



# EESI IMPACT

Environmental and Energy Study Institute



OCTOBER 2020

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

## WORKFORCE WEDNESDAYS BRIEFING SERIES >>>>>>>>>>>>>

Sharing just transition success stories with policymakers

### A NEW SPIN ON CONSERVATION CORPS



**JOSH OWENS**  
Social Enterprise Manager at Green City Force

"We come in to educate residents on sustainability as well as swapping out inefficient lining, aerators, and shower heads to try to reduce that water flow."



Credit: Green City Force

### ENERGY TRANSITIONS IN COAL COUNTRY

"I am proud to be leading the *Marshall Plan for Coal Country Act*. This bill would enhance funding for research and investment in clean coal technology and would provide support for small businesses, entrepreneurs, and families in coal country to establish thriving local communities."



**U.S. SEN. TAMMY DUCKWORTH**

## GROWING GREEN JOBS, ONE OYSTER AT A TIME

What if aquaculture was offered as a four-year program in public schools? Bryan Butler, Aquaculture Teacher at Ocean Springs High School in Mississippi, had the same thought and decided to try it out! As part of EESI's Workforce Wednesdays briefing series, Butler and others in innovative Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs across the United States shared their experiences. Since 2016, students at Ocean Springs have learned to manage fresh and saltwater tanks that house both produce and a variety of fish and shellfish.

As the price of a college education continues to skyrocket, the gap between those who can afford a degree and those who cannot continues to expand. That's why exposure to CTE programs is vital for students at an early age.

**Public school Career and Technical Education programs help bridge the equity gap and provide smooth transitions into the workforce by teaching valuable work skills to young adults.**




Many of Butler's students go on to pursue careers in biology, and others start their own horticulture and aquaponics companies and produce food for sale.



Bryan Butler and his students celebrate their sustainable oyster harvest.

Photo courtesy Bryan Butler

## 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

# WELCOME TO EESI IMPACT!



Welcome to the first print issue of *EESI Impact*! You enable us to do so much across a wide range of

climate, environmental, and clean energy topics. There is so much to tell you about, so hopefully you find this new format appealing and easy to read. Please feel free to pass along feedback.

Although the impacts and risks of climate change are obvious, the impetus to act remains elusive. EESI is giving policymakers the information and educational resources they need along with case studies of successful programs already underway. One topic that is attracting more attention lately is financing. This newsletter includes an update about rural utilities becoming increasingly interested in “beneficial electrification”—switching from fossil-fuel-fired appliances to money-saving electric alternatives that reduce emissions.

And then we have the election. I will save my commentary on that for later. As it happens, we are planning a special, interactive webinar for EESI donors and supporters for Friday, Nov. 20, to help interpret the results in terms of climate policy. Invitations will be sent by e-mail, so make sure you are signed up for our digital newsletters and notices so you never miss a thing. I hope you will join us.

Thanks for your commitment to advancing climate change solutions.

  
Daniel Bresette,  
Executive Director



## INTERN REFLECTIONS BRIDGET WILLIAMS

When I started my internship with EESI, the staff made it clear that they wanted interns to feel valued by the organization. Being treated with respect and given substantive tasks by EESI’s smart and hardworking team prepared me for a “real” job and showed me the great things I can achieve when given the opportunity and guidance.

As the summer Communications and Policy intern, I was involved in a wide variety of projects and worked with many staff members. My “comms” work included running the Facebook and Twitter pages, creating infographics, and tracking social media metrics. I also worked with the comms team on social media projects, including various engagement campaigns and revamping the Instagram feed.

For EESI’s policy team, I wrote articles on innovative climate change solutions across the country. The team helped me pick topics that allowed me to expand upon my interests and aligned with EESI’s goals. I was thrilled to be given the chance to interview experts like John Porcari, President Obama’s deputy secretary of transportation, and Michael Arquin, the founder of KidWind. After sharing one of my articles with my representatives in the North Carolina State Legislature, one asked me to help inform a clean energy bill she was drafting. Over the summer, I also wrote a fact sheet on sustainability initiatives at ports across the country.

My experience at EESI completely outdid any expectations I could have imagined. Thanks to EESI, I feel confident in my ability to enter the workforce as a positive, productive member of any organization.



### ON THE HORIZON

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



#### FACT SHEETS

- Green jobs
- Resilience financing



#### BRIEFINGS

- Sustainable transportation
- 2020 climate commitments



#### RURAL ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM

- Loans to help reduce emissions and lower energy bills



#### GREEN BANKS

- Innovative financing for homeowners and small businesses



## COASTAL RESILIENCE IN FOCUS

From intense hurricanes to raging wildfires, the country is experiencing climate impacts today. You are enabling essential research and policy improvements that allow people in the most affected communities to live safer and more sustainable lives.

You have already helped EESI present a 16-part briefing series on coastal resilience. Now, the findings discussed during those briefings are being synthesized into an actionable report for federal policymakers based on policies and practices developed and tested by communities across the U.S. In the Great Lakes region, for example, 11 Ojibwe tribes are working together to assess the climate vulnerability of culturally important animals and plants, and they developed a Tribal Climate Adaptation Menu to guide resource management decisions. On the Gulf Coast, Louisiana's Strategic Adaptations for Future Environments initiative supports training of local leaders on coastal development, race and leadership, organizing, and advocacy.

From nature-based restoration projects in San Francisco Bay to inclusive federal-state-tribal partnerships in Alaska to major storm recovery strategies in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, a mosaic of climate adaptation and resilience solutions are emerging from all regions of the country.

Based on these examples, EESI's report will include recommendations for new policies and programs to boost resilience in coastal areas. You will soon be able to read about the work you are making possible. If you are not already subscribed to EESI's *Climate Change Solutions* newsletter, please sign up at [eesi.org/signup](https://eesi.org/signup), and we will be sure to email it to you!



EESI's resilience briefings and report include solutions being carried out by Casa Pueblo and others in Puerto Rico.

Credit: Casa Pueblo de Adjuntas

## IN THE KNOW: BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION

**WHAT?** Beneficial electrification is replacing fossil-fuel-consuming appliances, equipment, and vehicles with electric alternatives—delivering economic and environmental benefits to families and businesses.

**WHY?** In many parts of the country, especially where renewable energy is on the rise, generating and consuming electricity results in lower greenhouse gas emissions than burning natural gas, propane, and fuel oil. Plus, removing fossil fuel combustion from buildings can improve indoor air quality.

**HOW?** EESI is working with a growing number of rural cooperative and municipal utilities to encourage customers to switch to electric heat pumps, water heaters, cars, and trucks, including by providing convenient, low-cost on-bill financing options.

## MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



### Raya Salter Esq.

- Attorney, consultant, educator and clean energy law and policy expert
- More than 20 years as a lawyer and advocate working for the nation's most prominent firms and environmental and social service organizations



### Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Jeffrey W. Talley

- American businessman, scholar, and retired three-star general
- The 32nd Chief of Army Reserve and an experienced environmental engineer

**MAKE YOUR INNER  
WHIZ KID HAPPY BY  
POWERING CLIMATE  
SOLUTIONS!**



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## **BE SURE TO CATCH SPECIAL EVENTS**

Curious about the future  
of climate policy?

EESI's Post-Election  
Analysis

Email only  
(sign up below)



Discussion with Dan

Video call with  
Executive Director  
Nov. 20, 1pm EST



Sign up:  
[eesi.org/2020analysis](https://eesi.org/2020analysis)

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