

EESI IMPACT

Environmental and Energy Study Institute



October 2022

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

2022 CONGRESSIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICY FORUM



The Policy Forum featured an interview with Senate Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus Co-chairs Sens. Jack Reed (D-R.I.) and Mike Crapo (R-Idaho).



The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Buildings and Workforce panel included Paula Glover, Jason Walsh, Curt Rich, and Jeannie Salo.

On July 25, 2022, EESI hosted the 25th annual Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy Forum.

At our **first in-person event** on Capitol Hill since February 2020, influential figures in energy policy and industry discussed their **work to mitigate climate change, improve the economy, build resilience, and protect our security interests**—and how the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law helps.



GREEN BANKS AND EESI SPUR CLEAN ENERGY ADOPTION

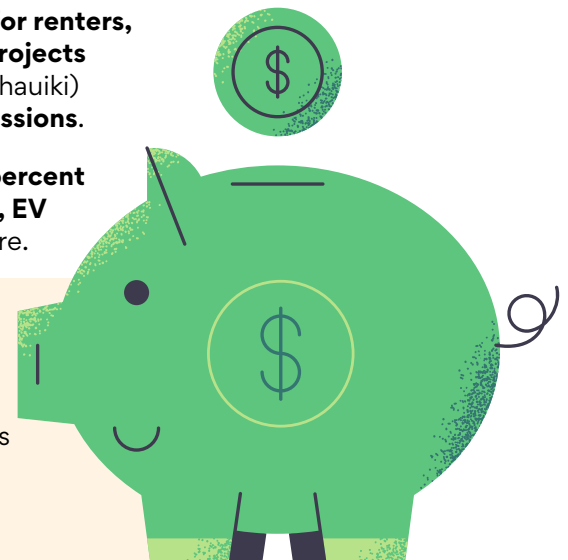
EESI's on-bill financing initiative helps households and businesses make **renewable energy and energy efficiency upgrades** through programs that provide low-cost financing based on good bill payment history rather than credit scores.

An example of this work in action is the **Green Energy Money Saver (GEM\$)** program, which launched in Hawaii in April 2019 with **EESI's advice for program design and implementation**. With funding from Hawaii's green bank, GEM\$ is available to all Hawaiian Electric Company customers, which is about 95 percent of residents of the state.

GEM\$ has successfully **increased access to and ownership of solar energy for renters, homeowners, businesses, and nonprofits**. So far, GEM\$ has financed **400 projects** (mostly rooftop solar, as pictured above in the GEM\$-funded microgrid in Kahauiki) totaling **\$18 million**, preventing **106,294 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions**.

Recently, the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded GEM\$ **the first zero-percent loan for a green bank**. The \$20 million loan will help finance **battery storage, EV charging stations, community and on-site solar, energy efficiency**, and more.

The new **Inflation Reduction Act** provides \$27 billion towards the creation of a **national climate bank**, which will in turn direct money to state and local green banks to develop new inclusive financing programs like GEM\$. This will supercharge green banks' ability to support rural cooperatives and utilities as they build and evaluate their own **inclusive on-bill financing programs**.



UP NEXT, IMPLEMENTING THE IRA

Now that Congress has delivered **\$369 billion in historic climate investments**, here comes the really hard part: quick, equitable, and effective **implementation**.

Much of this will fall on federal agencies to get the “money out the door” to eagerly-awaiting states and local governments that will put these funds to good use.

But **Congress has a critical role to play** to ensure these investments are made as intended and promises of **environmental justice** are fulfilled.

You are making possible educational resources to help policymakers (and the public, including you) track different initiatives and document successes from across the country.

Already, you helped highlight the massive commitment embedded in the *Inflation Reduction Act* to **boosting energy efficiency, electrifying homes and commercial buildings, and encouraging people to buy electric vehicles**.

EESI’s interactive **Beneficial Electrification Toolkit**, which just launched in June, is already helping utilities, states, and local governments design programs and offer inclusive on-bill financing to further leverage the new funding.

We have to get this right. Even though it will not be easy—and it might get a little messy at times—the urgency of climate change demands it. **You are making invaluable resources available** right from the start and all the way through to timely and equitable implementation.

Thank you for your commitment to advancing climate change solutions.



Daniel Bresette,
Executive Director

TO-DO LIST FOR CONGRESS ON CLIMATE

- Boost **resilience** and plan for climate **adaptation**
- Help communities affected by **severe weather**, including **wildfires and drought**
- Meet our **international climate finance** commitments
- End wasteful **fossil fuel subsidies**
- Oversee **quick and equitable implementation** of the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- Send a delegation to observe negotiations at the **COP27 climate talks**
- Write a new **Farm Bill that advances agriculture climate solutions**

STRATEGIES

Here are **the ways you are helping** make sure funds from historic climate legislation are doing the most good for those who need it the most:



Policymaker
Education



Inclusive
Financing
Technical
Assistance



Media
Relations



Public
Education



Advocacy



Collaboration

WHAT WE ACHIEVE TOGETHER



Clean, decarbonized energy—
affordable and accessible for all



Resilient, healthy, just communities
ready for climate change impacts



Informed decisionmakers motivated
and equipped to act now

STAY CONNECTED

Contact Us:
202-662-1887
hello@eesi.org

Subscribe to our emails
for zero-waste updates:
eesi.org/signup

Engage through social media:

@eesionline



SPOTLIGHT NEW BOARD MEMBERS



BARBARA MARTINEZ

Director of Science (Land), Science and Innovation Team, National Geographic Society

I am eager to serve on the board of EESI as it plays a critical role in convening science and policy experts to bring attention to feasible and high-impact climate change solutions. EESI's programming and content is a reliable source of curated and scientifically accurate information for decisionmakers.

I joined EESI's board because of the quality of the information and dialog it enables, with a sense of urgency in mind. Building resilience to climate shocks and stressors needs to be on par with our efforts to mitigate climate change. I want to continue to explore resilience and adaptation issues through the rigorous lens and approach that is a hallmark of EESI.



KURT SHICKMAN

Director of Extreme Heat Initiatives, Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center, Atlantic Council



IN THE KNOW REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

WHAT IS IT?

Farming that is in sync with the local environment and climate

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Regenerative agriculture produces multiple economic, climate, and societal benefits

HOW CAN FEDERAL POLICY HELP?

Policies can help scale up regenerative agriculture stewardship, support the next generation of farmers and ranchers, and fund regenerative agriculture research and education programs



WHAT YOU ARE MAKING POSSIBLE

SEPTEMBER

Exploring electric buses, energy-efficient buildings, and food waste reduction strategies in a **Back-to-School** briefing



OCTOBER

Preparing policymakers for global climate negotiations across four **COP27** briefings



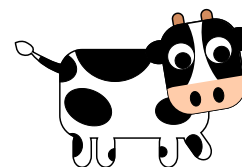
NOVEMBER

Informing policymakers about all the developments at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, including through a **daily email newsletter**



LATE 2022/EARLY 2023

Covering a wide range of issues in the **2023 Farm Bill**, including conservation and forestry, inclusive financing, and rural development



EARLY 2023

Informing the new Congress about policy mechanisms to address climate change, through our **Congressional Climate Camp**




DONATE NOW FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS!

The Inflation Reduction Act passed. Now we must ensure effective implementation!



- Give online right now eesi.org/donate
- Mail a check
- Give stock

Want to receive EESI's post-election analysis?

Write to hello@eesi.org 

EESI
1020 19TH STREET, NW, SUITE 400
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

