



Public Housing Energy Conservation Clearinghouse News July 2004

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/>.

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- Energy Technology Expo and Conference. August 31-September 1. *What are the latest products and technologies for saving energy in buildings? Find out!*
- 31st Annual Energy and Environmental Conference. September 13-15. *Get the scoop on environmental, health, and safety management systems for your properties!*

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NEWS

Hot! Energy Efficiency Training Module Can Help Improve Energy Efficiency of Your Properties

In this age of continually increasing energy costs, few of us would question the benefits of an energy efficiency program. But what's often less clear is where to find information to help you get started. A new tool from HUD could be just the ticket! The new Energy Efficiency Training Module was developed for CPD Program staff and grant recipients who are interested in

increasing the energy efficiency of their single- and multi-family projects. PHAs also will find the training module useful. Take advantage of this great resource to learn about:

- Energy efficiency and how it relates to affordability
- Key energy-saving techniques, discuss strategies to reduce energy loss and recall models of energy efficiency projects
- Identify the five most common problems in homes related to energy use and energy loss
- Cost-effectiveness of energy efficiency equipment
- Skills needed to undertake an energy efficiency project, as well as several management models, which grantees can use to address the possible barriers that grantees may encounter
- Federal and nonfederal programs that support energy efficiency
- And much more!

Get started today by visiting [http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/affordablehousing/training/web/energy/!](http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/affordablehousing/training/web/energy/)



Back to School: New Center Offers Energy Training for Building Operators

Looking for training in building energy management? The Association for Energy Affordability's (AEA) new Energy Management Training Center could be just what you're looking for! The Center provides hands-on training opportunities to New York residents interested in operating their buildings more efficiently. The center is complete with functioning demonstration heating systems and advanced building control technologies, as well as several classrooms equipped with digital video and Internet access. The Center is also a showcase and demonstration facility for advanced building controls, metering and renewable technology, with these demonstration products also being used for training purposes. Find out more at [http://www.aeanyc.org/TrainingCenterOpening.htm!](http://www.aeanyc.org/TrainingCenterOpening.htm)



Lighten Your Load: Landscaping Techniques That Save Money AND Effort

The sight of colorful flowers and neatly trimmed grass is something many of us look forward to after the long winter. But a beautiful landscape comes at a price, often dramatically increasing water costs and labor. But this doesn't have to be the case! Xeriscaping allows you to achieve a beautiful landscape with native plants that require less water, less chemicals, and less labor to maintain. In fact, according to the University of Georgia, xeriscaping can "reduce outdoor water consumption by as much as 50 percent without sacrificing the quality and beauty of your home environment." That means direct savings to you! Interested? Find out more at these links:

- <http://www.ces.uga.edu/pubcd/B1073.htm>
- <http://www.cabq.gov/waterconservation/xeric.html>
- <http://www.northerngardening.com/xeriscaping.htm>



No Pain, Much Gain: Energy Star Campaign Encourages Energy Saving at Home

It's no secret that your energy conservation efforts will be more successful if you enlist the help of residents. And, recruiting your residents has just gotten easier with a new multi-year campaign that encourages people to save energy in their homes. The campaign lists five easy steps for saving energy: changing your five most-used lights with lights that carry the Energy Star label, buying appliances and other products labeled with the Energy Star, being energy-efficient when heating and cooling your units, sealing and insulating, and spreading the word to neighbors, family, and friends. The Energy Star program is a joint effort of DOE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Learn more about the campaign at [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=news.nr_psa!](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=news.nr_psa)



Price Watch: Still No Relief for High Energy Costs, Says EIA

It seems like energy costs have been on the rise forever, and apparently that won't change, at least in the short-term. According to the Energy Information Administration's Short-Term Energy Outlook – July 2004, average residential electricity prices in the third quarter of 2004 are expected to increase by 4 percent. The higher costs of primary fuels used to generate electricity, particularly natural gas, and increased demand both contribute to the higher prices. Natural gas prices are on the rise, too, averaging about 9 percent higher than 2003. And, next year doesn't look much better. EIA says natural gas end-use prices will remain high in 2005. Learn more at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/steo/pub/contents.html>.



EVENTS

Distributed Generation and Combined Heat and Power Workshop

August 8, 2004

Rochester, New York

While this workshop is aimed at federal facilities, managers of all types of buildings can benefit! Learn more about CHP technology as well as opportunities for applying it, including successful project profiles. Want more information? Visit http://www.eere.energy.gov/femp/services/training_dist_gen_chp2.cfm.

Energy Technology Expo and Conference

August 31-September 1, 2004

Denver, Colorado

Held in conjunction with the 8th World Renewable Energy Congress, this event will focus on the latest solutions to conserve energy in buildings, implement renewable energy systems, and much more! Learn new strategies for your properties through the events technical sessions, networking opportunities, and product and services exhibits. Learn more at <http://www.energytechexpo.com/>.

31st Annual Energy and Environmental Conference

September 13-15, 2004

Orlando, Florida

The nation's premier conference addressing quality, this event will offer a variety of technical sessions, as well as two special education and training sessions. Topics include: Performance Measurement for Environmental and Energy Programs, Energy Conservation Methods and Technologies, Resource Conservation and Management, and Pollution Prevention. Get more details at <http://www.asq-eed.org/conferences.htm>.



SUCCESS STORIES

Gables Central Park Apartments

Austin, Texas

Austin, Texas, is notorious for its green building efforts, and buildings of all types have jumped on the bandwagon. The Gables Central Park Apartments holds the distinction as the first multifamily building to follow the City of Austin Green Building guidelines for a multi-family construction project. The property not only features energy-conservation measures, such as highly efficient heating and cooling systems, but also boasts the use of materials that are recycled, healthy, and environmentally friendly. The development also filters storm water runoff to prevent flooding, and uses native landscaping to conserve water. Its location close to public transportation reduces pollution from cars, and the many nearby services allow residents to walk instead of relying on vehicle transportation at all. Learn more about this project at http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/greenbuilder/docs/cs_gables.pdf.

Newark Housing Authority

Newark, New Jersey

The Newark Housing Authority owns and manages 7,600 low-income housing units, including high-rise senior citizen buildings, low-rise family buildings and townhouses. Thanks to a comprehensive lighting retrofit that replaced thousands of inefficient lights with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), NHA is saving a whopping \$474,000 in electricity costs each year. And, the icing on the cake is that the project didn't cost NHA a penny! Get the story at <http://www.rebuild.gov/news/SucStoryView.asp?StoryId=44>

Watt Executive Plaza

Sacramento, California

The owner of a Sacramento apartment building undertook an energy-efficiency project with a dual goal: to save residents money and to protect the environment. With an incentive just shy of \$20,000 from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, the owner undertook the project in several phases. Ultimately, an energy management system was installed, HVAC systems were upgraded, and energy-efficient lighting systems were installed. The project was so successful, it was honored with a 2001 ENERGY STAR® for Small Business Award from EPA. Learn more at http://www.epa.gov/smallbiz/archive/successstories/ss_watt.html.

TIP OF THE MONTH



Install Swamp Coolers in Hot, Dry Climates

In these dog days of summer, energy costs to keep your properties cool could be skyrocketing. Have you investigated using swamp coolers to reduce that energy use? Swamp coolers—also called direct evaporative coolers—have long been used to provide cooling in the hot, dry Southwest. Because they use 60-80 percent less electricity than standard air conditioners, their payback is typically six months to five years compared to conventional air conditioning units, depending on the climate.

Swamp coolers include a fan, a cellulose pad or filter, and a small water pump. The pump supplies water to the pad, which keeps it wet, and the fan blows hot, relatively dry air through the pad. The air is cooled as it passes through the pad and is then supplied to areas where cooling is desired. One caveat: Because the process also increases the humidity of the air, swamp coolers are not appropriate for hot, humid climates where extra humidity would be unwelcome.

Interested in learning more? Check out these links:

- http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/phecc/strat_H11.cfm
- <http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumerinfo/factsheets/aircond.html>
- http://www.energyoutlet.com/res/cooling/evap_coolers/index.html



WEBSITES WORTH A CLICK

Powerful Savings

DOE and the Alliance to Save Energy launched this new public education and awareness campaign in May 2004. The campaign provide consumers with the information and tools necessary to make smart energy choices a part of their daily lives. Check it out at [http://www.ase.org/section/_audience/consumers/powerful_avings_campaign/!](http://www.ase.org/section/_audience/consumers/powerful_avings_campaign/)

Next Step: Energy

A website of the Minnesota Sustainable Communities Network that includes useful information on a variety of topics related to sustainability, including energy. Find out more at <http://www.nextstep.state.mn.us/section.cfm?topic=Energy!>

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If you ever want to remove yourself from this mailing list, you can send mail to <Majordomo@lists.ncat.org> with the following command in the body of your email message:

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The Public Housing Energy Conservation Clearinghouse is managed by the nonprofit National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) for HUD, Office of Public and Indian Housing.

Comments? Questions? Email the newsletter editor at cathys@phaenergy.org.
