



Public Housing Energy Conservation Clearinghouse News October 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/>.

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- Energy Technology Seminar: Building Envelope. October 15. *Discover how to reduce energy consumption in your properties through effective building envelope measures!*
- HVAC Design Guidelines for Savings & Profit. October 28. *Find out how to develop guidelines for energy-efficient HVAC systems for your properties!*
- National Council of State Housing Agencies Annual Conference and Trade Show. October 25-28. *Learn more about a variety of topics related to affordable housing, including how one housing agency is guaranteeing energy savings!*

Success Stories:

- Portsmouth Metropolitan Housing Authority, Portsmouth, Ohio—A water-efficiency program is saving this housing authority \$100,000 each year.
- Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania—Comprehensive energy plan makes buildings more comfortable while saving \$4 million.
- Cherie Turner Towers, Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority, Canton, Ohio—A "top-to-bottom" energy project creates comfortable, energy-efficient housing for seniors.

Tip of the Month: Install Water-Efficient Showerheads and Faucet Aerators

Websites Worth a Click

NEWS

New Study Says Renewables, Efficiency Could Cut Natural Gas Prices

Natural gas prices are predicted to increase a whopping 36 percent on average for U.S. consumers. These rising costs affect all sectors, but the low-income are particularly hard hit. However, energy efficiency and renewable energy systems hold promise to reduce these costs, according to a new study by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) and Energy and Environmental Analysis, Inc. According to the study, aggressive programs to encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy could reduce the demand for natural gas enough to cause a 10 to 20 percent drop in wholesale natural gas prices. The report concludes that savings to consumers and businesses over the next five years could exceed \$75 billion.

Read a [summary](#), or download the [full report](#).

Use PHECC's [Cost-Reduction Toolbox](#) and start reducing energy consumption in your properties today!

Looking to Save Energy Without Spending Big Bucks? Check out PHECC's New Operations and Maintenance Section!

Proper operations and maintenance is an essential part of any successful energy management program. Often, PHAs can save 10 to 25 percent of the energy used in their developments by improving O&M practices at little or no cost. So, how can your housing authority get started with O&M measures? Look to PHECC's new Operations and Maintenance section at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/phecc/oandm.cfm> to find out what O&M measures make sense for your properties!

Multifamily Rebates Part of New San Francisco Energy Efficiency Pilot Project

Multifamily housing properties in the San Francisco area will soon be eligible for rebates on qualified energy efficiency products. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors recently approved a \$16.3 million energy efficiency pilot project for the city. The project aims to reduce peak electricity demand for both homes and businesses and include nine elements aimed at reducing peak power use by 16 megawatts in the city by January 2005. Multifamily housing units are among the project's target groups.

Find out what's available at

http://www.pge.com/006_news/006a_news_rel/030723.shtml!



EVENTS

Energy Technology Seminar: Building Envelope

October 15, 2003

San Francisco, CA

Rebuild America and Pacific Gas and Electric present this seminar to teach participants about energy efficiency issues related to building envelope, such as windows, insulation, roofing, and more. The half-day program is free! For more information, see

<http://www.rebuild.org/events/eventdetails.asp?NewsID=1893>.

HVAC Design Guidelines for Savings & Profit

October 28, 2003

San Diego, CA

This workshop will help participants establish criteria, evaluate alternatives, and conduct best practices to achieve cost-effective, environmentally benign, efficient HVAC systems for occupant comfort. For more information, visit <http://www.sdenergy.org/events/>.

National Council of State Housing Agencies Annual Conference and Trade Show

October 15-18, 2003

Chicago, Illinois

This gathering of the nation's state Housing Finance Agencies and NCSHA affiliate members will focus on a variety of topics related to affordable housing. Learn how one housing agency is guaranteeing energy savings! For more information, visit

<http://www.ncsha.org/conference.cfm/142>.



SUCCESS STORIES

Portsmouth Metropolitan Housing Authority

Portsmouth, Ohio

High water consumption and aging fixtures were a concern to Portsmouth Metropolitan Housing Authority (PMHA), as were the associated costs. In response, the housing authority implemented a water-efficiency program that installed low-flush toilet and low-flow shower heads, as well as repairing any leaking faucets, at 776 units at 10 sites. These upgrades are saving PMHA \$100,000 in water costs each year. Read more at <http://www.rebuild.org/partnerships/communityview.asp?OrganizationID=2554>.

Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

A comprehensive energy plan undertaken at the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh will reduce energy consumption and save the Authority more than \$4 million over 10 years. The plan includes a host of measures for eight properties, including a lighting retrofit, water-conservation measures, and installation of radiator control valves, boiler controls, and domestic hot water temperature controls. The project is funded through an energy performance contract. Learn more at <http://www.esperform.org/stories/HACP.htm>.

Cherie Turner Towers

Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority
Canton, Ohio

The newly retrofitted Cherie Turner Towers is providing a comfortable environment for its senior residents, while at the same time reducing energy bills through its energy-efficiency measures. The retrofit involved a number of energy improvements, ranging from new roofing, energy-efficient windows, compact fluorescent lighting, low-flow toilets, additional insulation, and the geothermal heat pump. Learn more about the project at <http://www.rebuild.org/attachments/partnerupdates/NovDec2001.pdf>



TIP OF THE MONTH

Install Water-Efficient Showerheads and Faucet Aerators

As much as half the hot water consumed in a typical residence is used for bathing, and as much as 15 percent more is used in household sinks. Consider installing water-efficient showerheads and faucet aerators in your properties to reduce water flow rate to sinks and showers, which translates to saving water, energy, and money. And, these showerheads and aerators are inexpensive to install, allowing a fast return on your money!

For more information, see Savings Strategies: Domestic Water Heating Systems at http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/phecc/strat_W1.cfm.



WEBSITES WORTH A CLICK

Rebuild America's Solution Center

A collection of information and tools to help answer your questions about how to successfully plan and complete building energy projects. The site includes publications, success stories, and more. Find your solutions at <http://www.rebuild.org/lawson/productservices.asp>!

Home Energy Checkup

Help your tenants save money and increase comfort in their units, while reducing energy use and pollution at the same time! This guide from the Alliance to Save Energy allows users to choose from a number of energy efficiency choices, see how much money and pollution can be saved from those choices, and find out where to get energy-efficient products. See the guide at <http://www.ase.org/checkup/home/index.html>.

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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.
