



## Public Housing Energy Conservation Clearinghouse News December 2003

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/>.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

#### News:

- Click your Way to Savings—Energy-Efficient Rehab Advisor Now Available Online!
- Money, Money!! HUD Announces Availability of HOPE IV Funds
- Voice Your Opinion! HUD Requests Comments on Public Housing Operating Fund Formula
- Energy Bill Passes House, Stalls in Senate

#### Events:

- Business Energy Solutions Expo. December 11-12. *Learn the latest about technologies and strategies that can help you improve energy and overall operational efficiency!*
- Solutions for Success New York 2004. February 4-6. *Find out more about the success of New York's Energy Star for Homes program!*
- Building Energy 2004. March 10-14. *The premier professional conference where renewable energy meets green building!*

#### Success Stories:

- Habitat for Humanity, Missoula, MT—Affordable housing project achieves Energy Star ranking
- Energy-Efficient Duplex Project, Yonkers, NY—Habitat for Humanity scores another win in these energy-efficient, affordable duplexes that also boast solar electric systems
- Pueblo Del Sol, Los Angeles, CA—The largest public housing revitalization project in California includes 470 affordable housing units with energy efficiency features

**Tip of the Month:** Install Efficient Laundry Equipment  
**Websites Worth a Click**

### NEWS



#### **Click your Way to Savings—Energy Efficient Rehab Advisor Now Available Online!**

Looking for energy efficiency opportunities as you remodel your properties? A new online tool developed by HUD makes it easy! The **Energy-Efficient Rehab Advisor** will tell you, in just six clicks, the most cost-effective way to increase the energy efficiency and lower utility bills for any remodeling project in the United States, from a kitchen upgrade in Fresno

to a complete building remodel in Farmingham. That means lower energy bills for you and your tenants, as well as durable, sustainable, healthy, and comfortable housing.

The Advisor's recommendations are based on ENERGY STAR specifications, where applicable, which means maximized savings potential. And, since your profile is built on your building type, location, and specific rehab project, you won't get any recommendations that don't apply. And best of all, the recommendations are free!

Check out the Energy Efficient Rehab Advisor today at <http://www.rehabadvisor.com/>!



### **Money, Money!! HUD Announces Availability of HOPE IV Funds**

Looking for funds for an energy efficiency project in your properties? HUD's 2003 HOPE VI Revitalization and Demolition grants could be the answer! HUD recently announced availability of \$574 million in HOPE VI funds to revitalize aged public housing and transform neighborhoods across the country. Public housing authorities have until January 20, 2004, to compete for the Revitalization grants. The deadline for the Demolition grants is February 18, 2004. Awards for the Revitalization grants are generally made four to five months after the deadline. The maximum grant award for the Revitalization program is \$20 million.

Revitalization grant funds can be used for an array of activities, including: demolition of severely distressed public housing; acquisition of sites for off-site construction; capital costs of major rehabilitation, new construction and other physical improvements; and community and supportive service programs for residents, including those relocated as a result of revitalization efforts.

Since the program's inception in 1993, there have been 193 HOPE VI Revitalization grants awarded to 114 housing authorities, totaling \$5 billion. Could your housing authority be next? Get more information at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/hope6/index.cfm>!



### **Voice Your Opinion! HUD Requests Comments on Public Housing Operating Fund Formula**

HUD is currently accepting comments on several topics related to the Public Housing Operating Fund Formula, which determines the allocation of operating subsidies to PHAs. For example, HUD is interested in public comments on options to develop strong incentives (both positive and negative) to promote energy conservation and to reduce energy consumption in public housing. Speak up at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/divisions/ffmd/formulacomments.cfm>!



### **Energy Bill Passes House, Stalls in Senate**

The House of Representatives easily passed the new Energy Bill on November 18 by a vote of 246-180. The first major national energy policy in a decade, the \$32 billion bill offers large tax breaks to energy industries, particularly those companies involved in oil, natural gas, and coal producers, but also to renewable energy industries in areas such as wind turbines. However, the bill is facing opposition in the Senate where several lawmakers are opposing based on its provisions to protect manufacturers of the additive MTBE, which has contaminated groundwater in their states and would be banned under the bill.

The bill includes a number of provisions that are said to create jobs, increase energy conservation, expand production of current energy sources, and develop more clean and renewable energies

for the future. Several of these provisions specifically address energy and water efficiency in public housing.

Learn more about the 2003 Energy Legislation at <http://energy.senate.gov/legislation/energybill2003/energybill2003.cfm>.



## EVENTS

### **Business Energy Solutions Expo**

December 11-12, 2003

New Orleans, Louisiana

Presented by the Association of Energy Engineers, this event will focus on technologies and strategies available to improve energy and overall operational efficiency, including HVAC and lighting upgrades, utility systems, energy management systems, on-site and standby power generation, and controls and measurement devices of all kinds. Find out more at the conference website at

<http://www.aeecenter.org/bese/>.

### **Solutions for Success New York 2004**

February 4-6, 2004

Rye Brook, New York

Join other participants for New York's Energy Star for Homes Conference and Awards Banquet.

Find out what accounts for the program's success and who's making news! Online brochure, registration form, and other materials will be uploaded to

<http://www.affordablecomfort.org/html/acNY04.html> as it becomes available.

### **Building Energy 2004**

March 10-14, 2004

Boston, Massachusetts

Building Energy is the premier professional conference focusing on the intersection of renewable energy and green building. The event will feature four full days of workshops, tours, over 50 conference sessions, a trade show, and special networking opportunities. Don't miss it! Get more information at <http://www.nesea.org/buildings/be/2004index.html>.



## SUCCESS STORIES

### **Habitat for Humanity—Missoula, MT**

Habitat for Humanity is well known for its affordable housing. But affordability is reflected in more than the purchase price in a new Habitat home in Missoula, Montana—this one also boasts low energy bills, which will help keep it affordable to residents over time. The house is Energy Star-labeled, and includes features such as high insulation levels, an energy-efficient heating system,

energy-efficient windows, and a heat recovery ventilation system. In a previous study, Habitat concluded that its Energy Star duplexes save nearly \$700 annually in energy costs, compared to a similar unit built to conventional standards. Read more about the Missoula home at <http://www.missoulain.com/articles/2003/11/03/news/local/znews03.txt>.

### **Energy-Efficient Duplex Project—Yonkers, NY**

Three new Habitat for Humanity duplexes were recently dedicated in Yonkers, New York. The six families that are waiting for their new homes have an extra advantage to look forward to: low energy bills. The walls in the homes are made from structural insulating panels and the foundations are made with insulated concrete forms, both of which provide high levels of insulation while helping to prevent air leakage. The homes also feature low-e windows and high-efficiency direct-vent boilers, and 1.2-kilowatt solar electric systems are being installed on the roofs of each of the three buildings. The project was supported by the Partnership for Advanced Technology in Housing (PATH)—a program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development—as well as the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority. Read the full story at <http://www.swinter.com/PressReleases/Yonkers.pdf>.

### **Pueblo Del Sol—Los Angeles, CA**

A new mixed-income housing development in California replaces an old, worn-out property in the largest public housing revitalization project in the state. Part of HUD Hope VI program, Pueblo Del Sol provides 470 affordable housing units, as well as a number of important social and recreational services. Energy-efficiency features, such as heating/cooling systems and appliances, contribute to the property's affordability to its residents. The project resulted from a public/private partnership between the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, The Related Cos. of California, McCormack Baron Salazar, SunAmerica Affordable Housing Partners and the Los Angeles Unified School District. Some \$52 million in private equity was generated through the sale of Low Income Housing Tax Credits. Learn more at [http://www.multihousingnews.com/multihousing/headlines/article\\_display.jsp?vnu\\_content\\_id=200534](http://www.multihousingnews.com/multihousing/headlines/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=200534)



#### **TIP OF THE MONTH**

#### **Install Efficient Laundry Equipment**

The efficiency of clothes washers and dryers has increased dramatically over the past decade. Because today's models use considerably less water and energy—as much as half of their predecessors—you could reap enormous savings by switching to high-efficiency washers and dryers.

In 2001 The ENERGY STAR® program added commercial washers to the 31 other labeled products. Commercial models are those with volume of 3.5 cubic feet or less. In order to qualify for the label, the washer must meet the minimum Modified Energy Factor (MEF) requirement of 1.26. Compared to a 10-year-old machine, an ENERGY STAR qualified washer can save up to \$120 per year on your utility bills!

What should you look for in a new washer or dryer? Here are a few tips:

- Choose a washing machine that has several options for adjusting the water level.
- Choose a model with a "mini-basket." This allows you to wash very small loads.
- Look for pre-soaking options. Both pre-soaking options and "suds saver" features conserve energy.
- Choose a washing machine with faster spin speeds. Higher spin speeds can result in better water extraction and reduce drying times.

- Look for clothes dryers with moisture sensors that automatically shuts off the machine when clothes are dry. Not only will this save energy, it will reduce the wear and tear on clothes from over-drying.
- Look for dryers with a cycle that includes a cool-down period, sometimes known as a perma-press cycle.
- Gas dryers are less expensive to operate than electric dryers. The cost of drying a typical load of laundry in an electric dryer is 30-40 cents compared to 15-20 cents in a gas dryer.



For more information, see the **ENERGY STAR** website, where you can find out which washing machine models meet ENERGY STAR requirements, get purchasing tips, access a savings calculator, and more!

[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=clotheswash.pr\\_clothes\\_washers](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=clotheswash.pr_clothes_washers).

Also see the **Consortium for Energy Efficiency** website for information on its **Commercial, Family-Sized Clothes Washer Initiative** at

[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=clotheswash.pr\\_clothes\\_washers](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=clotheswash.pr_clothes_washers)

The **Multi-Housing Laundry Association** website includes still more useful information, including a **Laundry Utilities Cost Worksheet**. Check it out at <http://www.mhla.com/>.

Finally, be sure to check with your local utility company, as many offer rebates or other incentives for resource-efficient commercial washers.



## WEBSITES WORTH A CLICK

### Home Heating

Part of Seattle City Light's website, this page provides a good amount of useful information regarding home heating systems, including types of systems, fuel cost comparisons, and efficiency tips. Find out how to operate your heating system most energy efficiently!

<http://www.seattle.gov/light/Conserve/Resident/HomeHeating/default.asp>.

### Minnesota Energy Information Center

Simple, easy-to-understand information is just what we need in today's busy world. And that's just what you'll get at the MEIC website! Find straightforward information on energy conservation, renewable energy, and more at

<http://www.state.mn.us/cgi-bin/portal/mn/jsp/home.do?agency=Commerce!> (Click on Energy Info Center.)

### Consortium for Energy Efficiency

This national nonprofit organization promotes energy-efficient products and services. One of CEE's current efforts is to create a series of documents that can be used as a resource for multifamily program design. Check out CEE's website at <http://www.cee1.org/> and see the documents on heating, lighting, appliances, and more!

**TO UNSUBSCRIBE FROM THE PHECC Electronic Newsletter:**

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

unsubscribe phecc

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](mailto:cathys@phaenergy.org).

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