterday, we shared [a report](#) on state and provincial efforts to price carbon, and we have more to come this month.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you online next week at the [Hot Water Forum](#), the preeminent annual conference on water heating. We will explore pressing topics, including COVID-19's impacts, energy equity, grid-connected water heaters, large-scale system design, and the "quantum leap" technologies that are sweeping the industry. Register at the affordable virtual rate and join us from the comfort of your home.

Please keep us posted on your endeavors.

Best,

Steven Nadel
Executive Director

Highlights



[Carbon Pricing Expands in Canada, Making Slower Progress in the United States](#)

As talk of a carbon tax resurfaces with the start of the Biden administration, some form of carbon pricing applies to an increasing share of the population in the United States and Canada.



[Electric Vehicles Top GreenerCars' 2021 Ratings](#)

All-electric and plug-in hybrids once again score highest on GreenerCars' annual ratings, with models from eight automakers sweeping 10 of the top 12 spots and offering consumers eco-friendly options. The other two models in the top dozen are gasoline hybrids.



As Electric Vehicle Costs Drop, States' Efforts to Ease Barriers Vary Dramatically

With transportation now the largest source of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, several states are taking comprehensive steps to help residents and businesses use and charge EVs, yet many others have done little to reduce barriers, according to our first-of-its-kind report.



Texas Blackouts Offer a Lesson

A key factor driving the blackouts was a sharp increase in power demand, driven by greater heating needs in the unprecedented cold. To help avert the next massive power outage from extreme winter weather, can we mitigate such spikes?



More Companies Are Setting Science-Based Targets to Cut Emissions: Now What?

While a lot of information is available on how to set SBTs, there is surprisingly little on how to achieve them. We examine how companies can pursue these goals while delivering for their business, value chain partners, and the planet.



How Three Small Cities Are Saving Energy and Embracing Renewables

Leading small U.S. cities—like San Luis Obispo in California, St. Louis Park in Minnesota, and Rockville in Maryland—are showing how fellow municipalities across the country can take significant steps to cut energy waste and embrace clean energy.



Strategic Energy Management Programs Expand, Serving New Customers

Commercial and industrial facilities are increasingly embracing strategic energy management to reduce their energy use, thanks in part to new programs from several utilities.

Leading by Example: How Multifamily Real Estate Companies Approach Energy Management and Savings

Private multifamily real estate companies are increasingly integrating energy efficiency into their planning and operations. The results? They are lowering their operating costs, increasing property values, and contributing to climate change mitigation efforts. Our new [topic brief](#) profiles three of these companies and an energy efficiency retrofit project that each has undertaken.

ACEEE in the News

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

- The *State Transportation Electrification Scorecard* was covered nationally by [US News & World Report](#), [Reuters Foundation](#), and [MarketWatch](#), and in media across the country including the [Detroit Free Press](#), [Bangor Daily News](#), and [Deseret News](#) of Salt Lake City.
- Our GreenerCars' ratings were covered by [Forbes](#), [Green Car Reports](#), and [Motor Illustrated](#).
- [Inside Climate News](#) cited ACEEE's energy burden research in a story on low-income Baltimore residents struggling to pay energy bills.

Upcoming Events



[2021 Hot Water Forum: VIRTUAL](#)

March 10–11 and March 17–18

The hot water industry is experiencing a renaissance. Join us as we explore new energy-saving technologies and methods for providing efficient hot water to users in commercial, multifamily, and residential buildings.



[Energy Efficiency Finance Forum: VIRTUAL](#)

May 25–26

Want to know how financing can drive a clean energy future? Join us for the 13th Energy Efficiency Finance Forum to explore cutting-edge initiatives and major opportunities to finance projects that save energy, reduce costs, and create jobs.

Community News

Marianne DiMascio, state policy manager for the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP), testified about the need for new state appliance efficiency standards in [Connecticut](#), [Maryland](#) (starting at 1:30:00), and New Jersey last month. Brian Fadie, state policy associate at ASAP, similarly testified at hearings in [Hawaii](#) last month and in Oregon this week. These are five of more than 10 states that have filed appliance standards legislation in 2021. ASAP is based at ACEEE.



[Arah Schuur](#), Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships' new executive director, began March 1. She succeeds Sue Coakley, NEEP's founder and executive director since 1996. Welcome, Arah! And thank you, Sue, for founding NEEP and nurturing it into a strong and influential organization.

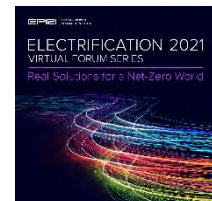


Upcoming Events:

[Lighten the Loads with Luminaire Level Lighting Controls](#) – **March 17** | Research shows LEDs equipped with lighting controls save, on average, up to 63% of energy. And beyond energy efficiency, they offer benefits throughout a building's lifecycle. Learn more at this free event presented by BOMA Oregon in partnership with BetterBricks, a commercial building resource from the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance.

[National Home Performance Conference & Trade Show](#) – **April 12–15** | Join the Building Performance Association for this conference, hosted in Austin, TX, and online. It includes four days of education, networking, and innovation in home and building performance. Stay up to date on the latest developments in electrification and decarbonization, indoor air quality and healthy homes, and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. Register today at events.building-performance.org/national. #NHPC21

[Electrification 2021 Virtual Forum Series](#) – **May 17–20, June 7–10, June 28–30** | The Electric Power Research Institute will be holding three in-depth, topically relevant events designed to enable progress on real-world end-use electrification solutions. From “Building to Zero” to “Frontiers of e-Mobility” and “A Net-Zero Energy System for All,” the forums will provide the opportunity to “continue the conversation” in 2021.



We're Hiring

ACEEE seeks a [Buildings Program director](#), a [research analyst](#) for our Local Policy Program, and a [postdoctoral fellow](#) for our Industrial Program. 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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