



Eco Wise

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An Overview of Funding Options for Green Initiatives

Many PHAs would like nothing more than to lower utility costs for themselves and their residents. Substantial savings are possible through a combination of energy efficient and water-saving products and systems, fuel switching or utility bargain hunting, as well as on-site renewable energy. A problem many PHAs encounter is how to fund upgrades while still maintaining existing services. Funds are needed to pay for technical expertise, materials, installation and training. Below is a brief overview of some of the resources available to help PHAs defray the costs of efficiency upgrades.

[HUD Incentives to Reduce Utility Costs](#)

HUD incentives allow utility savings from Energy and water Conservation Measures (ECMs) and utility rate reductions to be retained by the PHA for use toward needed repairs and other eligible expenses. Energy Performance Contracts (EPCs) allow PHAs to have ECMs designed and implemented without having to dip into capital funds.

[Solar America Initiative \(SAI\) Market Transformation: Solar America Showcases, FY2008](#)

DOE will provide technical assistance to large-scale, high-visibility solar installation projects that are replicable or have replicable components. Projects may include photovoltaic, concentrating solar power, solar water heating, and solar space heating applications.

Installations must be designed to have at least 100kW capacity, and can include multiple sites. 100kW might sound like a lot, but that's only enough electricity to power about 20 residential units.

[Borrower's Guide to Financing Solar Energy Systems: A Federal Overview](#) (pdf file)

DOE prepared this 44-page guide for lenders and borrowers in need of information about nationwide financing programs for solar energy systems. The guide provides brief primers of solar energy systems, "at a glance" financing information, and resources for where to learn more.

[Renewable Energy Finance Network Directory](#) (pdf file)

Compiled by the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE), this directory contains information on sources of finance for renewable energy and energy efficiency in the United States.

[The Database of State Incentives for Renewable & Efficiency](#) (DSIRE)

A comprehensive source of information on state, local, utility, and federal incentives that promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. The database, presented as an interactive map, is easy to search and boasts a wealth of information.

This Issue

- **An Overview of Funding Options for Green Initiatives**
- **Green Collar Economic Growth**
- **Events and Training**
- **Resources**
- **Regional Spotlight**
- **We Have a New Name**
- **Maintenance Corner: GreenPlumbers**
- **Earth Day Activities**



Events and Training

[2008 Developers' Leadership Conference](#)

April 30 - May 2, 2008
Las Vegas, NV

[National Green Building Conference](#)

May 11-13, 2008
New Orleans, LA

[EcoBuild America](#)

May 19-22, 2008
Anaheim, CA

[Public Housing Authorities Directors Association 2008 Annual Convention and Exhibition](#)

June 1-4, 2008
New Orleans, LA

[EPCs for PHAs](#)

June 16-20, 2008
Chicago, IL

We Have a New Name

The Public Housing Energy Conservation Clearinghouse (PHECC) is changing its name to reflect concern for all types of environmental conservation, not just energy. Because people have come to trust PHECC, we'll keep the same acronym.

PHECC now stands for Public Housing Environmental and Conservation Clearinghouse.

Green Collar Economic Growth

PHAs are increasingly improving their buildings' energy efficiency, some showcase renewable energy sources. Beyond reducing energy bills and U.S. dependence on fossil fuels, increased interest in efficiency and renewables has created jobs. According to *Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency: Economic Drivers for the 21st Century*, a report by the [American Solar Energy Society](#) released late last year, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency technologies (RE&EE) generated 8.5 million new jobs in the United States in 2006.

The report was created to help quantify the role of RE&EE in the American economy. In 2006, RE&EE generated more than \$100 million in industry profits. Despite national and local tax credits associated with RE&EE projects, the industry generated more than \$150 million in increased federal, state and local government tax revenues! What's more, the jobs created in RE&EE are primarily for college-educated professional workers and highly skilled technical workers, which are well-paid and not subject to outsourcing. However, the report warns that "if we refuse to address policy and regulatory barriers to the sustained, orderly development of the RE&EE industry," the U.S. risks losing ground to international RE&EE efforts, missing out on both the economic and environmental benefits of this growing industry.

Read the [full-report](#) (PDF 1.15 MB)

Earth Day Activities for Residents

- Start a [compost pile](#)
<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/composting/index.htm>
- Organize a roadside or waterway clean-up
- Increase knowledge of place, [map your community](#)
<http://www.epa.gov/enviro/wme/>
- [Recycle Household Hazardous Waste](#) (HHW)
<http://earth911.org/blog/2008/03/17/your-world-your-vision/>
- Teach your kids to turn off the lights when they leave a room
- [Find a fun event near you!](#)
<http://www.epa.gov/earthday/events.htm>

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This monthly e-mail update is brought to you by HUD's Public Housing Environmental and Conservation Clearinghouse (PHECC) featuring news and resources to help agencies manage energy and water costs.

Regional Spotlight

[Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority \(CMHA\) Goes Green](#)

The construction phase of CMHA's \$33.6 million Energy Performance Contract (EPC), guaranteed to save CMHA \$3.7 million a year in utility costs and repairs, is nearly complete. Energy and water efficient fixtures have been installed in more than 25 high rises (over 7,000 residential units) as well as administrative and common areas. Many units received new energy efficient furnaces, hot water heaters, and windows. Green roofs were installed at Lakeview Terrace. Over 25 percent of the project's workers have come from the pool of CMHA residents.

Tremont Pointe, a major Hope VI mixed-income project enters Phase II. The resulting 200 units will boast [ENERGY STAR® appliances](#), high efficiency heat pumps, low-VOC paints, and [Green Label carpet](#). The development's layout provides walking access to local amenities.

To learn more [contact Mark Novak](#), CMHA's Director of Energy Conservation 216-432-5016 ext. 2150

Resources

[Public Housing Authority Toolbox](#) Provides PHA managers with clear and concise information on energy and resource efficient strategies and technologies.

[Fifteen O&M Best Practices for Energy Efficient Buildings \(pdf\)](#) Created by DOE and EPA, this guide covers management, teamwork, and more.

News Flash!

Maintenance Corner News Flash

[U.S. begins certification of GreenPlumbers®](#)

Water efficiency has been addressed on the personal and political level, but until now, there has been no national program that pulls plumbers into the mix. Enter [GreenPlumbers USA](#), a national accreditation and training program.

GreenPlumbers was founded in 1999 in Australia. Since its inception, the program, along with technological innovations, has reduced water consumption 50 percent relative to 1990 levels.

GreenPlumbers USA's goal is to train and deploy a green army of thousands of plumbers to promote the benefits of water and energy conservation. Accredited plumbers are trained to help you develop a staged plan for reducing water and energy costs. Your maintenance staff can become accredited by attending a series of classes that cover heating and cooling appliances, hot water heating, solar hot water, water conservation and other emerging products and technologies. Check [here](#) for a schedule of classes in your area.

Is your plumber green? Check the list of [certified GreenPlumbers](#).

Email us with your Maintenance Corner questions at phceinfo@nelrod.com.

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