



Eco Wise

Your Environmental Resource



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The 2007 ENERGY STAR Awards: An Applause for Housing Agencies



One recent spring evening in Washington D.C., the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Energy (DOE) hosted what many people consider the Nation's most auspicious celebration of energy efficiency. The ENERGY STAR Awards Ceremony recognized more than 80 businesses and organizations for their exemplary efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by way of increased energy efficiency. What made this year's ceremony particularly momentous was when the spotlight fell on two Housing Agencies.

Over the past two years, the Philadelphia Housing Authority and the Louisville Metro Housing Authority have controlled energy bills with environmentally friendly solutions. In doing so, they confirmed a commitment to energy-conscious affordable housing that other housing agencies could benefit from adopting. Philadelphia introduced an ENERGY STAR Homes demonstration project as part of its new construction program that saves each of its 64 newly built townhomes in excess of \$500 per year; the savings are achieved mainly through improvements made to the homes' heating and cooling systems. The agency has also pledged to conserve water by replacing more than 1,000 5-gallon toilets with 1.6 gallon toilets, which, when installed, will save thousands of gallons of water per day. In Kentucky, the Louisville Housing Authority utilized HOPE VI grants to fund the replacement of the oldest public housing development in the state with new homes worthy of the ENERGY STAR insignia. The Liberty Green, as the new development is called, is estimated to be more than 40% more energy efficient than homes built in line with the national model energy code of 1993.



A resident with part of Philadelphia's newest energy-efficient housing development.

You can access more information about HUD's recognitions at the 2007 ENERGY STAR Awards in the Eco Wise Regional Spotlight. Don't forget to follow the Resource link for more on ENERGY STAR success at the Philadelphia and Louisville housing agencies.

HUD's next Energy Webcast will be on May 17th from 1:00-4:00pm. For more information, look to the Events section on the right.

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Energy Watch

If you want to know where your energy costs are going next year, click on the link below!

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/>

Events

Energy Webcasts

May 17 - Multi-family Retrofit and Remodeling Strategies

June 14 - Single-Family Rehab and Retrofits

September 18 - New Construction Techniques: Energy Star and Greenbuilding

NAHRO Green Housing Symposium

May 30 - Washington, D.C.

Energy Performance Contracting for Public Housing Authorities

June 4-8 - Chicago, IL

Building Science: Creating Tools for Affordability and Sustainability

Building science is a term used to define “the study of the interaction between the various materials, products and systems used in building construction, the occupants of these buildings, and the environments in which they are located.” Simply stated, building science is the focus on one building as a system composed of many interactive components. The study of building science has produced many products, which, when taken together, form the driving force behind many of our nation’s leading energy conservation programs.

Building science has spawned the creation of corporations, advocacy groups and university curriculums devoted to its smart, holistic building approach to managing energy costs and indoor living quality. When successfully implemented, building science enhances buildings through improved durability, moisture management, energy efficiency, integrated pest management (IPM), indoor air quality and structural performance.

You might be wondering “How does this field specifically relate to Public Housing?” One answer lies in the actions of the Philadelphia and Louisville housing agencies who successfully integrated building science into their nationally recognized ENERGY STAR construction programs. Many professionals also note that viewing Energy Performance Contracts through a building science lens can maximize their value and bring large-scale energy efficiency to housing developments.

Highly effective insulation, high performance windows and doors, well-sealed duct systems, efficient heating and cooling equipment such as that used for co-generation, and efficient home appliances are some examples of what the field of building science has developed. These types of products and the ways in which they are integrated into housing developments throughout the country will be explored in future articles to help bring valuable knowledge to leaders of PHAs interested in revitalizing their developments.

Tips for Maintenance Staff and Residents

Regional Spotlight on HUD at the 2007 ENERGY STAR Awards

[Region VI - Southwest](#) Initiated a HUD-EPA Regional Cooperative Agreement
[Region IX - Pacific/Hawaii](#) Facilitated bulk purchase of ENERGY STAR qualified products
[Region IV - Southeast/Caribbean](#) Directed “Change a Light, Change the World” campaign
[Region I - New England](#) Promoted ENERGY STAR to HUD grantees

Click [here](#) for more on HUD’s recognition.

Resources

[And The Winners Are...](#)

The complete list of this year’s ENERGY STAR Award Winners

[Building Science](#)

Technical discussions on different aspects of building science

[ENERGY STAR Success](#)

ENERGY STAR success stories from Philadelphia and Louisville

[EPA’s WaterSense](#)

High Efficiency Faucet Statement

Maintenance Corner

Wasted Water Means Money Down the Drain

Every year more than 10,000 gallons of water flow from the average household’s kitchen and bathroom faucets. Much of this water goes to waste as older faucets let between 3 and 7 gallons of water flow per minute. By replacing or adding faucet aerators you can reduce water flow and prevent thousands of wasted gallons of water. Aerators are inexpensive, easy to install, and can be found at most hardware stores.

To determine the flow rate of a faucet, record how long it takes to fill a 1 quart container. If it takes less than 5 seconds, the faucet is using more than 3 gallons of water per minute. If it takes 10 seconds to fill up, water is flowing at about 1.5 gallons per minute - an ideal rate for bathroom and kitchen faucets.

Maintenance Staff:

Consider periodically checking the water flow of faucets in your units. Also, think about adding a low-flow aerator retrofit to the to-do list when an apartment is turning over.

Residents:

Take a few minutes to check the water flow of your faucets. If you find that they are using more than 3 gallons of water per minute, inform your maintenance staff.

Email us with your Maintenance Corner questions!

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Comments? Questions? Email the newsletter editor at pheccinfo@nelrod.com or call 1-800-955-2232

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