

My work at the Clean Air Council has focused on the complexity of energy policy, specifically as it relates to energy efficiency. My research followed from a question as to if smart meters in PA were being fully taken advantage of by utilities. These meters allow for detailed reports on consumer energy use and should allow utilities to engage in more aggressive energy-saving programs. Smart meters were introduced in 2008 in PA and there has yet to be significant development of programs to support the use of this additional data. In my attempt to learn more about smart metering in PA and across the US I was also introduced to broader energy efficiency concepts and other policy measures to better support energy efficiency. The attached factsheet serves as an overview of the basics of some of the programs that can take advantage of smart metering. As a part of my work I am also developing a larger report that compares these initiatives across the US and connects federal and state programs and funds. I also had the opportunity to participate in the comment process for the newest phase of energy efficiency programs in PA and got a taste of the complexity of the process and how difficult it is to make your voice heard.

Throughout my experience I've had the chance to see the importance of the work done by advocacy groups, like the Clean Air Council. With issues and regulatory bodies as complex as these, the work of outside groups looks to keep corporations in-line when people may not be able to organize on their own.

This semester has also reinforced my own career goals and desire to work in the public and environmental interested. My research has also introduced me to a new area to explore in my job search – software companies looking to support energy efficiency and the

smart grid. Work in this intersection fits with my experience, interests, and supports the development of a greener energy system in the US.