



Public Housing Energy Conservation Clearinghouse News

January 2005

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/>.

News:

- Choose Wisely: Efficient Windows Collaborative Announces New Tool for Choosing Energy-Efficient Windows
- Energy-Saving Tips for Tenants Now Available from PHECC
- Update: Rocky Mountain Institute Updates Home Energy Briefs

Events:

- Energy Performance Contracting Seminar. January 19, 2005. *Learn how to finance energy efficiency improvements through future utility savings.*
- LEED Workshop. January 20, 2005. *Learn the technical requirements of the LEED Green Building Rating System for New Construction.*
- Distributed Generation Online Seminar. January 28, 2005. *Gain an understanding of distributed generation applications.*

Success Stories:

- Community Housing Partners Corporation Wins "Best Housing Development" Award

Technology Focus:

- Drainwater Heat Recovery

ENERGY STAR® in Focus: How to Promote ENERGY STAR through Public and Indian Housing

Tip of the Month: How to Find a Certified Energy Rater

Websites Worth a Click



NEWS

Choose Wisely: Efficient Windows Collaborative Announces New Tool for Choosing Energy-Efficient Windows

Now it is easier than ever to select just the right window or skylight, thanks to a new tool on the popular and educational Website of the Efficient Windows Collaborative (EWC) (www.efficientwindows.org), a project of the Alliance to Save Energy.

In a two-step process, the EWC Website takes you from climate-specific information on choosing energy-efficient windows to the new "Window Product Selection Tool" (www.efficientwindows.org/selection.cfm). This tool shows you which window and skylight products on the market meet EWC's energy-efficiency specifications, and what the estimated energy costs will be for different window types.

EWC provides timely and accurate information on residential windows and skylights for each region of the country.

Energy-Saving Tips for Tenants Now Available from PHECC

Your tenants are likely seeing an increase in their energy bills as the weather cools down and energy prices go up. You can help renters lower their energy bills by giving them energy-saving tips. A printable flyer on winter energy saving tips for renters is now available on the PHECC Website.

Post the flyer on bulletin boards or slide copies under tenants' doors. Visit <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/phecc/resources.cfm#oap> to print the flyer today.

Update: Rocky Mountain Institute Updates Home Energy Briefs

The Rocky Mountain Institute recently updated several home energy briefs. This series of practical guides can be useful to housing authorities that are looking for ways to reduce energy use. These downloadable documents provide guidance on lighting, appliances, water heating, and more for single-family homes. View the briefs at www.rmi.org/sitepages/pid171.php#LibHshldEnEff.



EVENTS

Energy Performance Contracting Seminar

January 19, 2005

Warwick, RI

Rebuild America and the Rhode Island State Energy Office will present a half-day seminar on energy savings performance contracting. Learn how to finance energy efficiency improvements through future utility savings. Experts will address the performance contracting process, benchmarking, and measurement and verification, and will also present case studies. Attendance at this workshop qualifies for 4.5 AIA Learning Unit hours in the Health, Safety, and Welfare Category. To view the seminar agenda and register, visit www.rebuild.org/events/eventdetails.asp?NewsID=2474.

LEED Workshop

January 20, 2005

Dallas, TX

This workshop will cover the technical requirements of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System for New Construction & Major Renovations (LEED-NC), and provide an overview of the knowledge needed to take the LEED accreditation exam. This full-day session is for building owners and facility managers interested in projects that use high-performance "green" techniques in an economical package. To learn more about this and other upcoming LEED workshops, visit www.usgbc.org/Events/events_training_calendar.asp.

Distributed Generation Seminar

January 28, 2005

Online Seminar

Distributed generation (DG), also called cogeneration, has been found to be cost-effective in some multifamily housing facilities. This two-hour online seminar gives attendees a basic understanding of DG and its applications. The seminar will also provide an easy-to-use online process to estimate potential DG savings. To learn more about the seminar and register, visit www.aeecenter.org/realtime/DGenEconomics/.



SUCCESS STORIES

Community Housing Partners Corporation Wins "Best Housing Development" Award

On November 16th, Gov. Mark Warner presented the Community Housing Partners Corporation (CHPC) with the Commonwealth of Virginia's "Best Housing Development" award at the Governor's Housing Conference in Norfolk, VA. CHPC won the award for its new residential facility for at-risk teenagers while also serves as a showcase for environmental stewardship.

The TEKOA Youth Residential Campus, in Christiansburg, VA, is designed to be 50 to 60 percent more efficient than a typical building of the same size and purpose. During the planning stage, Rebuild Virginia supported a design workshop on the LEED Green Building Rating System for CHPC staff to ensure the new buildings would incorporate energy-smart practices and technologies.

Floor-to-ceiling windows fill the complex with natural light and reduce the need for artificial lighting. The building envelope, a geothermal system, and fluorescent lamps are significant sources of energy savings.

For more information on the TEKOA facility, read the Rebuild America Success Story at www.rebuild.org/news/SucStoryView.asp?StoryId=63.

Drainwater Heat Recovery

Drainwater heat recovery (DHR) devices fit into existing waste drain lines from showers and bathtubs to reduce the energy needed to heat water. DHR's capture heat from drainwater to preheat cold water going to other showers or a water heater. DHR can save energy, especially in multifamily housing, and increase the capacity of undersized water heaters. Units with storage capacity can also recover heat from the hot water used in dishwashers, clothes washers, and other appliances.

Heat exchangers for use in DHR may vary in pipe sizing, orientation of the drain line (horizontal, vertical, or other), energy savings, and design. Systems vary in cost between \$95 and several hundred dollars, depending on type and capacity. Several residential drainwater heat exchangers are commercially available in the United States.

To learn more about this energy-saving technology, visit

www.toolbase.org/tertiaryT.asp?TrackID=&CategoryID=947&DocumentID=2134.

ENERGY STAR® IN FOCUS

How to Promote ENERGY STAR through Public and Indian Housing

A product that has earned an ENERGY STAR meets strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. Products in more than 40 categories bear the ENERGY STAR label.

HUD encourages Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) and Indian Housing Authorities (IHAs) to incorporate ENERGY STAR qualified products and practices when conducting rehabilitation, repair, and replacement. Choose ENERGY STAR to lower utility bills, improve comfort for residents, increase project value, reduce air pollution, and improve the environment.

HUD offers specific incentives for energy efficiency improvements so that federal capital funds can be applied to other efforts. Housing authorities should consider the Frozen Base Incentive and the Additional Subsidy Incentive for financing ENERGY

STAR qualified products or practices. Upon HUD approval, the capital leveraged through these incentives can be used to implement any approved, cost-effective energy or water-saving measures. Energy auditing can also be funded with these incentives.

To learn more about promoting ENERGY STAR through Public and Indian Housing, visit www.hud.gov/energystar/pih.cfm#top.

TIP OF THE MONTH

How to Find a Certified Energy Rater

A Home Energy Rater is a specialized contractor who performs a standardized evaluation of a home's energy efficiency. The evaluation includes on-site inspection, air leakage tests, computer analysis, estimated savings, and a rating. Home Energy Raters typically perform the role of an independent consultant, but some will offer to make improvements.

To learn more about working with a Home Energy Rater, visit www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_improvement.hm_improvement_contractors#1.

To find a certified Home Energy Rater, visit www.natresnet.org/dir/raters/default.htm.



WEBSITES WORTH A CLICK

ToolBase

ToolBase Services (www.toolbase.org) is an easy-to-read resource for technical information on building products, materials, new technologies, business management, and housing systems. Coordinated by the National Association of Home Builders' Research Center, ToolBase is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH).

Southface Fact Sheets and Technical Bulletins

The Southface Energy Institute promotes sustainable homes, workplaces, and communities through education, research, advocacy, and technical assistance. Southface provides a number of fact sheets and technical bulletins on topics such as insulation basics, air sealing, and a systems approach to energy efficiency.

http://www.southface.org/web/resources&services/publications/factsheets/sf_factsheet-menu.htm

Energy Saving Tips

The U.S. Department of Energy has launched a new Website with detailed information and tips on how to save money by developing smart energy habits. The site, www.EnergySavingTips.gov, serves as a consumer-friendly portal to detailed energy-saving information from various federal agencies.

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