



## GUEST CONTRIBUTOR SERIES

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New year, new edition of Zpryme's Guest Contributor Series! The 2020s will prove to be the critical decade as we inch closer to climate and sustainability goal deadlines. This edition of the newsletter focuses on areas that will help the industry meet those goals: true corporate sustainability, addressing energy access, developing new policies to ensure reliability, and making energy systems more efficient. Read on for Volume 43!

A photograph with a purple and blue color cast showing a glass of water, a water jug, and a pair of headlights.

### THE COLD REALITY OF ENERGY INSECURITY

BY BETHANY RUHE

Energy insecurity, or the inability of a household to reach its basic needs, impacts more people than you might think. I spent many years as a single mother, struggling to get through college and pay my bills, on an often unreliable income. Perhaps my experience has led me to be hyper-aware, but we all can and should care about energy insecurity. Utilities are required to have some sort of low income assistance program, and if that was all we ever needed I wouldn't be writing this today.

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A photograph with a teal and green color cast showing a green arrow pointing right with the word 'Consulting' written on it.

### Consulting

## FUTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTING

BY ERIN GROSSI

The constant thrum of Sustainability ideas, innovations, and achievements, from plummeting solar power prices to Tesla's ballooning market cap, has bolstered a wave of corporations to act with urgency to make climate pledges. While this feels like a big shift, especially for American companies, it is the next phase of a journey that began roughly 20 years ago, with guidance to measure and publicly report on carbon emissions associated with activities under the direct control of businesses. The next evolution of Sustainability is going to be tackling Scope 3 emissions, which guide companies to measure and decarbonize supply-chains, business travel, and waste management.

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## **TO INCREASE RELIABILITY, TEXAS NEEDS A GENIUS GRID**

BY DOUG LEWIN

For a decade, including during the most recent legislative session, state leaders in Texas have mostly ignored the potential to reduce energy demand through energy efficiency and demand response. That negligence had massive consequences in February, when a winter storm led to outages in much of the state and hundreds of Texans died. By focusing more on strategies that use advanced technologies to reduce demand when supplies get tight, Texas can avoid future disasters and strengthen the grid in ways that are better for consumers and the economy.

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## **ONE YEAR IN, IS BIDEN KEEPING HIS PROMISES ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY?**

BY ELLIE LONG

One year ago, President Joe Biden entered the White House with a moving truck full of climate and clean energy promises in tow. Biden made climate action a focal point of his campaign, including an extensive list of energy efficiency policies he sought to cut emissions and create jobs. So one year after taking office, where do those policies stand? Here's a look at 10 key proposals.

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## **HAVE A TOPIC YOU'RE INTERESTED IN WRITING ABOUT?**

We'd love to hear it. Shoot Laurel an email at [erin.autin@zpryme.com](mailto:erin.autin@zpryme.com) to get involved.