

# PV Industry Note

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## What are the Top U.S.-Based Nonprofit Organizations in the Field of Renewable Energy?

### Highlights

- Collects information on U.S. NGOs in the renewable energy field
- Examines each organization's activities and research, their target audience, and key contacts

### Section 1: Non-profit Organizations

#### American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)

<http://www.aceee.org/>



Founded in 1980 by energy research, it is no surprise that ACEEE is a nonprofit organization that carries out its mission primarily through policy research, analysis, and recommendations. It conducts an annual conference, which serves as a meeting of energy professionals in the world. They also contract out to perform workshops and collaborate with other organizations and agencies on projects. Their primary outputs include books, research reports, and conference proceedings.

- **Relevant Publications:** *Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency and Green Buildings: Opportunities for State Action; America's Energy Choices: Investing in a Strong Economy and a Clean Environment: Main Report*
- **Target audience:** Energy professionals, consumers, businesses, and policymakers
- **Key Contacts:** Steven Nadel (Executive Director), Andrew deLaski (Executive Director, Appliance Standards Awareness Project), Bill Prindle (Deputy Director), Ed Osann (Senior Policy Associate)
- **Support:** Foundations (40%), Contracts (24%), Conferences (18%), Federal grants (14%)

#### American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE)

<http://www.acore.org/>



A Washington, DC based organization that focuses on trade, finance, and policy to promote renewable energy options. It is

a membership organization whose core activities include convening, information publishing and communications.

- **Relevant Publications:** [Renewable Energy Finance and Investors Network \(REFIN\) Directory](#)
- **Target audience:** End Users, Renewable Energy Industries, Associations, Professional Services, Financial Institutions and services, Nonprofit Sector, Academics, Government
- **Key Contacts:** Michael T. Eckhart (President), Robert L. Pratt (Chairman of the Board), Jodie Roussell (Senior Associate)

#### The Earth Institute

<http://www.earthinstitute.columbia.edu/>



This Institute pools the capacity of Columbia University in the field of sustainable development. Each faculty member focuses on a different aspect of the field, with its major themes being energy, climate & policy, and poverty. It works on research projects that ultimately propose solutions to the world's problems. It is also unique in that it and its Director play an advisory role to the United Nations on issues concerning sustainable development.

- **Relevant Publications:** Project on wind-energy systems- "Sensors for Energy and Environment"
- **Target Audience:** Academic researchers and students, policymakers, international institutions
- **Key Contacts:** Jeffrey Sachs (Director), John C. Mutter (Deputy Director), Peter Schlosser (Associate Director)
- **Support:** Gifts and grants from individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations

#### Earth Policy Institute

<http://www.earth-policy.org/>



The Institute's primary purpose is the dissemination of information through print and electronic media to raise awareness about environmental issues and policy proposals for how to solve problems. They are a research institute whose products include books, [Eco-Economy Updates](#), and [Eco-Economy Indicators](#).

- **Relevant Publications:** [World Sales of Solar Cells Jump 32 Percent](#) (Eco-Economy Indicator)

- Target Audience: advocacy groups, general public, researchers and academics
- Key Contacts: Lester Brown (Founder, President), Reah Janise Kauffman (V.P.)
- Support: Foundations and individuals, publication sales, honoraria, and royalties

### Renewable Energy Policy Project (REPP)



<http://www.crest.org/>

REPP provides information and analysis with respect to the “relationship among policy, markets and public demand in accelerating the deployment of renewable energy.” It not only publishes research and policy reports, but also hosts online energy discussion groups through its website. Furthermore, it provides testimonials to various state and federal agencies on energy policies.

- Relevant Publications: [Solar PV Development: Location of Economic Activity](#)
- Target Audience: Policymakers, researchers, academics
- Key Contacts: George Sterzinger (Executive Director), David Nemtsov (Board Chairman)
- Support: foundations and federal grants (DOE, NREL)

### Sustainable Energy Finance Initiative (SEFI)



<http://www.sefi.unep.org/>

SEFI is a joint initiative with UNEP Finance Initiative, UNEP Energy Branch, and Basel Agency for Sustainable Energy. SEFI was started to bring renewable energies from the economic margins into mainstream energy use. They aim to do this by providing timely and relevant information to help develop these markets. SEFI produces research reports and shorter briefings on these industries and topics related to them.

- Relevant Publications: [CEO Briefing on Renewable Energy; Clean Energy Trends 2005](#)
- Target Audience: industry participants, policymakers, advocates

### Union of Concerned Scientists



<http://www.ucsusa.org/index.cfm>

A nonprofit alliance of citizens and students founded at MIT, with national headquarters in Cambridge, MA. They conduct technical studies on renewable energy options, among many other topics. Their goal is to serve as advocates to solve social and environmental problems through research, analysis, and recommendations. They publish fact sheets on a number of topics, provide testimonials for policymakers and agencies, and issue scientist statements.

- Relevant Publications: Factsheets on Renewable Energy
- Target Audience: Policymakers, the news media, and the public

- Key Contacts: Kevin Knobloch (President), Kathleen Rest (Executive Director), Kurt Gottfried (Chairman of the Board)
- Support: Membership & individual contributions (52%), foundations (40%), Other (8%)

### World Resources Institute



<http://www.wri.org/>

WRI is an environmental think tank that not only conducts research but proposes policy solutions to the world’s environmental problems. It does so through various projects in many fields, such as biodiversity, energy, and climate change. The Institute then publishes reports and analyses for each project in these areas.

- Relevant Publications: [Changing Oil: Emerging environmental risks and shareholder value in the oil and gas industry \(2002\)](#)
- Target Audience: Policymakers, researchers & academics, other institutions and organizations
- Key Contacts: Jonathan Lash (President), Paul Faeth (Exec. V.P. and Managing Director), James A. Harmon (Chairman of the Board)
- Support: private foundations, corporations, individuals, agencies and other cooperating organizations

### Worldwatch Institute



<http://www.worldwatch.org/>

The Institute was founded by Lester Brown in 1974, and focuses on interdisciplinary research with global focus, and accessible writing. It is a source of information on the interactions among key environmental, social, and economic trends. It produces a large amount of widely used literature on these topics, and also provides online

research libraries, press rooms and discussion groups for information and knowledge dissemination.

- Relevant Publications: Annual State of the World Report; Vital Signs; Worldwatch Papers; Worldwatch Magazine; Signposts 2004
- Target Audience: Policymakers, academics, professionals, advocacy groups, media, consumers and businesses
- Key Contacts: Christopher Flavin (Pres), Janet Sawin (Director, Energy and Climate Change Program)
- Support: Private Foundations and Individuals, United Nations, International Grant Agencies

## Section 2: Other Related NGOs

### Rocky Mountain Institute



<http://www.rmi.org/>

The Institute was established in 1982 by resource analysts L. Hunter Lovins and Amory B. Lovins. Its primary purpose is act as an educational agent to offer market-based solutions to our energy problems

### Sustainable Energy Institute



<http://www.s-e-i.org/>

Founded in 1993, the Institute seeks to educate the general public and inform the policymaking process with respect to sustainable energy. To that end, it publishes reports and articles outlining its initiatives and policy proposals