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


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.


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

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.
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

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

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
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.

Regenerative agriculture produces multiple economic, climate, and societal benefits. 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 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.
The Inflation Reduction Act passed. Now we must ensure effective implementation!

Donate now for climate solutions!

- Give online right now eesi.org/donate
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