

# ECOWISE

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[www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/phecc/newsletter/newsletter.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/phecc/newsletter/newsletter.cfm)

## Hundreds Come to Boston to “Go Green”

Over the 13th and 14th of this last month, HUD’s Office of Public and Indian Housing, together with the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities (CLPHA), hosted *Going Green, Intelligent Investments for Public Housing* in Boston, MA. The conference brought together public housing agencies, energy services companies and experts in the field to discuss strategies for integrating the concepts and practices of sustainability into the everyday management of public housing.

“Going green in public housing means reducing energy costs and improving the lives of the residents,” said Sandra B. Henriquez, HUD’s Assistant Secretary for the Office of Public and Indian Housing. “By incorporating energy efficient measures into public housing, we have the opportunity to make a real impact on our environment and in the lives of thousands of families.”

The Assistant Secretary delivered the conference’s “Call to Action”, asking attendees what commitments they were prepared to make to support and sustain green housing. In turn, she emphasized HUD’s commitment to supporting PHAs in their green housing projects and the collective impact these would have: “This will be our legacy. We will innovate, change, produce jobs and develop sustainably so that we meet the needs of the present without compromising our future.” Other addresses were given by Shelley Poticha, Senior Advisor for HUD’s Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities and Sunia Zaterman the Executive Director of CLPHA. Ms. Poticha discussed the Department’s Sustainability Goals while Ms. Zaterman gave a presentation on best practices in greening public housing.

The conference hosted 31 workshops on relevant topic areas, including two panels on EPCs. “Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) Policy and Procedure Updates” was moderated by HUD Director for the Office of Public Housing Programs, Shauna Sorrells, featuring staff from the Department. “How to Conduct an EPC” was moderated by Dan Helmes Energy Manager for Boston Housing Authority and the panel was made up of PHA staff from across the country. Additional panels were held green building, utilities management, resident health and other timely topics with panelists from HUD, PHAs, nonprofit organizations and the private sector.

The keynote address was given by landscape architect, Tim Duggan, of the Make It Right Foundation. The organization was created by actor Brad Pitt in an effort to rebuild homes in New Orleans’ Lower Ninth Ward that were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. He was joined by Jim Hunt, the lead advisor on environmental and energy policy for the Boston Mayor’s office.

Participants also had the opportunity to visit a green building by touring Boston’s Maverick Landing, a HOPE VI development, managed by the Boston Housing Authority. The property incorporated sustainable practices in its construction and continues to use such practices in its daily management.

“The conference was literally overflowing with people who cared about greening public housing and who intend to make lasting change,” said Julia Hustwit, HUD Housing Program Specialist. “Now that we’re all home, it’s time to make good on our promises.”

Information on HUD’s Green Initiative and Energy Conservation programs can be found at:  
[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/ph/phecc/epformance](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/phecc/epformance)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- » **The Energy & Environmental Building Alliance: Excellence in Building Conference**  
September 14-16, 2011  
Las Vegas, NV  
<http://www.eeba.org/conference/>
- » **U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon**  
September 23-October 2, 2011  
National Mall, West Potomac Park, Washington, DC  
<http://www.solardecathlon.gov/>
- » **Solutions for Sustainable Communities: 2011 Learning Conference on State and Local Housing Policy**  
September 26-28, 2011  
Washington, D.C.  
<http://bit.ly/k3DvrD>



## MaineHousing Capitalizes on Carbon Savings



In the early 1970s, Maine began a “winterization” program that helped low income families heat their homes during the severe Maine winters. Since that time, has been a pioneer of the practice, now called Weatherization Assistance Programs (WAP). These programs have expanded to all 50 states, US territories, and Native American communities.

MaineHousing devised a process to assess and reduce home energy use by 25%, which relies on the highest standards and best practices established by WAP. The process pooled the carbon savings from whole-house energy efficiency retrofits, energy enhancements such as air sealing, and replacing appliances and mobile homes. This process would lead to a reduction of 1.8 tons of carbon per home.

The state’s work caught the attention of Chevrolet and its parent company General Motors. The company provided \$1 million to help weatherize low-income homes throughout the state. These funds were from \$40 million General Motors has committed to invest to offset its own carbon footprint, over the next three to five years.

“We are very excited about our partnership with Chevrolet and the first use of our tools to measure, report, and sell carbon savings,” said Dale McCormick, Agency Director of MaineHousing. Funds from the program will be used to expand weatherization efforts in the homes of families who have problems meeting their heating costs.

Maine First District Congresswoman Chellie Pingree called the partnership “a creative program that will be a big win for Maine families. Bringing in private investment by working with Chevrolet means more homes will be weatherized and more homeowners will save money on their heating bills next year.”

To learn more about WAP basics and best practices, see:  
<http://www.waptac.org/>

To find out about WAP eligibility requirements in Maine, go to:  
<http://bit.ly/onpoUw>

## Resident’s Corner | Eating Green Means Less Meat

Many families have made caring about the environment a part of their everyday lives. What some do not know, however, is that choosing to eat less meat is one of the best things you can do for the environment. Meat consumption is reaching an all-time high around the world, quadrupling in the last 50 years. One reason for the increase in meat consumption is the increase in fast food in the American diet, as U.S. fast food sales have increased approximately 300% in the past few decades.

How does eating meat affect the environment? U.S. factory farms use a monumental amount of energy; more than a third of all raw materials and fossil fuels consumed in the U.S. are used for animal production. Beef production, alone, uses more water than all the nation’s fruit and vegetable crops combined. In fact, producing a single hamburger patty uses enough fuel to drive 20 miles. In his book, *The Food Revolution*, author John Robbins estimates, “You’d save more water by not eating a pound of California beef than you would by not showering for an entire year.”

Moreover, the large amount of animal waste produced by the meat industry also affects the environment. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, this waste pollutes American waterways more than all other industrial sources combined. In 1995, the New River hog waste spill in North Carolina poured 25 million gallons of excrement and urine into the water – a spill twice as large as the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil wreck, which dumped 12 million gallons of oil into waterways. More information on the New River hog waste spill can be found at:  
<http://www.newriverfoundation-onslow.org>.

To get started, try eating one meal or more a week without meat. It is easier and less expensive than many people think. One tip is to buy ingredients, not pre-made meals. Also, don’t bother with expensive meat substitutes, go for black beans, chick peas or other foods with protein. If fresh fruit and vegetables are few and far between, make recipes with canned or frozen versions. Some farmers markets do accept WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program funds and food stamps. To get a good deal there, go just before the market closes and bargain. Or ask for the cheaper seconds—those are foods that are shaped funny, bruised, or otherwise less likely to sell. Try one meal at a time – and find out just how easy it can be!

To learn more about healthy and inexpensive options, see:  
<http://www.vrg.org/journal/vj97jul/977frug.htm>  
<http://www.soulvegfolk.com/>

## Contact Us:

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