



Public Housing Energy Conservation Clearinghouse News

May 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:

- ACEEE Releases Report on Energy Efficiency's Impact on Natural Gas Prices
- HUD Holds Regional Energy Workshop in Birmingham
- HUD Will Conduct Training to Streamline Energy Performance Contracting
- PHECC Adds New Events Calendar

Events:

- Affordable Comfort. May 16-21, 2005. *Learn about energy efficiency and comfort in new construction and renovation projects.*
- Free Full Day Technical Seminar. May 25, 2005. *Learn about actions that make affordable housing "greener."*
- Delaware Residential Energy Summit. June 2, 2005. *Ask the experts about energy savings.*
- NAHRO Summer Conference and Public Housing Symposium. July 14-17, 2005. *Learn how to make the most out of opportunities in your community.*

Success Stories:

- Denny Park Apartments
- Grand Opening of Folsom/Dore Apartments

Tip of the Month:

- Free Energy Auditing Software

Technology Focus:

- Cooling Equipment Inspection and Maintenance

ENERGY STAR® in Focus:

- ENERGY STAR for New Homes

Energy Watch

Websites Worth a Click

NEWS

ACEEE Releases Report on Energy Efficiency's Impact on Natural Gas Prices

Energy efficiency provides a critical first response to rising natural gas prices according to a report released by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE). Impacts of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy on Natural Gas Markets: Updated and Expanded Analysis updates ACEEE's seminal December 2003 analysis that demonstrated the price effect from reducing natural gas demand. View the full news release and download the report at <http://aceee.org/press/0504eerespond.htm>.

HUD Holds Regional Energy Workshop in Birmingham

More than 250 people from the State of Alabama and surrounding areas were present when HUD presented the first of five Regional Energy Conferences in Birmingham, Alabama on April 7, 2005. The conference introduced HUD's Energy Action Plan, presented best energy conservation practices from around the country, and provided opportunities to access new resources. Conference participants were among the first to hear how this initiative will be built into future funding considerations. The conference featured speakers from HUD and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) headquarters and Alabama energy efficiency experts. View the full story and view photos at <http://www.hud.gov/news/focus.cfm?content=2005-04-13.cfm>. Read HUD's Energy Action Plan at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/energyenviron/energy/library/energyactionplan.pdf>.

HUD Will Conduct Training to Streamline Energy Performance Contracting

Staff from 17 HUD Field Offices will take part in an Energy Performance Contracting training at HUD headquarters in June. The goal of this effort is to standardize the process of reviewing and implementing Energy Performance Contracts. Products produced for this training will be sent to all Field Offices. For more information, contact John Miller at 202-708-0614 x4237 or John.H.Miller@hud.gov.

PHECC Adds New Events Calendar

Now it's even easier to keep track of upcoming PIH related events because PHECC has created a downloadable calendar. The calendar is available at

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/phecc/conferences/calendar.pdf>. If you would like to add an event to the calendar, email us at pheccinfo@drintl.com.

EVENTS

Affordable Comfort

May 16-21, 2005

Indianapolis, IN

There is still time to register for the Affordable Comfort 2005 Conference. The annual conference promotes residential building performance, energy efficiency, comfort, and safety in home retrofit, new construction, and renovation. The first day of the conference will include a full-day Multifamily Building Symposium. You can attend half-day or full-day short courses by themselves for less than the full conference registration fee. To learn more, visit <http://www.affordablecomfort.org/events.php?EventID=2>.

Free Full Day Technical Seminar

May 25, 2005

Sarasota, FL

Rebuild America, Sustainable Sarasota, and the Florida Green Building Coalition are presenting a seminar on "Greening Affordable Housing." Experts will address efficient lighting, high performance HVAC systems, ENERGY STAR® appliances, and more. The seminar will precede the State Greentrends Conference. There is no registration fee for the workshop, however, pre-registration is required. Learn about this seminar and the full conference at <http://www.rebuild.org/events/eventdetails.asp?NewsID=2509>.

Delaware Residential Energy Summit

June 2, 2005

Newark, DE

Find out how your public housing authority can increase energy savings, discover what is happening locally and regionally in energy efficiency and affordable housing, and learn how to make housing affordable with ENERGY STAR. For more information, contact Renee Mills at 302-739-4263 or Renee@dsha.state.de.us. Download the conference brochure at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/phecc/conferences/summitbrochure.pdf>.

NAHRO Summer Conference and Public Housing Symposium

July 14-17

San Francisco, CA

Join with other administrators and commissioners to explore key issues confronting housing agencies. Identify effective strategies that can be employed when working with staff, policy-makers, residents,

and other participants in the process of providing affordable housing and livable communities. As a bonus, a Public Housing Symposium will take place on the 16th and 17th and bring together housing agencies, developers, funders, and other stakeholders to focus on the opportunities housing authorities have in their communities, and how to make the most of them. Visit http://www.nahro.org/conferences/summer_prog.cfm for more information.

SUCCESS STORIES

Denny Park Apartments

The planning and design of Denny Park Apartments, a 50-unit development of affordable housing serving families in the South Lake Union area of Seattle, will create several benefits for residents and the surrounding community. These include storm water retention through collection of water in landscaping planters, durable 50-year exterior materials (roofing and siding), efficient centralized heating and hot water system, maximum natural lighting, energy efficient lighting and controls, continuous ventilation of bathrooms for moisture control, and low maintenance landscaping. To learn more about this project, visit <http://www.enterprisefoundation.org/resources/green/projects-casestudy-dennypark.asp>.

Grand Opening of Folsom/Dore Apartments

Citizens Housing Corporation (CHC) hosted a grand opening celebration on April 20, to mark the completion of the Folsom/Dore Apartments project, which was originally featured by PHECC in November 2004. San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, HUD Regional Director Richard Rainey, state and federal partners, community supporters and partners, and residents attended. The project provides 98 units of quality, affordable housing for low- and very low-income residents with a variety of special needs, including the chronically homeless. Read the full story at <http://www.pathnet.org/sp.asp?id=14386>.

TIP OF THE MONTH

Free Energy Auditing Software

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) has energy audit software available free of charge. The software, Weatherization Assistant version 7.4.3, was developed for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and is available at <http://www.waptac.org>. Look under "Technical Tools" and click on "Energy Audits." Downloading instructions (which include a password) and manuals for the software are also available in PDF format at this location.

While there is not sufficient funding to provide technical support to those outside the WAP, you may use this software without further authorization from DOE. You may use multiple installations of the software, but DOE asks that if it is distributed to other establishments, they also register.

TECHNOLOGY FOCUS

Cooling Equipment Inspection and Maintenance

It's springtime and as warmer weather approaches it's time to have your cooling equipment inspected and serviced to be sure it is running at top efficiency. It's also a good time to perform some do-it-yourself maintenance tasks such as cleaning filters and coils and repairing leaks.

Many new and improved types of cooling system controls are now available and should be considered

as part of a multifamily housing rehabilitation project.

Find out more about maintenance tasks in the Cooling section of http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/phecc/om_heating.cfm#29.

ENERGY STAR® IN FOCUS

ENERGY STAR for New Homes

Nearly 10 percent of all homes built in 2004 earned the ENERGY STAR label. Since 1995 over 360,000 of the Nation's new homes have earned the ENERGY STAR, saving homeowners an estimated \$200 million and eliminating approximately 4 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions. Any single-family or multi-family residential home that is three stories or less in height can qualify to receive the ENERGY STAR label.



ENERGY STAR qualified homes are independently verified to be at least 30% more energy efficient than homes built to the 1993 national Model Energy Code or 15% more efficient than the state energy code, whichever is more rigorous. These savings are based on heating, cooling, and hot water energy use and are typically achieved through a combination of building envelope upgrades, high performance windows, controlled air infiltration, upgraded heating and air conditioning systems, tight duct systems and upgraded water-heating equipment.

An ENERGY STAR qualified new home actually costs less because the home's utility bills are lower than those of non-ENERGY STAR homes. To learn more about ENERGY STAR for New Homes, visit http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=new_homes.hm_index.

CORRECTION: Last month's newsletter incorrectly listed the ENERGY STAR hotline number to order brochures. The correct number is 1-888-STAR-YES.

ENERGY WATCH

The average heating oil cost for January 2005 was \$1.80 per gallon delivered, compared to \$1.42 in January 2004. Prices rose an average of 2% in February 2005 and continue to rise. The good news is that there is something housing authorities can do to counteract this one-year 30% price hike: improve efficiency. HVAC tune-up cuts heating costs by up to 10% and weatherizing can reduce cost by an additional 20%. For information on HVAC tune-up and innovative efficiency improvement strategies visit <http://rehabadvisor.pathnet.org/sp.asp?id=10822>. To learn more about weatherizing, see the air sealing, duct sealing, and insulation sections of <http://rehabadvisor.pathnet.org/sp.asp?id=10827>.

WEBSITES WORTH A CLICK

Western's Energy Services

Western's Energy Services Website offers no-cost technical assistance, calculators, links, and other resources on energy efficiency and renewable energy. Visit the site at <http://www.wapa.gov/es/>.

California Multifamily Consortium

The Consortium is made up of existing multifamily organizations, cities and counties, public housing,

building officials, investor-owned and municipal utilities, appropriate state and federal agencies, financiers, and the university and community college systems. Together they identify energy efficiency related market needs and barriers, provide resources, and cultivate links between the resources, knowledge, and multi-family housing providers. Visit the site at <http://www.seiinc.org/mfconsortium.html>.

HUD Announces Energy Action Newsletter

This quarterly communication shares information on the latest energy conservation measures that will benefit every HUD customer, partner, and grantee. Learn about technologies and best practices that improve energy efficiency of homes, while providing the most in physical comfort and saving money. Read the first issue and subscribe at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/energyenviron/energy/library/newsletters/>.

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