



EESI IMPACT

Environmental and Energy Study Institute



APRIL 2021

You are critical to achieving a sustainable, resilient, and equitable world!

CONGRESSIONAL CLIMATE CAMP BRIEFING SERIES

Providing the tools Congress needs to make good decisions at a critical moment

BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS, AND STIMULUS

"The highest multipliers and numbers of jobs that can be created are in energy efficiency investments. Those are jobs that have to be done in the U.S.; they're construction jobs; they're often union jobs so they're often very high paying."



DR. KAREN WAYLAND
CEO, kW Energy Strategies,
Former Senior Advisor to the
Deputy Secretary, U.S.
Department of Energy

FEDERAL POLICY TO DECARBONIZE HIGH-EMISSION SECTORS

"With climate change change, there is no way to tackle the problem without completely rethinking our transportation system. And it starts in the short-term with electrification."



JOHN PORCARI
Managing Partner at
3P Enterprises, Former
Deputy Secretary of
Transportation

MAKING CLEAN ENERGY ACHIEVABLE FOR ALL

Many Americans would like to improve the energy efficiency and comfort of their homes. Others would like to install solar panels. Everyone wants to cut their energy bills—and be part of the solution to climate change in the process. But many clean energy upgrades' high upfront costs make them hard for many to afford, even when they're cost effective.

Energy upgrade programs must be equitable and inclusive if they are to become widespread quickly. To spread the word about this approach, EESI's Miguel Yanez wrote a peer-reviewed paper, *Inclusive Financing Programs for Solar and Electrification* (www.eesi.org/obf2020). It spotlights programs in Hawaii and Washington and explores why this approach is so successful.

You make it possible for us to design equitable financing programs, enabling people to pay back these upgrades on their energy bills over time. Federal zero-interest loans to rural utilities and green banks make the numbers work. Families end up with lower bills and greatly decreased carbon emissions!

In the last year, EESI has worked with 30 utilities and 10 green banks to develop and implement equitable and inclusive on-bill financing programs in 18 states. Thank you for being a part of this.



Credit: Highway Inn, Hawaii

Monica Toguchi Ryan and Russell Ryan of Highway Inn installed solar panels thanks to an on-bill financing program EESI helped launch in Hawai'i.

**WHAT WE ARE
CREATING
TOGETHER**

- Clean, decarbonized energy—affordable and accessible for all
- Resilient, healthy, just communities ready for climate change impacts
- Informed decision-makers motivated and equipped to act now

100 DAYS IN



The first 100 days of a new administration are always critical for new presidents and their allies in Congress. This year, providing relief to the year-long COVID-19 pandemic was the top priority. And close on its heels was a rapid mobilization of an all-of-government response to address the threat of climate change.

Shortly after being inaugurated, President Biden signed an executive order to return the United States to the Paris Agreement. One week later, the White House released a sweeping set of actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, help communities adapt to climate change, and ensure that our transition to a decarbonized, clean energy economy is just and equitable.

You are helping position EESI to work with the Biden-Harris Administration and Congress so these important initial plans become durable, high-impact policy solutions. You are making it possible for policymakers to focus on issues that have major potential to deliver emission reductions and boost community resilience. These issues include grid modernization, energy system investments, and a national climate bank to finance climate change solutions at the magnitude necessary to prevent the worst outcomes of a warming planet.

Thanks for working with us to achieve a sustainable, resilient, and equitable world.


Daniel Bresette,
Executive Director

WHY ART MATTERS: STREET MURALS BOLSTER COMMUNITY AND RE-IMAGINE TRANSPORTATION

By: Richard Nunno

This past year, my neighbors and I have been working on getting a project approved to paint a bright mural on two corners of a street intersection so that pedestrians will feel more comfortable walking through, fostering community building.

This type of project is known as asphalt art. Asphalt art, at the intersection of arts and transportation, is any kind of creative intervention on transportation infrastructure. Asphalt art projects improve crosswalks and slow down car traffic with planters, bollards, and



colorful markings that emphasize that the space is designated for pedestrians.

While the street murals may be temporary, the projects often lead to more permanent changes as residents become used to seeing the space as more than just a sidewalk or street gutter collecting leaves and debris, or a spot for cars to park. Street murals often lead to significantly increased retail sales in the area and reduced vehicular speeds.

Street murals help residents realize that they do not have to accept their transportation system's status quo, but that they can be active participants in change. Giving people the right to paint their streets can encourage them to become more involved in the decision-making process for future planning of the street's uses.

Regarding my own street project, we are hoping to get two more signatures and get the city where I live, Portland, OR, to grant the permit this spring.



EESI FELLOW SPOTLIGHT RICHARD NUNNO

Rick has been a fellow with EESI for nearly 4 years.



Q: What do you like about being a fellow at EESI?

I really enjoy working with a professional team on topics of climate change, environmental sustainability, and conservation, and having my written works published.

Q: What do you focus your work on at EESI?

Mostly transportation issues and urban planning—but I'm open to other topics as well!

Q: What gives you hope when you think about climate change?

It gives me hope to see that climate change has become a much more visible issue for everyone, causing people to work together to solve problems.



HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IN FOCUS

Too many Americans face some sort of energy insecurity, such as receiving a disconnect notice, keeping one's home at an unhealthy temperature, or reducing spending on basic necessities to pay an energy bill.

You helped raise awareness about the costs and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic downturn for housing and energy affordability, and you helped equip policymakers to drive a recovery that prioritizes solutions to these issues. To that end, EESI organized a briefing that explored the issues faced by communities hard-hit by the economic crisis; electric, gas and water shutoffs; and evictions. The harmful effects of the crisis have been felt unevenly, with unjust burdens crushing low-income, Black, Indigenous, and people-of-color communities. More Black and Hispanic households than white households are experiencing energy insecurity.

EESI's briefing speakers offered possible solutions: The Biden-Harris Administration and many in Congress are proposing increases in energy, water, and rental assistance and other provisions that protect against shutoffs and evictions. Panelists discussed the threats to communities and the policy solutions already in place—including the CARES Act and the COVID-19 Economic Relief Bill—as well as the relief package that was then being debated: the American Rescue Plan.

We are so grateful that you are part of the work towards these solutions.



Andreanecia Morris, President of the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance, speaking at EESI's Relief and Housing Assistance for COVID-Impacted Communities briefing in February

IN THE KNOW: FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDIES

WHAT ARE THEY?



Fossil fuel subsidies give fossil fuels advantages over other sources of energy, or direct or indirect incentives that artificially decrease the cost of coal, oil, and gas production and consumption.

WHY DON'T WE NEED THEM?



U.S. direct subsidies for fossil fuels cost about \$20 billion each year. Counting indirect subsidies puts the total closer to \$650 billion. Consider all the clean and equitable investments we could be making instead of making it cheaper to use coal, oil, and gas.

HOW DO WE MOVE AWAY FROM THEM?



The Biden-Harris Administration tasked agencies to identify all existing fossil fuel subsidies. Congress will need to help by ending lucrative tax breaks for coal, oil, and gas. Increased use of biofuels would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support rural economies.

ON THE HORIZON

With your help, EESI is advancing science-based solutions for climate change, energy, and environmental challenges.

JOB AND GROWTH

- A fact sheet showcasing the impact of clean energy jobs
- Continue emphasizing the need to provide job opportunities for at-risk communities



ENHANCING DEMOCRACY

- Congressional Climate Camp #4 on April 30 focuses on adaptation and mitigation win-wins
- A summer briefing series on energy system modernization



FINANCING

- On-bill financing for clean energy
- National Climate Bank
- Tax policy for climate solutions



SIGN UP FOR AN EXCLUSIVE DISCUSSION WITH OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR!



Progress on climate in the first 100 days...

And what's next?



*Donor Video Call
with Daniel Bresette*

Thursday, April 29, 3-4pm EDT

Sign up:
eesi.org/100days
or call 202-662-1887

EESI is my go-to source for information on federal climate policy. The briefings are interesting, the fact sheets are informative, the staff is helpful, and I love getting Climate Change Solutions every other week!

-- ASAYYED555
GREAT NONPROFITS USER

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- Walk or bike when you can
- Donate for progress on climate
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