



**EESI**  
Environmental and  
Energy Study Institute

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2016**



The year 2016 was eventful, to say the least! From a climate action perspective, it included triumphs, in particular the record-fast ratification of the Paris Climate Agreement in November, which is now supported by 193 countries and the European Union. They have all agreed to cut their greenhouse gas emissions, transition to cleaner energy sources, and promote energy efficiency.

But 2016 also saw climate setbacks. The election of Donald Trump to the presidency has put into question America's commitment to climate action. His Administration has already announced its intention to leave the Paris Agreement, and has also shelved President Obama's Clean Power Plan, which would have helped speed the transition to clean energy. All this even though the warning signs are blinking ever more urgently: 2016 was the hottest year ever recorded, hotter than 2015 and 2014, which were the previous record-holders. And the current year has been one in which extreme weather, intensified by climate change, has sadly grabbed the headlines...

Now more than ever, EESI's role of informing policymakers about sustainable solutions to climate change is critical. We have a strong core audience in Congress, but our reach extends far beyond the Washington, D.C., policymaker community to stakeholders throughout the world.

With your continued support, EESI can continue to work in a nonpartisan way for practical, cost-effective, sustainable solutions, such as the ones showcased in this report:

- On-bill financing, which helps cash-strapped households afford energy upgrades so they can reduce their energy usage or participate in community solar and save money!
- Bioenergy and bio-based products, which can provide a renewable, cleaner alternative to petroleum-based products, potentially displacing a third of our petroleum consumption.
- Energy-efficient, affordable housing, which improves health and safety in distressed communities, while providing economic and environmental benefits to communities.
- Rail investments in the Northeast Corridor, to unleash the full potential of cost-effective and low-emission rail travel and reduce the need to invest in more polluting roads and airports.

For the past 20 years, EESI has co-organized the **Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency EXPO and Policy Forum**, which gives Hill staffers and Administration officials an opportunity to see such sustainable solutions firsthand. This year, more than 750 policymakers came to the EXPO, listening to remarks by three Members of Congress and attending nine forums.

If you, too, want the United States to become more sustainable, please consider donating to EESI! We don't receive any Congressional funding and rely on people like you to show your commitment to sensible, win-win clean energy and climate policies. **Thank you so much! We couldn't do it without you!**

## 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. EESI receives no Congressional funding and is supported by generous donors and grants.



*Carol Werner*

**Carol Werner, Executive Director**

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EESI's annual report is available to the public on our website, at [www.eesi.org/annual\\_reports](http://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 2016

## 1 Emphasized the overwhelming support Americans continue to show for clean energy and climate action.

An overwhelming number of Americans, from across the political spectrum, support clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency. A large majority of Americans (75 percent) support regulating carbon dioxide emissions, including 88 percent of Democrats and 61 percent of Republicans. EESI held a Congressional briefing and published a fact sheet to highlight these important survey results for federal policymakers. The briefing featured Professor Edward Maibach, Director of the Center for Climate Change Communication at George Mason University, which collaborates closely with Yale University on regular climate polling. Prof. Maibach noted that an increasing number of conservative Republicans acknowledge that climate change is occurring. EESI's fact sheet on polling included 16 national surveys and 4 international surveys.

## 2 Promoted domestic understanding of international climate actions by amplifying global climate agreements and international cooperation.



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EESI's focus on international climate action covered joint climate mitigation efforts between the United States and China, the entry into force of the Paris Climate Agreement, an amendment to the Montreal Protocol to phase out hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and an agreement to institute a carbon emissions cap on the international airline industry. EESI highlighted the Paris Climate Agreement, with multiple press releases and a well-attended Congressional briefing that examined the lead-up to the

U.N. climate negotiation in Paris, its outcome, and next steps. EESI paid special attention to China, by hosting a briefing on its ongoing efforts to implement environmental reforms and combat climate change, thereby demonstrating that climate action in the United States does not put our country at an economic disadvantage but indeed positions it for new economic partnerships and opportunities.

## 3 Helped launch four on-bill financing programs for energy efficiency upgrades to homes, and published a technical assistance manual for utilities.

EESI is working with utilities to help families reduce their energy usage with on-bill financing: households receive loans to pay for home energy upgrades, which are repaid through a monthly charge on their utility bill. In 2016, EESI supported four community-owned utilities to launch programs in Colorado, Iowa, Michigan, and North Carolina. EESI also released a [how-to guide on launching an on-bill financing program](#), with step-by-step instructions for utilities and non-profits. The guide includes a program development checklist and a directory of additional resources. This work is continuing in 2017!



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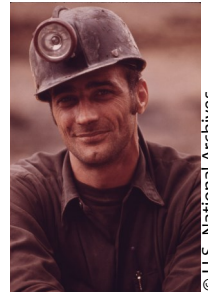
## 4 Promoted a new, no-interest federal loan program for energy efficiency projects in rural areas.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) launched the Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP), which made available \$52 million in zero-interest loans to rural utilities to capitalize on-bill financing programs. This was a huge win, as RESP had been one of EESI's legislative priorities since 2010. EESI engaged with staff from the White House, USDA, the Office of Management and Budget, and Congressional offices to help push out the program and ensure it had a utility-friendly application process. EESI helped several utilities successfully apply for funding through the program (including \$26 million for South Carolina electric cooperatives and \$2 million for Bloomfield, Iowa). EESI is now working to engage with Congress on this program's continued operation in the new budget year.

5

**Called attention to the plight of coal communities, showcased ways to help them adapt, and mustered support for the RECLAIM Act.**

To help coal-dependent communities adapt to the decrease in coal usage, EESI has joined a coalition of environmental and social organizations with a shared focus on transitioning historically coal-centric Appalachian communities toward clean energy economies and rehabilitating the landscape after decades of large-scale mining activities. The coalition's efforts have coalesced around the passage of the RECLAIM Act, sponsored by Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY). As part of this effort, EESI co-hosted a screening of the documentary *After Coal*, which was followed by a panel discussion on revitalizing coal communities.



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6

**Informed policymakers about the many benefits of sustainable buildings.**

In two March briefings, EESI examined energy-efficient, affordable housing and how it is improving health and safety in distressed communities while providing economic and environmental benefits to states. EESI also showcased how sustainable public buildings can provide safe havens, as well as collectively reduce emissions and clear the air, especially in disadvantaged communities where energy utilities are often sited.

7

**Drew attention to the potential of bioenergy and bio-based products in the United States—a cleaner alternative to petroleum-based products.**

EESI held a briefing looking at the ability of the United States to sustainably produce 1 billion tons of renewable non-food biomass every year, which could potentially displace more than 30 percent of the country's petroleum consumption. The well-attended briefing, which was based on the findings of the Department of Energy's "Billion-Ton Report," included bipartisan attendees from 40 Congressional offices in its audience.

8

**Advocated for ambitious rail investments in the Northeast Corridor.**



The federal government is considering investment scenarios for the Northeast Corridor, the busiest passenger rail line in the United States. EESI called for an ambitious high-speed rail investment program, to allow passenger and freight rail to reach their full potential. Rail can be a particularly cost-effective and low-emission form of transportation. In addition to providing feedback to the Administration, EESI held meetings about rail infrastructure with Hill staffers, Amtrak, and OnTrackNorthAmerica.

9

**Set the stage for action on toxic gasoline aromatics, which have been linked to a wide range of adverse health impacts.**

EESI continued to call attention to the dangers of gasoline aromatics, petroleum derivatives that are added to gasoline to increase octane levels. Health studies have found that aromatics may contribute to negative developmental, reproductive and immunological responses, as well as adverse cardio-pulmonary effects. Renewable octane boosters are a cleaner and healthier alternative to petroleum-derived aromatics.

10

**Examined how ride-sharing can strengthen public transportation.**

Working with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), EESI highlighted its partner's research findings on the interaction between ride-sharing and public transportation. Ride-sharing platforms like Lyft and Uber do not reduce public transportation ridership. Instead, they can complement each other, with ride-sharing making it easier to reach mass transit stations.



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# Briefings, Publications & Outreach

**WE BRING EXPERTS** from government, industry, academia, and civil society to Capitol Hill for Congressional briefings. EESI briefings spur bipartisan discussions on cutting-edge research and analysis, success stories, and lessons learned. Briefing videos are livecast and posted on YouTube. Watch them and sign up for our notices at [www.eesi.org/briefings](http://www.eesi.org/briefings).

## February

- What's in the Paris Climate Deal?
- Environmental Justice in the Clean Power Plan

## March

- The 2017 Budget: Impacts on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- Advancing Mobility Sustainably: Ridesourcing and Public Transport Together
- Geothermal Energy: Heating Up
- Sustainable Affordable Housing: Saving Energy, Saving Lives
- Solar Power and Resilient Design for Schools and Shelters



## April

- [WEBINAR]—Can Coal Country Thrive in a Clean Energy Economy?
- The Changing US Energy Landscape

## May

- Mapping Environmental Justice: How Can You Use EPA's EJSCREEN Tool?

## June

- 'After Coal' Film Screening and Discussion



## BY THE NUMBERS (2016)

- **282,198** unique website visitors in 2016
- **268,788** cumulative YouTube views
- **20,070** email subscribers
- **3,271** people attended EESI events
- **137** Hill Offices attended EESI briefings
- **65** new videos on YouTube
- **50** issues of *Climate Change News*
- **46** issues of *Sustainable Bioenergy, Farms, and Forests*
- **17** public forums (briefings + EXPO)
- **1** webinar

## July

- 19th Annual Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency EXPO and Policy Forum
- Building a Billion-Ton Bioeconomy



## October

- Public Attitudes About Climate Change and Clean Energy

## November

- What Environmental Action is China Taking After Paris?
- Rachel Carson 75th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration and Colloquium



## December

- District Energy, CHP, Microgrids: Resilient, Efficient Energy Infrastructure
- Update from the Marrakech Climate Change Summit

# You Make it Possible

Thanks to all our generous donors and grantors!

## GRANTORS

ENERGY FOUNDATION  
GOOGLE.ORG (IN KIND)  
THE GEORGE GUND FOUNDATION  
HENRY M JACKSON FOUNDATION  
THE JPB FOUNDATION

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SALESFORCE FOUNDATION (IN KIND)  
SURDNA FOUNDATION  
WALLACE GENETIC FOUNDATION

*Grants awarded in 2016 or through August 2017*

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

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 everyone in the Director's Circle! [You can join the Director's Circle today.](#)

AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION  
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THE OTTINGER FOUNDATION  
RAWAL, SATENDER (IN-KIND)  
SANT, ROGER & VICKI  
WHITNEY, RICHARD & KAREN

*Donations received in 2016 and through August 2017*

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

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!](#)

Acharya, Madhav  
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Duncan, Roger  
Eckhart, Michael  
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Fidler, Shelley  
Gramlich, Jeffrey  
Hammond Family Foundation

Harris, Jessie  
Iowa Renewable Fuels Association  
Jansen, Laura  
Ted and Ruth Johnson Family Foundation  
Jones, Gregory  
Kaarsberg, Tina  
Kalick, Laura and Ted  
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Nuth, Richard

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Shaw, Karen  
Siecke, Linda and Martin  
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Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA)  
Tulsa Community Foundation  
Van Ness Feldman  
Whitman Family Foundation  
Whitnah, Tom

*Donations received in 2016 and through August 2017*

## Internships at EESI Build Clean Energy Policy Leaders

FORMER EESI INTERN Emma Dietz (pictured) wrote, "From my first day, I was working on meaningful, relevant projects. Everyone at EESI is responsive and helpful; they seek opportunities to help you engage with their work, and as an intern, you very much feel like part of the team. I was immersed in policy issues ranging from re-vamping the energy grid, to improving public housing.



I was encouraged to attend local events, and talks. I was able to visit Congressional offices, help host briefings, and learn all about the processes that contribute to creating environmental policy. Coming out of my internship, I had tangible work to show for my time there. By the end of my internship, I had a new goal: to someday work as a legislator who can help enact the important changes that EESI is pushing for."

# Financial Overview

EESI's commitment to accountability and transparency is central to our mission of providing nonpartisan environmental information to professionals across a variety of fields. To maintain our credibility and effectiveness, our financial statements are reviewed by independent auditors. We were honored to receive a Four-Star Charity rating—the highest possible—from Charity Navigator for the ninth time, with a perfect score.

**We efficiently put your gifts to work.** In 2016, 89 percent of expenses 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, 2016, with comparative totals for 2015

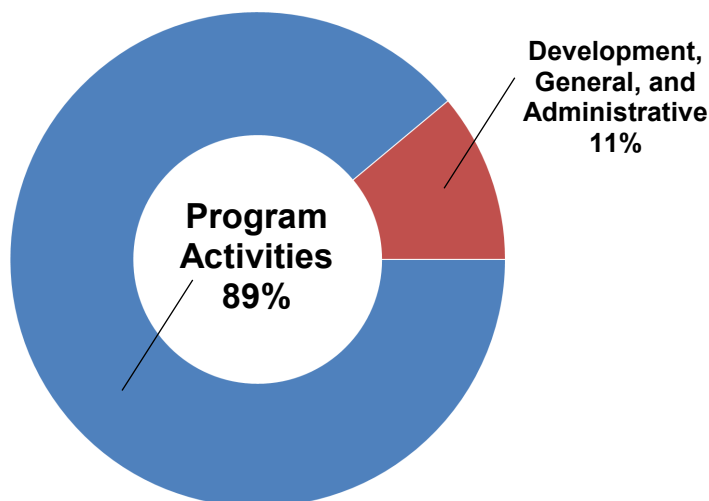
	2016	2015
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,144,014</b>	<b>\$852,444</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program Activities	1,140,461	1,178,678
General and Administrative	39,524	36,733
Development	102,233	113,148
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,282,218</b>	<b>1,328,559</b>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	*(138,204)	*(476,115)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$3,558,030	\$4,034,145
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$3,419,826</b>	<b>\$3,558,030</b>

\*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 2016 and 2015, EESI spent \$366k and \$424k, respectively, to perform grant obligations for multi-year grants awarded in 2014.

**NEVER HAS THE NEED** to engage on a national level for sound energy and environmental policies been more urgent. You are essential in defending climate and clean energy policy and all its benefits when you donate. With your gift, you are enabling quick action 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](http://www.eesi.org/donate).

### Use of Funds, 2016



The condensed financial information shown is a summary derived from EESI's 2016 audited financial statements. Our complete audited financial statements are available at [www.eesi.org/funders](http://www.eesi.org/funders), by e-mailing us at [eesi@eesi.org](mailto:eesi@eesi.org), or by calling us at (202) 628-1400.

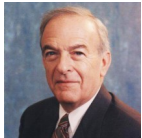
# 2016 Board of Directors



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



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**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

**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)

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

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

\* Board terms ended in 2016

\*\* Joined Board in 2017

*"I am always looking for ways to highlight the critical link between greater levels of energy and resource productivity to ensure a more robust & sustainable economy over the long-run. And EESI is helping to build that momentum!"*

— Skip Laitner, Principal and Independent Consultant, Economic and Human Dimensions Research Associates

EESI is also fortunate to have a 53-member Advisory Board, which includes government officials, professors, scientists, business executives, and nonprofit administrators. Please see [www.eesi.org/board-advisors](http://www.eesi.org/board-advisors) for more information.



In 2017, EESI won a coveted **Top-Rated Award from GreatNonprofits** for the seventh time in a row. Only 1 percent of eligible

nonprofits have won this accolade.

EESI has received **119 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

## Staff

**Carol Werner**  
Executive Director

**Alison Alford**  
Operations Associate (left EESI in 2016)

**John-Michael Cross**  
Policy Associate

**Paul Haven**  
Policy Fellow (deceased, August 2017)

**Brian La Shier**  
Policy Associate

**Amaury Laporte**  
Communications Director

**Richard Nunno**  
Policy Fellow (joined EESI in 2017)

**Adanna Okpala**  
Operations Associate

**David Robison**  
Director of Finance and Administration

**Laura Small**  
Policy Associate (left EESI in 2016)

**Jessie Stolark**  
Policy Associate

**Ellen Vaughan**  
Policy Director

**Susan Williams**  
Director of Development

**Miguel Yanez**  
Program Associate