A close-up photograph of a young girl with light brown hair, looking down and blowing a large, clear bubble. She is holding a red, spiral-shaped bubble wand. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green foliage and sunlight filtering through the trees. The text 'ACEEE 2018 ANNUAL REPORT' is overlaid in white on the bubble.

ACEEE  
2018  
ANNUAL REPORT



Carl Blumstein, ACEEE board chairman for 18 years, passed the duty this year to Penni McLean-Conner.

### Message from the Leadership

Did you know that cutting US electricity use 15% can avoid 30,000 asthma attacks each year? This finding from our 2018 research shows one of the many benefits of energy efficiency. Good jobs, lower utility bills, cleaner air, improved health, and reduced carbon emissions are why the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) is advancing efficiency as the cornerstone of a clean energy future.

To build that future, we took new steps this year. We published pioneering research on the health impacts of reduced energy use, launched the Rural Energy Initiative, convened a utility working group on electric vehicles for low- and moderate-income households, and began partnerships with both the American Cities Climate Challenge and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network.

ACEEE's work spurred progress. At the local level, our research contributed to the 2018 Green Cincinnati Plan, Boston's building tune-up policy, and Denver's home energy disclosure pilot. We advanced efficiency policies and programs in many states, including Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, and Virginia. We helped block federal budget cuts and opposed potential rollbacks of US fuel economy and light bulb standards.

We grew our international efforts, releasing our fourth *International Scorecard* at a new one-day ACEEE symposium on global energy-saving efforts. As the top convener in energy efficiency, we held seven other conferences in 2018, publishing more than 400 papers and attracting nearly 2,500 attendees.

We thank Carl Blumstein for serving 18 years as chairman of ACEEE's board before passing the baton this year to Penni McLean-Conner. We also appreciate your support as we pursue our challenging but exciting mission to build a clean energy future for all.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As of December 2018

### Leadership

Penni McLean-Conner, *Chair*  
Eversource Energy

Scott Bernstein, *President*  
Center for Neighborhood Technology

Alison Silverstein, *Secretary*  
Alison Silverstein Consulting

Timothy M. Stout, *Treasurer*  
Northam Consulting

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Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Carl Blumstein  
California Institute for Energy and Environment

Denise Fairchild  
Emerald Cities Collaborative

Mandy Mahoney  
Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance

Monica Martinez  
Ruben Strategy Group

Steve Morgan  
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Francis J. Murray, Jr.  
New York State Energy Research and  
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Clay Nesler  
Johnson Controls

David Parekh  
United Technologies Research Center

Dan W. Reicher  
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ICF International

Mitchell Simpson  
Arkansas Energy Office

Susan Stratton  
Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

Jud W. Virden, Jr.  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Kathrin Winkler  
Independent Consultant

Paul Young  
City of Memphis

# 2018 by the Numbers

**2.35**

million+  
jobs working on  
energy efficiency

**\$42B**

annual US  
efficiency  
investments

**15**

quads  
energy saved  
from fuel  
economy and  
appliance  
standards

**27**

states with  
energy efficiency  
resource  
standards



**25%**

annual growth in  
aceee.org traffic

**29**

ACEEE reports,  
papers, briefs

**1,400+**

media stories  
on ACEEE work

**20K+**

ACEEE social  
media followers



Left: Senior advisor for research Shruti Vaidyanathan kicks off the new International Symposium on Energy Efficiency. Right: Senior researcher David Ribeiro discusses decarbonizing cities and communities at the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Katowice, Poland.

## ***Your Chandelier May Be Trump's Next Regulatory Rollback Target***

**Bloomberg**

August 8, 2018

### **Identified value of light bulb standards**

Energy-efficient light bulbs are an incredible US success story. Because of federal efficiency standards, consumers now enjoy low-cost, high-quality LEDs. With a rollback looming, ACEEE showed that the 2020 standards would save consumers \$12 billion (\$100 per household) each year by 2025—a finding later cited by 17 state and city attorneys general, 37 electric utilities, and House Energy and Commerce Committee chairman Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ) to support the standards.

### **Defended fuel economy**

Amid a push to roll back US standards for cars and light trucks, ACEEE debunked administration claims that the standards would increase highway fatalities and pick-up truck costs. We calculated how much the rollback would increase carbon emissions, and Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) cited the result on the US Senate floor. We also documented that fuel efficiency is one of the top factors Americans consider when buying a car.

### **Blocked federal budget cuts**

Faced with deep federal funding cuts, ACEEE used fact sheets and outreach on Capitol Hill to make the economic case for energy efficiency programs.

Congress ultimately increased 2019 funding for most of these programs. We also led a coalition of trade associations and energy groups to develop long-term tax incentives for building efficiency.

### **Boosted appliance efficiency**

ACEEE showed that efficiency standards for appliances spur economic growth in every US state, supporting nearly 300,000 jobs in 2016 and a projected 553,000 jobs in 2030. We drafted model legislation to establish new state standards for 21 products, and Vermont enacted a law covering 16 products. We made substantial progress in Massachusetts, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Washington, paving the way for 2019 legislation, and we advised on related efforts in New York and California.

## ***States spent \$400M more last year on energy efficiency, ACEEE finds***



UTILITY DIVE

October 5, 2018

### **Increased utility savings**

Our research showed that utilities, with increased efficiency investments, boosted their electricity savings enough this year to power 2.5 million homes. To spur further progress, ACEEE helped Michigan to set higher energy savings goals, Pennsylvania to propose increased efficiency investments, and Virginia to pass and implement legislation that will boost spending on utility efficiency programs.



Left: Utilities Program manager Rachel Gold presents at the ACEEE Ally Retreat. Right: Senior research analyst Ariel Drehobl shares strategies for reducing low-income energy burden in Memphis.



***Massachusetts ranked most energy efficient state, Wyoming worst: study***

October 4, 2018

**Advanced state policies**

US states can deliver huge energy savings. ACEEE helped Oregon to develop lead-by-example efficiency programs, Oklahoma to thwart efforts to eliminate efficiency rules, and Pennsylvania to launch an agricultural efficiency program. We spurred healthy state competition with our *2018 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, identifying the leaders (Massachusetts and California) and those with the most room to improve (North Dakota, West Virginia, and Wyoming). New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy called the *Scorecard* "an important yardstick by which we can gauge the short- and long-term effects of our policies."

***The Greenest Places: Which American cities are the most energy efficient?***

The New York Times | September 27, 2018

**Expanded city efforts**

ACEEE engaged more than 50 cities through targeted working groups and technical assistance. We advised Boston on its building tune-up policy and Denver on its home energy disclosure pilot. As a new official partner of Bloomberg Philanthropies' American Cities Climate Challenge, we began work

on an expanded 2019 *Scorecard* that tracks the efforts of 75 US cities (up from 51 in 2017) in more areas, including renewable energy and social equity.

**Tackled inequity in energy bills**

To make energy affordable for everyone, ACEEE spotlighted the high energy burden of some households. We found that rural US households, especially low-income ones, spend 40% more of their income on energy bills than their metropolitan counterparts—a finding Representative James Clyburn (D-SC) shared in a letter to House colleagues. We led two working groups that represent 70 utilities and helped to increase energy efficiency programs for low-income customers. In 2017, 45% of cities had such comprehensive programs; by 2019, 76% did.

**Strengthened building codes**

Because buildings hold enormous potential to save energy, ACEEE advocated for more efficient HVAC equipment and stricter building codes. We successfully pushed to include greater boiler system efficiency in the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers' (ASHRAE's) 2019 code for commercial buildings. Our research showed that homes can often reduce energy use and emissions by incorporating smart technologies and by replacing oil and propane furnaces and water heaters with high-efficiency electric heat pumps.



ACEEE helped educate the next generation of energy leaders by awarding Linda Latham scholarships to students across the globe to attend our 2018 Summer Study on Buildings.

### **Conference on Health, Environment, and Energy**

At this inaugural conference in New Orleans, ACEEE explored the health and environmental benefits of saving energy. Our research found that cutting energy use and its pollution can reduce the number of asthma attacks, avoid premature deaths, and help 32 states comply with US air quality regulations. We presented our findings at more than 20 convenings and worked with many stakeholders, including NASA, the American Public Health Association, and the American Hospital Association.

### ***Germany, Italy, & Japan Lead Global Energy Efficiency Rankings, Says ACEEE***



July 21, 2018

### **Rural Energy Conference**

People living in rural America often have disproportionately high energy bills. To understand and serve their needs, ACEEE brought together policymakers, utility leaders, and program administrators for an inaugural convening in Atlanta. Clean Energy Works' founder Holmes Hummel called the event "historic." Senior US Department of Agriculture officials used it to announce the availability of USDA funding to replace manufactured housing in rural areas with energy-efficient alternatives.

### ***Car Buyers Say They'd Pay for Better Fuel Economy***



June 12, 2018

### **National Convening on Utilities and Electric Vehicles**

ACEEE held this new one-day convening in Atlanta to explore grid integration of electric vehicles (EV), which hold great potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We formed a utility working group to address equity issues in EV integration. EVs, once again, dominated the Greenest List of our annual Greencars.org ranking.

### **International Symposium on Energy Efficiency**

To increase energy savings worldwide, ACEEE highlighted the findings from our 2018 *International Energy Efficiency Scorecard* and other global efforts at this new one-day event in Washington DC. Of the 25 countries we evaluated, Germany and Italy tied for first, followed by France, the United Kingdom, and Japan. The United States ranked 10th, falling two spots from the prior 2016 scorecard. ACEEE has expanded its work in India, Canada, and Taiwan and has presented its research at workshops and conferences in Germany, Argentina, France, and Poland.



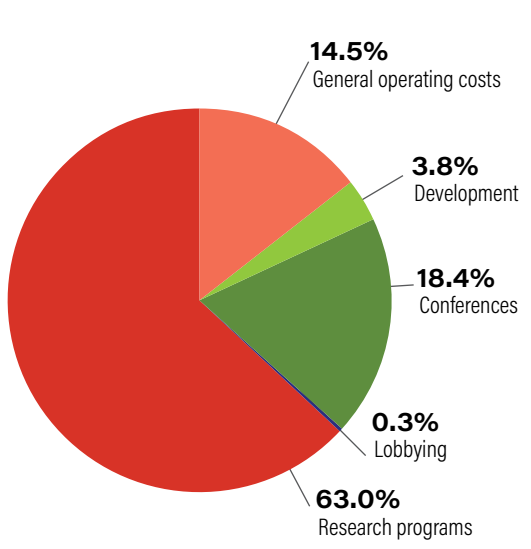
ACEEE helped plan the third annual Energy Efficiency Day on October 5, 2018, officially recognized in proclamations by the US Senate and 57 cities, counties, states, and universities.

**ACEEE financial overview**

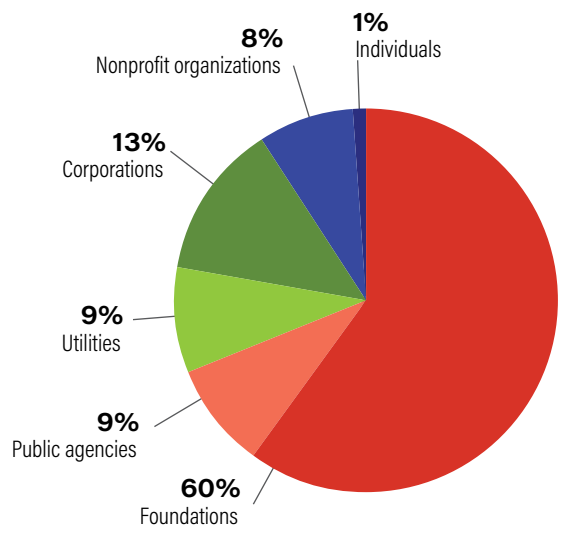
In 2018, ACEEE's total unrestricted revenues totaled \$9.45 million, including contributions from foundations, public agencies, utilities, corporations, nonprofit organizations, and individuals.

Total unrestricted operating expenses for the year were \$9.43 million. Expenditures for research programs and conferences accounted for 81.4% of these expenses. Development costs and lobbying costs were 3.8% and 0.3%, respectively, with the remaining 14.5% attributable to general operating costs. Total unrestricted reserves were \$4.7 million, which is equivalent to almost six months of expenses.

Expenses



Revenue



Learn more about ACEEE supporters: <http://aceee.org/about/aceee-finances>



*New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy: "ACEEE's 2018 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard is an important yardstick by which we can gauge the short- and long-term effects of our policies."*

*Rick Counihan, Nest: "ACEEE is the definitive arbiter of what is energy efficient and what is not. If ACEEE says X, Y, Z saves energy, you can be confident that it does."*

*David Goldstein, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC): "ACEEE has become, really, the go-to group for forecasting on a scenario basis—what would happen if we did this energy efficiency action."*

*Stephen Harper, Intel: "ACEEE played a key neutral convening role in bringing together all key parties in developing a new Energy Star standard for data center servers that advances energy efficiency while enabling IT innovation."*

*Karla Butterfield, Steven Winter Associates: "The 2018 Health, Environment, and Energy Conference was AWESOME. Great networking, great presentations, and great food!"*

*Preston Thomas, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development: "ACEEE does a tremendous job of showcasing technical information in a truly understandable format."*

*Payson Tilden, JEA: "The ACEEE low-income working group has been an excellent source for learning about other utility programs across the nation and discovering what works and what doesn't."*