

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



EESI

Environmental and
Energy Study Institute





The year 2015 was a turning point for global climate action and clean energy and the momentum continues this year! In December, 195 countries meeting in Paris, France, unanimously agreed on an international pact to cut carbon emissions and keep global warming significantly below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 F). To achieve those goals, the world will need to accelerate its transition to clean energy—and we’re already on our way.

In the United States, almost two-thirds of new electricity generation last year was from renewable sources—solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, and hydro. These clean energy sources benefit the climate and improve public health by reducing air pollution. Moreover, using local, renewable energy sources enhances our energy security, improves community resilience, and often leads to significant job creation. The move to clean energy is not confined to our country—indeed, in one of our Hill briefings, EESI highlighted many of the actions China is taking to develop its clean energy (numerous policymakers and reporters were in attendance to learn more about China’s initiatives). And the move to clean energy is not limited to electricity generation: sustainable communities, with green buildings and multi-modal sustainable transportation options, will help us achieve the transition to a carbon-free economy.

Now is the time to move forward. Your role is critical. As EESI’s friends, subscribers, and donors, you can learn more from our forums and newsletters and share the information with your friends. You can donate—we’re not funded by Congress (as some think), though we were founded by a bipartisan group of members of Congress who knew that addressing critical environmental issues is not a partisan issue. This role is more critical than ever today!

You and I know that by showcasing practical, cost-effective solutions with multiple benefits, we can drive bipartisan policymaking action and accelerate our transition to sustainability. In this report, you’ll read how you helped us:

- hold 21 Congressional briefings on key climate and energy issues;
- become a go-to organization for rural electric co-ops seeking to make their members’ homes more energy efficient;
- highlight the need for investing in climate change adaptation to protect vulnerable communities (one tribe we featured in a briefing has now received federal dollars to relocate because of rising seas); and
- successfully make the case for federal investments in mass transit throughout the nation (the federal transportation bill passed in December was more transit-friendly than many had expected).

All of those accomplishments, and many more, were only achieved with your help. With your continued support, we are confident that 2016 and beyond will build on the successes of 2015.

Carol Werner, Executive Director

About EESI

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute is an independent, non-profit organization advancing innovative policy solutions to set us on a cleaner, more secure and sustainable energy path. Founded by a bipartisan Congressional caucus, EESI’s strong relationship with Congress helps us serve as a trusted source of credible, non-partisan information on energy and environmental issues. EESI receives no Congressional funding and is supported by generous donors and grants.



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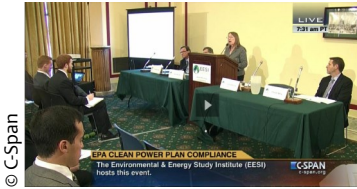


EESI’s annual report is available to the public on our website, at www.eesi.org/annual_reports.
EESI is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.
EIN: 52-1268030

Accomplishments: Top 10 in 2015

1

Informed Congress and the policy community about EPA's Clean Power Plan, examining options for states and low-income communities



EESI convened three briefings to examine key policy and legal issues associated with EPA's Clean Power Plan, finalized in August 2015 but placed on hold by the Supreme Court in February 2016. The Clean Power Plan is the first time carbon emissions from existing power plants, which accounted for 38.7 percent of domestic carbon emissions in 2014, would be limited in the United States. The

three briefings were covered in multiple media outlets, including *ClimateWire*, *Fierce Energy*, *Penn Energy*, and *The Washington Examiner*. One of the briefings—*How Can States Comply with the Clean Power Plan?*—was carried live on C-Span. In 2016, EESI has continued to examine issues associated with the Clean Power Plan, including impacts and opportunities for low-income communities and communities of color.

2

Became a "go-to" organization for rural electric utilities launching on-bill financing programs for clean energy home upgrades

EESI's On-Bill Financing Assistance Project is an ongoing initiative aimed at helping families reduce their energy usage, cut energy bills, and improve home comfort—all with no upfront costs. In 2015, EESI's partnerships in Michigan and Iowa led to the development of on-bill financing programs with utilities in those states, with additional promising opportunities in Iowa, New Mexico, Minnesota, and Missouri. The White House sees on-bill financing as a key, low-cost way for states to meet the Clean Power Plan's goals and help families struggling with high electricity bills; it has asked EESI to help make its rural energy efficiency loan program friendlier to potential borrowers.

3

Brought attention to the health dangers of gasoline emissions



EESI called attention to the pressing need to clean up our vehicle fuels, both to protect the climate and to protect our health. In addition to representing 27 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, tailpipe emissions from gasoline and diesel vehicles release ground-level ozone and other potent air toxics, such as particulate matter and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). These pollutants have been linked to a host of health and developmental issues. Auto manufacturers say new efficient-engine technology needs cleaner fuels to achieve higher performance. To inform the EPA and the public on this, EESI organized briefings and published fact sheets, press releases, and an op-ed.

4

Called for action to help communities face the impacts of climate change

Communities are already experiencing the impacts of climate change, including increases in extreme weather and rising sea levels. Many of these communities do not have the resources to respond to climate impacts through adaptation strategies to improve their resilience, making federal assistance critical for them. EESI's series of four briefings and one issue brief made the case for climate change adaptation and increased resilience, and provided options for action. Better preparedness saves lives and money. For every \$1 spent in disaster preparation and planning, U.S. taxpayers save \$4 in recovery costs after an extreme weather event.

5

Helped “pave the way” for mass transit increases in the Transportation Bill



A series of briefings at the beginning of the year, and behind-the-scenes collaboration with key Congressional offices, helped pave the way for a bipartisan six-year Transportation Bill with strong support for mass transit. EESI's Hill briefings, held in partnership with the American Public Transportation Association, featured speakers who emphasized that every \$1 spent on mass transit results in \$4 in economic benefits.

6



Earned a Top 4-Star rating from Charity Navigator and a Top-Rated Award from GreatNonprofits

EESI was deemed a Four Star Charity (the highest possible rating) by the nation’s premiere charity evaluator, Charity Navigator, for the ninth time since 2005. According to Charity Navigator President Ken Berger, "the Environmental and Energy Study Institute outperforms most other charities in America." EESI earned the highest possible score (100) on accountability and transparency measures. EESI was also proud to earn a 2015 Top-Rated Award from GreatNonprofits, the Yelp of the non-profit world, for the fifth year in a row.

7

Showcased the growth and success of energy efficiency and renewable energy industries in bipartisan Congressional Expo

EESI played a fundamental role in organizing the Annual Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Expo, which showcased a cross-section of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies to a record 800+ attendees. Held in partnership with the House and Senate Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Caucuses, the Expo brought together 46 companies/organizations, six Administration officials, and seven Members of Congress (from both sides of the aisle).

8



Helped increase federal funding for energy efficiency in buildings

EESI put energy efficiency in buildings front and center in 2015, and it paid off! Federal funding for the Building Technologies Office, part of the Department of Energy, increased 16.57 percent. This action came after an EESI briefing focused specifically on the Office’s budget request for 2016. EESI also substantially expanded the number of exhibitors from the buildings industry at the 2015 Expo (see #7 above).

9

Emphasized the federal budget's critical role in moving to a sustainable economy

At the request of the bipartisan House Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Caucus, EESI publishes an issue brief and convenes a Congressional briefing every year to examine the proposed federal budget's impact on energy efficiency and renewable energy. Demystifying the budget for Congress, so that it will have a better understanding of the benefits of clean energy spending, is more important than ever.

10

Examined China's climate actions and renewable energy initiatives



EESI worked in collaboration with the ChinaFAQs Project of the World Resources Institute to examine the actions China is taking on climate change and clean energy, as well as U.S.-Chinese cooperation on these issues. EESI's briefing, and an op-ed by EESI Executive Director Carol Werner in *The Hill*, made it clear that the United States is being joined by the world’s number 1 emitter in tackling climate change.

Briefings, Publications & Outreach

WE BRING EXPERTS from government, industry, and civil society to Capitol Hill for Congressional briefings. EESI briefings spur bipartisan discussions on cutting-edge research, success stories, and lessons learned. More information is available at www.eesi.org/briefings.

February

- The 2016 Budget: Impacts on Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

March



- Find Out How Many Solar Jobs Were Created in Your State
- The "Bottom Line" on Investment Needs for our Transportation System
- Making Buildings More Energy Efficient: The Building Technologies Office's 2016 Budget Request

April

- How Can the Federal Government Help Prepare Local Communities for Natural Disasters?
- EPA's Clean Power Plan: Will it Work and Will it Be Upheld?
- The Transportation Clock Is Ticking
- What if the Water Can't Be Stopped? Tribal Resilience Plans in an Age of Sea Level Rise
- [WEBINAR] On-bill Financing: An Energy Efficiency Solution for Member-Owned Utilities in the Midwest

May

- Economic Competitiveness: Transit's High-Value in the Knowledge Economy

June

- How Can States Comply with the Clean Power Plan?
- Future Fuels: Can Biofuels Make Gasoline Cleaner, Cheaper?

July

- 18th Annual Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency EXPO and Policy Forum
- What Action Is China Taking on Climate Change?
- Innovative Clean Energy Strategies of Rural Electric Cooperatives

August

- [WEBINAR] On-bill Financing: An Energy Efficiency Solution for Member-Owned Utilities in the Midwest

BY THE NUMBERS (2015)

- **22** Congressional forums
- **3** Webinars
- **43** issues of *Sustainable Bioenergy, Farms, and Forests*
- **49** issues of *Climate Change News*
- **47** new videos on YouTube
- **221** Hill Offices attended EESI briefings
- **2,853** people attended EESI events
- **14,403** email subscribers
- **76,107** cumulative YouTube views
- **211,356** unique website visitors in 2015

September

- Energy Efficiency within the House Energy Package
- Urban Climate Adaptation: A Discussion with the Head of the UN Adaptation Network



- Offshore Wind: Can the U.S. Catch Up with Europe?
- How Are States Planning to Comply With the Clean Power Plan?

October

- [WEBINAR] On-Bill Financing: An Energy Efficiency Solution for Iowa's Communities
- The PREPARE Act for Extreme Weather: Saving Lives and Taxpayer Money

November

- Farming & Water Quality: Conservation Policies Working to Reduce Nutrient Loss

December

- How Can New Transatlantic Collaboration Overcome Barriers to Renewable Energy Goals?
- Protecting Public Health Through Cleaner Fuels and Lower Emissions

You Make it Possible

Thanks to all our generous donors and grantors!

We would especially like to thank our loyal donors (*) who have given to EESI both in 2015 and already in 2016, and the long-time friend, donor, and collaborator who left EESI an anonymous **bequest of more than \$148,000** to help advance a cause he was passionate about: common-sense, win-win policies for a sustainable future.

GRANTORS

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE)
ENERGY FOUNDATION
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THE GEORGE GUND FOUNDATION *
THE JPB FOUNDATION *

MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION *
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NEW YORK COMMUNITY TRUST (NYCT) *
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DAVID ROCKEFELLER FUND
SALESFORCE FOUNDATION (IN KIND)
SURDNA FOUNDATION *
WALLACE GENETIC FOUNDATION

Grants active in 2015 or awarded through August 2016

DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE (\$5,000+)

Members of the Director's Circle have made a substantial commitment to EESI by providing \$5,000 or more in general support. EESI is deeply grateful for their generous support. [You can join the Director's Circle today.](#)

AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORT. ASSN. (APTA) *
ANONYMOUS
HAROLD APPLETON *
BROMWELL CHARITABLE FUND

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EMILY LANDECKER FOUNDATION
SEAN LEVINE *
GORDON AND BETTY MOORE FOUNDATION

THE OTTINGER FOUNDATION
ROGER & VICKI SANT
SUJA JUICE
RICHARD & KAREN WHITNEY

Donations received in 2015 and through August 2016

EESI ASSOCIATES (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

EESI Associates have made a significant commitment to advancing clean energy policy by providing \$1,000 to \$4,999 in general support. EESI is very grateful to all of our Associates. We also thank the many donors who give other amounts, whether by mail, online, or through workplace giving. [Become an EESI Associate today!](#)

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ALLETE/Minnesota Power
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Barry, Olivia and Bill Wheeler
Bierbaum, Rosina *
Buchholzer Charitable Foundation
DeSantis, Ranae
Dodds, Michael
Duncan, Roger *

Eckhart, Michael
Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina
Fidler, Shelley *
Gramlich, Jeffrey
Honey, William
Kalick, Laura and Ted *
Carl E. Kessler Family Foundation
David Kimmel Foundation
Kirkland, Kelly
Krug, Lee

Legrand North America
National Hydropower Association
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manuf. Assn. (PIMA) *
Lester Poretsky Family Fund *
Schmitz-Fromherz Family Fund
Siecke, Linda and Martin
Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA)
Van Ness Feldman
Wedemeyer, Kate
Whitman Family Foundation *

Donations received in 2015 and through August 2016

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Center for Climate Strategies
Clean Fuels Development Coalition
Electric Drive Transportation Assn. (EDTA)

Geothermal Energy Association (GEA)
Illinois Corn Growers Association
Iowa Renewable Fuels Association

Solar City
The Solar Foundation
WIRES

Partnerships active in 2015 through August 2016

Donor Spotlight: Jared Blum, EESI's Board Chair



JARED BLUM says he joined EESI 17 years ago because he “was fascinated by its approach to key issues and its role as a forum for all the parts of the energy/environmental puzzle.” After 11 years on EESI’s board, he was named Chair in 2010.

Jared is passionate about supporting EESI’s mission, through his board service and financially. He is a monthly donor to EESI, saying “it’s easy to give to

EESI—I just set it up and know that I’m supporting EESI year-round.” He has also included EESI in his estate planning, saying, “I would like my legacy to include the continued push to a clean energy economy—and to support EESI’s key role in that.”

Blum heads the Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA), which is also a long-standing EESI Associate, a group of donors helping EESI carry out its mission by contributing \$1,000 or more per year.

Financial Overview

EESI CONTINUES TO MEET THE HIGHEST STANDARDS of accountability in the fulfillment of our mission. To maintain our credibility and effectiveness, our financial statements are reviewed by independent auditors. In October 2015, we were honored to receive a Four-Star Charity rating—the highest possible—from Charity Navigator for the ninth time, with a perfect score for accountability and transparency.

We efficiently put your gifts to work. In 2015, 87 percent of funds received went to program activities: energy and climate, high-performance green buildings, on-bill financing for clean energy, sustainable biomass and energy, and sustainable transportation and communities. The remainder supports our essential fundraising and administrative tasks, without which none of our work would be possible.

Summary Statement of Activities

for the year ended December 31, 2015, with comparative totals for 2014

	2015	2014
TOTAL REVENUE	\$878,430	\$1,856,244
EXPENSES		
Program Activities	1,178,678	866,382
General and Administrative	62,719	60,454
Development	113,148	97,636
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,354,545	1,024,472
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	*(476,115)	*831,772
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$4,034,145	\$3,202,373
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$3,558,030	\$4,034,145

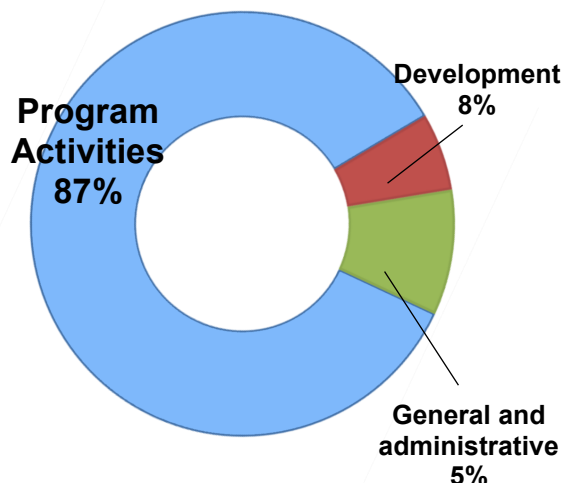
*Note: per rules specific to not-for-profit accounting, EESI was required to recognize the entirety of multi-year grants in 2014, when the commitment was made. In 2015, EESI spent \$424K to perform grant obligations for multi-year grants awarded in 2014.

You Are Essential!

YOU MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE in advancing climate and clean energy policy and all its benefits when you donate. With your gift, you are helping us continue to act quickly on key issues that need attention.

You help us continue to produce briefings, *Climate Change News* and *Sustainable Bioenergy, Farms, and Forests* and so much more. Thank you! Please give by mail today, or online at www.eesi.org/donate.

Use of Funds, 2015

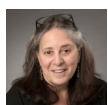


The condensed financial information shown is a summary derived from EESI's 2015 audited financial statements. Our complete audited financial statements are available at www.eesi.org/funders, by e-mailing us at eesi@eesi.org, or by calling us at (202) 628-1400.

2015 Board of Directors



Jared Blum, EESI Board Chair, President, Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA)



Shelley Fidler, EESI Board Treasurer, Principal, Government Affairs, Energy and Environmental Policy, VanNess Feldman Attorneys at Law



Richard L. Ottinger, EESI Board Chair Emeritus, Pace Energy Project Dean Emeritus, Pace University School of Law; former Member of Congress (D-NY)

* **John J. Sheehan, EESI Board Vice Chair,** retired Legislative Director, United Steelworkers of America

* **Ambassador (ret.) Richard E. Benedick,** President Emeritus, National Council for Science and the Environment

Rosina M. Bierbaum, Ph.D., Professor, School of Natural Resources and Environment, Former Dean and Professor, School of Public Health, University of Michigan; Member of PCAST; former Acting Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)

* **Linda Hanifin Bonner, PhD, CAE,** Executive Manager, Water Design-Build Council

Quincalee Brown, former Executive Director, Water Environment Federation

Frances S. Buchholzer, former Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Joseph Cavaretta, Private Consultant, Drohan Management Group

Linda Church-Ciocci, Executive Director, National Hydropower Association

Harmon (Monty) Cooper, Associate, Sedgwick LLP; Chairman, Redevelopment Authority for Prince George's County (MD)

Roger Duncan, Research Assistant, University of Texas Austin; former General Manager, Austin Energy Services

** **John (Jack) Gibbons, Ph.D.,** Former Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy; former Director of the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment

** *Dr. Gibbons passed away on July 17, 2015. Read our tribute at www.eesi.org/gibbons2015*

Larry Jaworski, Interim Executive Director, Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF); former Deputy Program Manager for the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, Montgomery County, MD

Laura Kalick, National Director, Nonprofit Tax Consulting, BDO

* **Elliott Laws,** Senior Counsel, Crowell and Moring LLP; former President of Safety, Health and Environment for Texaco Inc.; former EPA Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response

Frank Murray, former President & CEO, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)

Chris Schepis, Senior Professional Staff, House Homeland Security Committee; former Legislative Assistant, Sen. Roland Burris (D-IL); former Legislative Representative, National Farmers Union

Claudine Schneider Cmarada, Independent Consultant; former Member of Congress (R-RI)

David Terry, Executive Director, National Association of State Energy Officials

* Board terms ended in 2015

EESI must continue to provide a balanced forum in which innovative policy solutions are developed—something for which it has become so well regarded.

— Jared Blum, Board Chair

EESI is also fortunate to have a 49-member Advisory Board, which includes government officials, professors, scientists, business executives, and nonprofit administrators. Please see www.eesi.org/board-advisors.



In 2015, EESI was one of only four environmental nonprofits in Washington, D.C., to have won a coveted 2015 **Top-Rated Award from GreatNonprofits**. Only 1 percent of eligible nonprofits won this accolade, and 2015 was the fifth year EESI made the cut.

EESI has received **101 rave reviews on GreatNonprofits.org**, including:

EESI is my go-to source for environmental and energy updates, information, and opportunities. It has the most comprehensive weekly coverage, as well as totally reliable and in-depth analyses.

— Kay_35

Accurate and relevant information is the necessary basis for any effective policy making. Covering the very complex world of climate change, EESI involves the top experts, writes clearly and brings timely understanding to a major national challenge.

— Anonymous GreatNonprofits User

Key Staff

- Carol Werner**
Executive Director
- Alison Alford ***
Operations Associate
- John-Michael Cross**
Policy Associate
- Paul Haven**
Policy Fellow
- Brian La Shier**
Policy Associate
- Amaury Laporte**
Communications Director
- Adanna Okpala**
Operations Associate
- David Robison**
Director of Finance and Administration
- Laura Small ***
Policy Associate
- Jessie Stolark**
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- Ellen Vaughan**
Policy Director
- Susan Williams**
Director of Development
- Miguel Yanez**
Program Associate

*Good luck to Ali and Laura in your new endeavors!