



Public Housing Energy Conservation Clearinghouse News

July 2005

This monthly e-mail update is brought to you by HUD's Public Housing Energy Conservation Clearinghouse (PHECC). It features news and resources to help public housing authorities manage energy and water costs. To see past issues of this newsletter, and to access more information and tools for public housing authorities, visit the Public Housing Energy Conservation Clearinghouse Website at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/phecc/>.

News:

- HUD Partners with DOE and EPA to Promote Home Energy Efficiency
- New Training Materials Available for Streamlining Energy Performance Contracting
- Buffalo Field Office Procedures for Energy Performance Contracting Available at PHECC
- Benchmarking Utility Consumption and Cost System in Development
- Summer Energy-Saving Tips for Residents
- Native American Edition of PHECC Premieres Next Month

Events:

- Seminar: Driving Down the Cost of LEED, Driving Up the Value of Your Building. August 11, August 25, and September 13. *Learn how to affordably build "green."*

Success Stories:

- New Solar-Powered Housing in Boston

Technology Tip:

- Save Big by Adding Insulation

ENERGY STAR® in Focus:

- Get Rebates on Windows, Doors, and Skylights

Energy Watch

- Lower Your Heating Oil Bills by Filling Your Tank Early

Websites Worth a Click

HUD Partners with DOE and EPA to Promote Home Energy Efficiency

In an event held in Washington, DC on July 11, 2005, the Secretaries of HUD and the Department of Energy (DOE), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator announced the Partnership for Home Energy Efficiency. This initiative will provide energy saving solutions for households across the country and support research and implementation of a new generation of energy efficiency technologies. The new partnership seeks to reduce household energy costs by 10 percent over the next decade while improving our nation's air. The three agencies will deliver the latest home energy saving information via a Web site at <http://www.energysavers.gov/>.



"Today, HUD is sending a notice to every public housing authority in the country, urging them to make energy efficiency a reality by utilizing ENERGY STAR products," HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson said. "I'm convinced that we'll reach out to public housing directors who weren't aware of how easy these products are to install, how good it is for the environment, and how much money it will save them."

View the ENERGY STAR notice at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/publications/notices/index.cfm>. View the full press release about the partnership at <http://www.hud.gov/news/release.cfm?content=pr05-096.cfm>.

New Training Materials Available for Streamlining Energy Performance Contracting

Staff from HUD Headquarters and nine HUD Field Offices met June 23-24 in Washington, DC, for a two-day training on Energy Performance Contracting. The attendees learned about the new streamlined procedures that reduce time for review and approval. The training video, PowerPoint presentation, and updated procedures from this training will soon be available to housing authorities and HUD staff on the PHECC Website, <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/phecc/>, and sent to all Field Offices. For more information, contact John Miller at 202-708-0614 x4237 or John.H.Miller@hud.gov.

Buffalo Field Office Procedures for Energy Performance Contracting Available at PHECC

The Buffalo HUD Field Office shares its experience with Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/phecc/eperformance.cfm>. This site includes a utility allowance procedure, an Energy Performance Contract checklist, and case studies.

Benchmarking Utility Consumption and Cost System in Development

How does your energy consumption compare to that of other housing authorities? PIH is developing a Benchmarking Utility Consumption and Cost System (BUCCS) to help you answer that question. Housing authorities in Region II and III are part of a pilot to develop this valuable time-saving tool. These housing authorities will receive information on their projects' utility usage, which will help them target building improvements that save money. Once complete, the BUCCS tool will be made available to all housing authorities. If you are interested in being one of the first housing authorities to receive feedback from this system, contact Glen Salas at 301-588-9387 or benchmarking@drintl.com.

Summer Energy-Saving Tips for Residents

Residents can keep cool and save money this summer by following some simple advice from DOE. Just copy and paste these guidelines onto a blank page, title it "Lower Your Energy Bills This Summer," and print. You can post your new flyer on bulletin boards or by the pool, or slide it under residents' doors. To view the full press release and find more tips, visit http://www.energy.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC_ID=18002&BT_CODE=PR_PRESSRELEASES&TT_CODE=PRESSRELEASE.

Use these energy-saving tips to lower your electric bill this summer.

- Open windows and use portable or ceiling fans instead of operating your air conditioner.
- Use a fan with your window air conditioner to spread the cool air through your home.

- Don't place lamps or TVs near your air conditioning thermostat. The heat from these appliances will cause the air conditioner to run longer.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with energy-saving compact fluorescents (CFLs), available at any outlet that sells lighting.
- Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.
- Use a microwave oven instead of a conventional electric range or oven.
- Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use.
- Plug home electronics, such as TVs and VCRs, into power strips. Turn power strips off when equipment is not in use.
- Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater: 115 degrees is comfortable for most uses and will reduce the chance of scalding in the kitchen or bath.
- Take showers instead of baths to reduce hot water use.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.
- Use cold water to wash your clothes.
- Install white window shades, drapes, or blinds to reflect heat away from the house.
- Close curtains on south- and west-facing windows during the day.

Native American Edition of PHECC Premieres Next Month

Watch for a special edition of PHECC next month on Native American public housing. This issue will focus on energy conservation in American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities.

EVENTS

Seminar: Driving Down the Cost of LEED, Driving Up the Value of Your Building

August 11, *Las Vegas, Nevada*

August 25, *Savannah, Georgia*

September 13, *Arlington, Virginia*

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System® is a voluntary, national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. Improperly applied, however, the LEED system can increase costs without adding corresponding value. This seminar will show you how to make the right value-driven, green-building decisions through cost-benefit ratios, cost shifting, effective lifecycle costing, and reductions in the total cost of ownership. Learn more at http://www.southface.org/web/greenprints_conference/g2k5/greenprints-onroad05.htm.

SUCCESS STORIES

New Solar-Powered Housing in Boston

Maverick Landing, a redevelopment of the Boston Housing Authority's Maverick Gardens public housing development, is building 396 new rental units with several advanced efficiency features that promise to save the authority energy and money. Almost 80 percent of the apartments will be available for public housing residents.

The project will include solar photovoltaics, a solar hot water system, and microturbine, as well as efficient lighting and appliances. The development will be certified under the LEED Rating System.

For more information, visit http://www.masstech.org/Project_lst_rslt.asp?ID=449 or contact Sam Nutter, Project Manager,

Green Buildings & Infrastructure, at (508) 870-0312 x277 or nutter@masstech.org. View the BHA press release at <http://www.bostonhousing.org/detpages/press35.html>. Learn more about building with solar from the Southface Institute's Solar Roadmap at <http://www.southface.org/solar/>.

TECHNOLOGY TIP

Save Big by Adding Insulation

Insulation is one of the most effective ways to save energy. Heating and cooling costs comprise nearly 50% of a total residential utility bill. Adding the recommended levels of insulation will save energy, reduce utility costs, and improve comfort. Additional benefits include noise reduction and fire resistance. However, proper installation is critical as gaps and compressed areas will dramatically reduce effectiveness.

Visit HUD's Energy Efficient Rehab Advisor, <http://rehabadvisor.pathnet.org/sp.asp?id=9478>, to learn more about how and where to insulate, see the recommended insulation levels for your region, and find financial incentives.

ENERGY STAR® IN FOCUS

Get Rebates on Windows, Doors, and Skylights

Replacing windows, doors, or skylights? Check this update on incentives offered by ENERGY STAR state and utility partners at http://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/manuf_res/windows/ES_Win_State_Util_Incentives_Act_Apr05.pdf (PDF file). Contact the program sponsor in your service area for information about eligibility and to verify that funding remains available. You may also search by zip code on the ENERGY STAR Web site, <http://www.energystar.gov/>, for special offers on ENERGY STAR qualified products. To learn more about ENERGY STAR qualified windows, doors, and skylights, visit http://energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=windows_doors.pr_windows.



ENERGY WATCH

Lower Your Heating Oil Bills by Filling Your Tank Early

Plan ahead this summer to lower your heating oil bills this winter. Arrange to have your tank filled in late summer or early fall when prices are generally lower. Talk to your heating oil dealer about "cap" or fixed price protection programs, which can help keep costs down. You might also want to talk to your dealer about participating in a budget plan to help stabilize your monthly bill.

To learn more about heating oil, view a summary at http://www.eia.doe.gov/pub/oil_gas/petroleum/analysis_publications/heating_brochure/heatbro.htm.

WEBSITES WORTH A CLICK

KnowledgePlex

Implemented by the Fannie Mae Foundation, KnowledgePlex at <http://www.knowledgeplex.org/> offers news, best practices, discussion, and research for affordable housing professionals.

New State Portal for Efficiency and Renewable Energy

EERE State Activities & Partnerships, available at <http://www.eere.energy.gov/states/>, organizes links to hundreds of state-specific Web pages published by DOE. Housing authorities can find state-specific information on energy news, building codes, energy programs, financial incentives, case studies, and more.

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