



Public Housing Energy Conservation Clearinghouse News July/August 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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Websites Worth a Click

NEWS



Alert! Natural Gas Prices Not Likely to Be Low Again Soon, Says Greenspan

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has warned that tight supplies and high prices for natural gas will continue for some, perhaps into next winter. In addition to increasing residential energy costs, Greenspan says the high costs could have an economic impact on industries that rely heavily on natural gas for operations. Wholesale gas prices are roughly double what they had been a year ago. Read the entire story at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A37379-2003Jul10.html>



Very Cool—Upgrade Cooling Systems to Beat the Heat!

In these dog days of summer, keeping cool is a must. But if the cooling systems in your properties are more than 10 years old, they are using considerably more energy than necessary and could also be operating at lower performance. Cooling costs account for nearly half of summertime energy costs, and, with natural gas prices on the rise this summer, there's no better time to upgrade your cooling systems. Select equipment that is ENERGY STAR-labeled to save energy and money and to keep your residents cool using only 25 to 40 percent of the energy of conventional systems. Find out more about energy-efficient cooling, and which equipment bears the ENERGY STAR label at http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=heat_cool.pr_consumer_cool_change.

New Database Identifies Residential Energy Efficiency Programs—Find Out What's Available in Your State!

Many residential electric and natural gas customers don't realize that their utilities offer home energy audits, rebates for energy-efficient appliances, zero- or low-interest loans to upgrade insulation or replace old heating and cooling equipment, and other products and programs. But the National Energy Affordability and Accessibility Program (NEAAP) gives Internet users free and easy access to an extensive database of residential energy efficiency programs offered by public and private utilities, rural electric cooperatives, and state agencies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Database users can search for residential energy efficiency programs by state, utility name, utility type, program type, or keyword.

Are there programs in your state that your public housing authority might tap to make an energy project possible? Find out at <http://neaap.ncat.org/db/>!



EVENTS

Saving Water: Smart Strategies to Improve the Bottom Line

August 14, 2003

Denver, CO

The U.S. Department of Energy and the Colorado Governor's Office of Energy Management are hosts to this event that will teach attendees innovative solutions to address short and long term water- and energy-management issues. Get more information at <http://www.savingwater2003.com/>.

West Coast Energy Management Congress

September 17-18, 2003

San Diego, CA

Top professionals from western states will come together to get up to speed on the latest energy marketplace developments, explore promising new technologies for their facilities, compare energy supply options, and learn about innovative project implementation strategies. For more information, visit <http://www.aeecenter.org/emc/>.

Building Solutions 2003

October 15-18, 2003

Chicago, Illinois

Industry experts will lead a number of sessions that focus on problems that affect the performance of buildings, and solutions to address them. For more information, visit <http://www.eeba.org/conference/default.htm>.



SUCCESS STORIES

Colorado Court

Santa Monica, California

A new 44-unit, five-story building in Santa Monica is said to be the first affordable-housing project in the United States that is 100% energy neutral. This project is an excellent model of sustainable development in an urban environment, provides a model for private/public partnerships that benefit the community, and promotes diversity in an urban environment through strategically placed affordable housing. For a complete description, see <http://greenbuildings.santa-monica.org/whatsnew/colorado-court/coloradocourt.html>.

Housing Authority of the City of Houston

Houston, Texas

HACH and the City of Houston Water Conservation Branch partnered in a pilot project to assess the cost-effectiveness of installing water-efficient plumbing devices in a low-income, multifamily housing project. Following a water audit, existing toilets were replaced with ultra-low-flush models, leaky faucets were repaired or replaced, low-flow faucet aerators and individual water meters were installed to monitor consumption. Additionally, the project included water-conservation education for tenants. Following the upgrades, average water savings totals nearly 1 million gallons each month, or 72% of the average consumption for the complex. Read more at <http://www.awwa.org/waterwiser/watch/index.cfm?ArticleID=29>.

Housing Authority of Henry County

Kewanee, Illinois

Led by the Kewanee Chamber of Commerce, Rebuild Kewanee is taking a multi-tiered approach to addressing local energy issues and is developing programs and incentives to increase awareness among residents and businesses of the benefits of adopting energy-saving practices. Learn more about the project at http://www.rebuild.org/attachments/marketing/housing_auth_henry_county_il_012003.pdf.

TIP OF THE MONTH



Cool Your Buildings Naturally With Energy-Efficient Landscaping

These days, everyone is looking for ways to stay cool in the summer's heat. Did you know that you can help keep your buildings cool, and improve your property's aesthetics at the same time, with energy-efficient landscaping? Planting the right type of trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, and hedges in the right places can:

- Cut summer and winter energy costs dramatically;
- Protect your buildings from winter wind and summer sun;
- Reduce consumption of water, pesticides, and fuel for landscaping and lawn maintenance; and
- Help control noise and air pollution.

For more information, see DOE's fact sheet *Landscaping for Energy Efficiency* at <http://www.eere.energy.gov/erec/factsheets/landscape.html>.



WEBSITES WORTH A CLICK

For Renters Only: Saving Energy in Your Apartment

Tenant education is an essential part of any successful PHA energy efficiency project. Check out this DOE publication for ways your tenants can start saving energy and money today! Read more at

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/homes/homerenters.cfm>.

DOE Building Technologies Program: Multifamily

Learn about energy solutions that reduce utility costs and improve comfort in multifamily buildings!

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/multifamily/index.cfm?flash=yes>.

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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.
