

## Quarter 1: January – March, 2020

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SEEA’s **Quarterly Highlights** provide stakeholders with brief, timely, and relevant information on energy efficiency and related topics throughout the Southeast. For more information, or to provide input, contact **Emmeline Luck**, policy associate.

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### State, Local, and Utility Policy Highlights

#### Alabama

- **Public Service Commission Race:** Current commission President Twinkle Cavanaugh’s term will end on November 8, 2020. Voters **will choose** between ten-year Republican incumbent Cavanaugh and Democratic nominee Laura Casey in the November general elections.
- **Alabama Power Generation Capacity:** In early March, Alabama Power **requested** cost recovery of \$1.1 billion for the addition of 2400 megawatts, or 26%, of electricity capacity that the company says it will need in order to avoid winter blackouts. A decision from the commission is expected in early April.

## Arkansas

- **Energy Efficiency and Resource Planning:** Utilities are expected to file an annual report of their energy efficiency programs in this docket by May 1. The Parties Working Collaboratively (PWC) are developing a template by December 1 to be used in the triennial long-term resource planning cycle that aims to support the treatment of energy efficiency as a resource. [Docket No. 13-002-U](#)
- **Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification:** The Independent Evaluation Monitor (IEM) is currently working with the PWC on developing a memo to clarify language around the treatment of non-energy benefits and to address other inconsistencies found in cost-effectiveness testing methods between utilities. [Docket No. 10-100-R](#)
- **DER and Grid Modernization Docket:** On March 4, the commission scheduled the fifth stakeholder workshop for May 7-8 at the offices of the Arkansas Electric Cooperative. [Docket No. 16-028-U](#)
- **Energy Burden:** A March report funded by Entergy Arkansas and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation [addresses](#) asset-limited, income-constrained, employed households. The report found that 41% of households across the state are either below the federal poverty line or struggle to afford basic necessities including housing, food, childcare, transportation, and healthcare.
- **ENERGY STAR® Partner:** On March 31, Entergy Arkansas [received](#) the 2019 ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year Award from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its promotion of energy efficiency.

## Florida

- **Hurricane Dorian Cost Recovery:** On February 4, the commission [approved](#) Duke Energy to recover \$171.3 million in costs related to last year's hurricane season from ratepayers. The extra charges will last a year and will add about \$5.34 to the monthly bill of a residential customer using about 1000 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity. [Docket No. 20190222](#)
- **Office of Public Counsel:** On March 10, the legislature [voted](#) to limit the term of the public counsel to three four-year terms through [HB 1095](#).
- **Energy Choice Initiative:** On January 9, the state Supreme Court [found](#) that the ballot language for the proposed constitutional amendment was unclear and the petition was subsequently closed. If it had made it onto the ballot and passed, the amendment would have deregulated the state's electricity market. The justices held that the ballot language misled consumers by suggesting that they would be allowed to resell electricity.
- **Location of Energy Office:** Earlier this year, the House passed legislation to move the Office of Energy from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services under Commissioner Nikki Fried to the Environmental Protection Division, overseen by Governor DeSantis. March budget talks between the chambers did not include the proposed reorganization and the Senate [did not take action](#) on the bill before the legislative session adjourned on March 9.

- **Demand Side Management (DSM) Plans:** On February 24, Florida's five investor-owned utilities and two municipal utilities filed DSM plans for the next five-year cycle. Docket Nos. [20200057](#) (JEA), [20200053](#) (TECO), [20200060](#) (FPUC), [20200058](#) (OUC), [20200055](#) (Gulf), [20200054](#) (Duke), and [20200056](#) (FPL)

## Georgia

- **Vogtle Nuclear Reactor Construction:** Construction on reactors 3 and 4 of the Vogtle Nuclear Plant continues. On February 20, Southern Company **reported** on 2019 sales and the progress of the nuclear reactor construction. The project employs about 9,000 on-site workers and Southern Company CEO Tom Fanning **announced** on March 20 that the COVID-19 pandemic has not yet impacted the workforce or construction timeline, but **said** in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission that it is too early to assess the potential impact.
- **Legislative Committees:** [HR 1430](#), introduced in early March, would create a House Study Committee on Demand-Side Management and Energy Use.

## Kentucky

- **Public Service Commission:** In early February, the commission **named** Kent Chandler as its executive director.
- **Louisville Energy Audit:** After the city council voted to adopt a clean energy resolution on February 6, Mayor Greg Fischer **announced** that the city will undergo an energy audit intended to identify areas for cost reduction and efficiency improvements.
- **Legislation:** [HB 247](#), currently before the House, **would allow** municipal utilities to buy wholesale electricity without a public bidding process, which is currently required for municipal utilities, but not for electric cooperatives.

## Louisiana

- **ENERGY STAR® Partner:** Entergy New Orleans has **received** the 2020 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Award. The company was recognized by the Department of Energy for its outstanding efforts and partnership with residential customers through its Home Performance with the ENERGY STAR Program, part of the Energy Smart program administered by Entergy New Orleans on behalf of the New Orleans City Council.

## Mississippi

- **Municipal Energy Efficiency:** In January, the City of Vicksburg **approved** energy efficiency measures that are estimated to save the city over \$60,000 on utility bills annually.

## North Carolina

- **Duke Energy Rate Cases:**
  - **Duke Energy Carolinas:** Duke Energy Carolinas (DEC) **filed** a request on September 6 to increase rates by about 6%. The North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) held four public workshops

on the proceeding in January. On March 16, the commission postponed the hearing scheduled for March 23 until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Docket No. E-7 Sub 1214](#)

- **Duke Energy Progress:** On October 30, Duke Energy Progress (DEP) filed a request to increase annual revenue by 15.6%, resulting in an increase of \$17.29 on monthly bills for a 1000 kWh residential user. The request for rate increase includes recovery funds for Hurricanes Florence and Michael. On March 24, the commission suspended the procedural schedule until the May 4 expert witness testimony, pending further order of the commission. [Docket No. E-2 Sub 1219](#)
- **Duke Grid Modernization:** On February 13, Duke Energy **announced** that it will increase its five-year capital expansion plan to \$56 billion in order to create a smarter and more resilient grid.
- **Electric Cooperatives and Emerging Technology:** On January 9, the state's cooperatives **announced** a partnership to develop an agricultural microgrid.

## South Carolina

- **VC Summer Nuclear Plant:** At the end of 2019, Dominion Energy, the new owner of SCANA, **agreed** to return \$192 million to ratepayers in a class action lawsuit. On March 17, a state judge gave **preliminary approval** to a \$520 million settlement between Santee Cooper and customers that would also provide refunds to ratepayers due to the nuclear project. The final approval hearing for the class action lawsuit is set for July 20. In February, Santee Cooper and Westinghouse **reached an agreement** on the division of equipment from the project.
- **Santee Cooper Ownership:** After conducting a **study** on the potential sale of the state-owned utility, Santee Cooper's Board of Directors **finalized** a plan in November that would keep the utility under state ownership. On February 26, Santee Cooper executives **testified** at a Senate Finance Committee meeting. In early March, legislators **discussed** NextEra's proposal to purchase the utility before **rejecting** all bids. On March 10, lawmakers **drafted** a reform bill that would eliminate the positions of Santee Cooper's current twelve-member board and would create a new, seven-member board appointed by the state government pending new elections.
- **Regulatory Reform: S. 998**, currently before the Senate, would establish the Electricity Market Reform Measures Study Committee to examine the energy regulatory framework and may lead to the establishment of a regional grid transmission operator. Lawmakers in both Carolinas have been **considering** what deregulation and competition may look like for the states.

## Virginia

- **Clean Economy Act:** On March 5, the General Assembly **passed** the Virginia Clean Economy Act, which mandates Dominion and Appalachian Power to produce 30% of their energy from renewables by 2030 and to close all carbon-emitting power plants by 2045 and 2050, respectively. The act also sets mandatory energy efficiency savings targets for Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power. Energy savings targets will begin in program year 2022 and will be set at 0.5% and 1.25% for of average 2019 retail sales for Appalachian Power and Dominion Energy, respectively. The utilities must also **achieve** their mandatory renewable generation targets by the end of 2020.

- **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Legislation:** On March 4, the General Assembly passed the **Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act**, which would allow the state to become a full participant in RGGI. It also **includes** a provision to establish an Energy Efficiency Fund. The bill is currently awaiting signature from Governor Northam.
- **Rate Legislation:** The Fair Energy Bills Act, **HB 1132**, would have established requirements for triennial rate review that would have allowed for over-earnings to be returned to ratepayers. The bill passed the House but was tabled by the Senate before the end of the legislative session.
- **On-Bill Tariff Legislation:** In March, the General Assembly passed **SB 754**, which would authorize electric cooperatives to operate on-bill tariff programs. The bill is awaiting signature from Governor Northam.
- **Utility Business Model:** A bipartisan pair of delegates **introduced** legislation on January 7 that would establish a competitive electricity market in the state.
- **Lighting Efficiency:** This spring, Virginia will **replace** 9,600 roadside lights with LEDs, a move projected to save \$4.6 million by 2036.
- **Dominion Carbon Reduction Goals:** On February 11, Dominion Energy **committed** to reaching net-zero emissions through its power generation and natural gas operations by 2050, citing energy efficiency as a key strategy.
- **Dominion Grid Modernization Proposal:** On September 30, Dominion filed its revised grid modernization plan with the State Corporation Commission (SCC). The SCC **rejected** a majority of the proposal but accepted some aspects of the plan on March 26. Regulators **ruled** that Dominion failed to justify the costs of the smart meter program, but approved some cybersecurity, reliability, and electric vehicle provisions. See the Energy Efficient Transportation Highlights (page 10) for more information.  
**Docket No. PUR-2019-00154**

## Regional & National Policy Updates

- **Relevant Federal Legislation:** There are currently many bills before Congress pertaining to energy efficiency and associated industries. For legislation related to electric vehicles, see the Energy Efficient Transportation Highlights (page 10). For legislation around resilience and the built environment, see the Built Environment Highlights (page 8).
  - **HR 2088** would reauthorize the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program
  - **HR 5142** would require the federal government to get 100% of its energy from renewable sources by 2050
  - **HR 5221** would set a national goal of achieving 100% clean economy by 2050
  - **S. 1706** would encourage the use of energy savings performance contracts
  - **S. 2334** would establish a “21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board” at DOE
  - **HR 4986** would create a Green Climate Fund to authorize funding for climate work

- **Car Emissions Standards:** See the Energy Efficient Transportation Highlights (page 10).
- **Lighting Standards:** On February 25, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Earthjustice, and the Center for Public Interest Research **filed** a lawsuit asking a federal court to compel the Department of Energy (DOE) to implement updated residential lighting efficiency standards. DOE estimates the new standards will save consumers and businesses about \$8.4 billion and will reduce emissions by nearly 100 million metric tons over thirty years.
- **Appliance Standards:** On January 10, DOE **published** updated standards for portable air conditioners, uninterruptible power supplies, commercial boilers, and industrial air compressors.
- **DOE Leadership:** In February, President Trump **appointed** Alex Fitzsimmons as the deputy assistant secretary for energy efficiency in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. On March 12, Trump **nominated** DOE Under Secretary Mark Menezes to serve as the deputy secretary.
- **FERC Commissioners:** On January 23, Commissioner Bernard McNamee **announced** that he will not seek another term when his tenure ends on June 30. On March 31, James Danly was **sworn into** his term on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that ends June 30, 2023.
- **FEMA Leadership:** In January, the Senate **approved** Peter Gaynor to lead the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- **Advocacy Leadership:** On March 18, The Nature Conservancy **named** Jennifer Morris as the next CEO. Her post will begin on May 18.
- **Smart Meters:** Duke and Entergy, among other utilities, are **continuing** to install smart meters throughout their territories, but overall deployment is slowing. In January, ACEEE **released** a report finding that many utilities are missing energy-savings opportunities through advanced metering infrastructure.
- **Southeast Energy Efficiency Report:** On January 22, SACE **released** its annual report on energy efficiency in the Southeast.
- **Ratepayer-Funded Efficiency Report:** In late 2019, Lawrence Berkley National Lab (LBNL) **published** a report concluding that the cost of saving energy at utility scale is \$0.024/kWh and that investments in ratepayer-funded energy efficiency programs are expanding.
- **Performance Incentives Report:** On February 4, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) **published** a research report on the efficacy of performance incentives in reducing demand.
- **Utility Energy Efficiency Scorecards:** On February 20, ACEEE **released** the annual Utility Energy Efficiency Scorecards, highlighting a significant increase in energy savings.
- **State of the Electric Utility Report:** Utility Dive’s annual State of the Electric Utility survey **found** that the top priority for many electric utilities is the clean energy transition. The results were published on February 26.
- **Clean Energy Targets:** A March report from Synapse Energy Economics **states** that Duke, Dominion, and Southern Company won’t meet their clean energy goals at the current pace.

- **Investors Service Report:** On January 16, Moody's **published** a report that assesses the risks that climate change poses to power generation infrastructure and found that Duke and Dominion are among the most at-risk utilities.
- **Rate Design:** A quarterly policy report from the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center **found** that about half of U.S. states are considering action on rate design reform.
- **Climate Change Resolution:** On February 25, the American Public Power Association, representing the nation's community-owned utilities, **approved** a resolution in support of current bipartisan efforts to mitigate climate change.
- **Workforce Development Funds:** On March 6, DOE **announced** up to \$20 million in funding for workforce development at universities in clean energy fields.

## Special Update: COVID-19 Pandemic

### Key Facts:

- Many utilities have suspended disconnections and several territories have placed moratoria on power disconnection. The **Energy and Policy Institute** is tracking key information related to the utility response.
- On March 27, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) was passed, providing financial aid to families and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic including **small businesses**. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) has released a **resource page** for cooperatives.
- Utilities and government bodies are discussing the impact on the **utility workforce** and energy burdened populations.
- Organizations are also **releasing** tips to help save energy while at home.

### Status of State Legislatures During the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- The **Alabama** General Assembly **reconvened** on March 31.
- The **Arkansas** legislature **convened** for a special session on March 27; the regular session is scheduled to begin April 8.
- The **Florida** legislative session **ended** on March 13.
- The **Georgia** legislature was **suspended** on crossover day, March 12, until further notice.
- The **Kentucky** legislature **reconvened** to finish out the legislative session after a brief break in mid-March due to coronavirus concerns.
- The **Louisiana** legislative session has been **suspended** until mid-April.
- The **Mississippi** legislature was **suspended** from March 18 until April 1.
- The **North Carolina** regular legislative session is **scheduled** to begin on May 13.
- The **South Carolina** legislature is **suspended** until further notice.

- The **Tennessee** legislature was **suspended** until further notice on March 19.
- The **Virginia** legislative session **ended** on March 8.
- The **West Virginia** legislative session **ended** on March 7.

#### Utility Disconnection Moratoria and Suspensions:

- **Alabama** – [AL PSC Press Release](#)
- **Arkansas** – [Arkansas PSC Information and Resources](#)
- **Florida** – [PSC Website](#)
- **Georgia** – [PSC Website - Service Postponements List](#)
- **Kentucky** – [Kentucky PSC Press Release](#)
- **Louisiana** – [Emergency Order stopping utility terminations entered.](#)
- **Mississippi** – [MS PSC Statement](#)
- **North Carolina** – [North Carolina Utilities Commission Order](#)
- **South Carolina** – [South Carolina Utility Consumer resource link](#)
- **Tennessee** – TVA – [The Tennessee Valley Authority is extending \\$1 billion of credit support to local power companies](#)
- **Virginia** – [SCC News](#)
- **West Virginia** - [WV PSC Holds Operational Status Update Conference with Utilities](#)

## Built Environment State Updates

- **Net-Zero Energy Homes:** The Florida Home Partnership and the Community Housing Development Organization **will build** seven net-zero energy affordable homes in the Tampa area.
- **State Leaders for LEED:** Virginia **placed** seventh in the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)'s top ten states for LEED building standards, announced in February.

## Built Environment Regional & National Updates

- **Federal Legislation:**
  - **HR 3962** would update national building codes to increase efficiency in residential and commercial buildings, a change that could save \$51 billion through energy bills through 2050, according to a report by ACEEE
  - **HR 2041** would reauthorize DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program

- **HR 2119** would reauthorize grants for energy efficiency in public buildings
- **HR 3962** would strengthen national model building codes
- **HR 2741** would provide funds for energy efficiency retrofits, among other provisions
- **HR 4646** would extend the new home energy efficiency tax credit to more builders
- **HR 4506** would reinstate and extend the energy efficiency tax credit for residences
- **HR 3702** would require communities to use stronger building codes when using federal funds to restore damaged structures
- **S. 2335** would support the transition to smart buildings
- **2021 IECC:** The International Codes Council (ICC) is currently **reviewing** challenges to the 2021 model International Energy and Conservation Code (IECC) from the National Association of Homebuilders, Leading Builders of America, and other building industry trade groups.
- **CDBG-MIT Funds:** In August of 2019, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) **announced** the allocation of \$6.875B in Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Funding to aid in recovery from natural disasters in 2015, 2016, and 2017. In the Southeast, this includes more than \$2.2B for state and local governments in Florida, Louisiana, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. These funds must be spent on activities that “increase resilience to disasters and reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property, and suffering and hardship, by lessening the impact of future disasters,” and at least half of all CDBG-MIT funds must be spent in HUD-identified distressed communities. Deadlines for submitting state and local action plans to HUD were February 3 for 2015 and 2016 state grantees, March 2 for local grantees, and April 6 for 2017 state grantees. HUD plans to approve and begin disbursing the funds in late spring and early summer of 2020.
- **FEMA BRIC:** The passage of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) in 2018 created a pool of funding for communities to engage in pre-disaster mitigation work rather than funding disaster response and recovery. In order to determine best practices for distributing these pre-disaster funds through the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) embarked on a stakeholder engagement process in 2019 by soliciting input from stakeholders nationally. In March of 2020 FEMA **released** a report summarizing the fifty letters and nearly 5,000 comments that they received. Among other needs, stakeholders asked FEMA to leverage pre-disaster mitigation funding to support building code education and enforcement as well as the development of a rating system for consumers so that they can understand whether a building is or is not compliant with state and local codes.
- **Disaster Aid and Resilience:** On January 16, FEMA **published** a new policy mandating communities follow new, resilient construction codes when using FEMA funds to rebuild public buildings.
- **Climate Risk Report:** Research from the Actuaries Climate Risk Index, published in January, **estimates** that extreme weather associated with a warming climate increased property losses over the last quarter century by \$24 billion.

- **US Territories Resilience Legislation:** The **Resiliency Enhancement Act**, currently before the House, would make disaster resilience money from the 2017 hurricane season available to a wider variety of projects in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.
- **Puerto Rico Technical Assistance:** In February, representatives from the National Association for Utility Regulatory Commissioners (NARUC) **met and advised** the Puerto Rico Public Service Regulatory Board on regulatory issues and the usage of FEMA funds.

## Energy Efficiency Transportation State Updates

- **Florida Electric Vehicle (EV) Bills:**
  - **SB 7018**, passed by the legislature on March 11, requires the commission to work with the state Department of Transportation, Energy Office, and other stakeholders to develop and recommend a plan for the development of EV charging infrastructure along the state highway system. The bill is currently awaiting signature from Governor Ron DeSantis.
  - **SB 452** would have required the Florida Department of Transportation to create a plan to install EV chargers. It died in the Infrastructure and Security Committee on March 14.
- **Duke North and South Carolina EV Pilots:** On July 5, 2019, the NCUC public staff **recommended** that the commission reject the proposal, arguing that the program is a way for the companies to gain pre-approval of ratepayer-funded infrastructure. In North Carolina on February 28, parties to the proceeding submitted proposed orders and DEC, DEP, and ChargePoint **filed** a settlement agreement. In South Carolina, on March 2, the Office of Regulatory Staff filed a letter stating it had reviewed Duke's updated filings and its position remains unchanged from earlier recommendations that the utility must improve its cost-benefit analysis, among other issues to resolve. On March 11, DEC filed a letter requesting commission action. **NCUC Docket No. E-2 Sub 1197**, SCPC Docket Nos. **2018-321-E** and **2018-322-E**
- **South Carolina Battery Manufacturing:** In early January, Volvo **announced** it will build an EV battery assembly plant at its factory in South Carolina.
- **Virginia Electric Buses:** On January 16, Dominion **announced** it will deliver fifty electric school buses to sixteen localities throughout the state by the end of the year through its pilot program. Dominion will begin installing charging infrastructure for the buses this summer. SB 988 **would have authorized** an expansion of Dominion's electric transportation pilot, but it did not pass the House by the end of the legislative session.
- **Virginia Smart Charging Pilot:** Although the State Corporation Commission **rejected** a majority of Dominion's grid modernization proposal on March 26, it approved the proposal to fund the smart charging pilot program. **Docket No. PUR-2019-00154**
- **Virginia Docket on EV Grid Impacts:** On March 24, the commission **established** a docket to study the impact of EV charging infrastructure on the grid. In the docket, regulators requested information on the

development and projected growth of EV charging infrastructure and ownership models, rate design, and storage issues. Initial comments are due in June. [Docket No. PUR-2020-00051](#)

## Energy Efficiency Transportation Regional & National Updates

- **Federal Legislation:**
  - **HR 5700** would task DOE and the Department of Transportation (DOT) with creating a plan to establish a network of high-speed chargers by 2025
  - **HR 5751** aims to increase access to EV chargers in low-income communities
  - **HR 5545** would authorize over \$6 billion annually in rebates and grants over the next decade to encourage states to construct and deploy charging and other infrastructure
  - **S. 2873** would extend clean energy credits and create tax incentives for EVs and storage
  - **S. 2302** aims to improve transportation infrastructure resiliency and reduce highway emissions, among other provisions
- **Car Emissions Standards:** The federally proposed Safer Affordable Fuel Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule has faced contention since its release in 2018. In September, federal agencies **established** the One National Program, the first of two parts of the SAFE Vehicles rule that revokes California’s authority to set emissions standards. On March 30, EPA and DOT **published** the second part of the final car emissions rule. The rule **would require** a 1.5% annual increase in the fuel economy of passenger vehicles and light trucks, a reduction from the 5% increase mandated by the Obama administration. Additionally, the rule assumes little to no growth in EV sales by 2026. The Environmental Defense Fund **published** an analysis of the rule. Hours after the release of the final rule, Volvo **announced** it will join a voluntary agreement with the California Air Resources Board with the goal of reducing emissions.
- **COVID-19:** By late March, twenty-seven vehicle manufacturers **announced** a halt in construction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which is expected to significantly slow industry-wide sales.
- **Commercial Charging Partnership:** On February 11, Greenlots and Volvo Trucks **announced** the installation of charging infrastructure for electrified commercial trucks at warehouses in California that will serve as a model for commercial electric vehicle charging across the country.
- **Highway Charging Partnership:** On February 6, ChargePoint **announced** a partnership with NATSO, which represents the country’s travel plazas and truck stops, to create the National Highway Charging Collaborative. The group plans to use \$1 billion to deploy chargers to over 4,000 locations along highways to increase charging access for travelers and rural communities.
- **Corporate Partnerships:** On January 22, Ceres **announced** the formation of the Corporate Electric Vehicle Alliance, which aims to help members accelerate the transition to EVs. Founding members include Amazon, Siemens, Lime, Direct Energy, Consumers Energy, and DHL.

- **RAP Electric Transportation Toolkit:** In February, the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP) **released** its Roadmap to Electric Transportation.
- **Utility EV Investment Report:** In February, Atlas EV Hub **released** its second bi-annual report on utility investments and other trends in transportation electrification.
- **EVs and Climate Report:** On February 13, the Union of Concerned Scientists **updated** its report on electric vehicles and the climate with revised figures.
- **EVs and New Mobility Report:** In January, Bloomberg **released** a report on the outlook of EVs, finding that consumers will see cheaper batteries and more chargers by the end of the year.
- **NARUC EV Report:** In October of last year, the National Association for Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) **released** a report on EVs for state regulators.
- **Cleaner Trucks Initiative:** The EPA is working to reduce emissions from heavy-duty trucks. On January 6, they **issued** an advance notice of proposed rule soliciting comments on the initiative.
- **Consumer Survey:** Deloitte **published** the results of its annual Global Automotive Consumer Survey in January, finding that 41% of American drivers would consider purchasing an alternative-fuel vehicle for their next car, a 29% increase from the previous year.
- **Southeast EV Forum:** On January 15-16, SEEA and partners hosted the **Future of Electric Transportation: Southeast Policy Forum** at Georgia Tech, featuring a keynote by NARUC President and Mississippi commissioner Brandon Presley.
- **New EV Models:** On March 3, Ford **announced** it will create an electric version of its popular cargo van, the Transit.