



July Newsletter

Friends—

I hope you enjoyed a fun and relaxing 4th of July.

Summer is kicking into high gear now, and that means the [2022 Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Buildings](#) is right around the corner. With an address from Marcia Fudge, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and discussions with hundreds of experts from around the world about their research, this year's "summer camp for energy nerds" is going to be a great event. Rooms at and near Asilomar are filling quickly, so be sure to register soon. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

On another note, we continue to keep an eye on local, state, and federal developments. Among them is a pending [proposal](#) from the Securities and Exchange Commission that would require companies to disclose both the increasing risks they face because of climate change and their efforts to mitigate them. In [comments](#) submitted in June, we recommend that the plan also require companies to consistently report their energy use and energy-saving measures.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court's blockbuster climate decision last week was a major step backward that will seriously hinder the EPA's ability to limit greenhouse gas emissions, including through efficiency policies. We need more solutions for addressing the climate crisis, not fewer.

In transportation, as many [electric vehicles \(EV\) get bigger](#), we recommend that the EPA explore ways to factor EV efficiency into fuel efficiency and greenhouse gas emission standards. To help communities electrify school buses (about 95% of which are now diesel), we released two [StoryMaps](#) showing the potential health benefits of such a switch.

Please keep us posted on your endeavors.

Best,



Steven Nadel
Executive Director

Efficiency Update

- The Biden administration recently announced [a proposal](#) to would phase out the most inefficient gas furnaces, a step that would significantly reduce household costs and climate-warming emissions. The standard would require furnaces to use about 15% less energy than today's most wasteful models, effectively phasing out non-condensing furnaces. The Department of Energy estimates that the standard—potentially the first meaningful efficiency standard update for home furnaces in 35 years—would reduce costs for each affected household by nearly \$500 over the life of a furnace. By law, the standard could not take effect until 5 years after it is finalized.
- The California State Senate is considering a bill, SB 1026, that would require that renters be able to review information about the energy efficiency of a rental unit before signing a lease. The bill would direct the California Energy Commission to create a system to rate or label rental units' efficiency. This policy could help renters find lower-cost housing and spur landlords to make efficiency upgrades. ACEEE has testified in support of the bill, and you can read our [recent report](#) about efficiency disclosure policies for rental housing to learn more.
- New York Governor Kathy Hochul signed a [sweeping bill](#) this week to slash climate change emissions and save New Yorkers hundreds of millions of dollars annually on their utility bills by requiring appliances to be more energy efficient. The bill calls for the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to update energy and water efficiency standards for 7 products already regulated by the state and to set new standards for another 30, including air purifiers, EV chargers, and restaurant equipment.

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

ACEEE in Action



Andrew deLaski [testified](#) before Congress on behalf of ACEEE and the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP) in support of bills to add flexibility to the Weatherization Assistance Program and to clarify water heater standards while authorizing demand response requirements.

What We're Reading

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

- ACEEE and ASAP were cited extensively welcoming DOE's proposed furnace standard, including in the [Wall Street Journal](#), [Yahoo News](#), and [Grist](#).
- A [Newsweek](#) opinion piece coauthored by U.S. Representative Yvette Clark (D-NY)—calling for U.S. spending supporting electric vehicles in frontline communities—cited ACEEE's research on transportation burdens.
- Lowell Ungar, director of federal policy, was quoted on NPR's [Morning Edition](#) arguing that DOE's recent standard for manufactured homes was too weak.

Staff Update

Jacob Wills joins ASAP as its advocacy campaigns manager. Jacob previously worked at the Financial Accountability and Corporate Transparency Coalition on a campaign to ban anonymous shell companies. He holds a master's degree in business administration from The George Washington University and a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Oswego.



We're hiring! ACEEE seeks a [senior director for communications and marketing](#).

Upcoming Events



August 21–26, Pacific Grove, CA



November 13–16, Washington, DC
(Early bird rates end July 31!)



December 8, Washington, DC

Community News

The **Building Performance Association** and **E4TheFuture** are collecting industry signatures supporting HR 7947, a federal bill that would create a Weatherization Readiness Program, leverage existing weatherization funding, and help get energy efficiency services to families that need them most. [Read more](#) and sign on by July 15.

The **Southwest Energy Efficiency Project's** Tammy Fiebelkorn and New Mexico Representative Kristina Ortez discussed the importance of including low-income and frontline communities in climate action plans during a [webinar](#) on June 23. They highlighted programs and policies that assist these communities, reduce their energy costs, and improve public health.

E4TheFuture announced a [report](#) on heat pump performance in Northeast U.S. residential applications, with robust research and analysis for policymakers and program administrators to find useful data about customer experience with—and in-field performance of—cold-climate air source heat pumps designed for whole-home heating and cooling.

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