

ECOWISE

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www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/phecc/newsletter/newsletter.cfm



Energy Star Provides Energy Efficiency

Since 2005, HUD has encouraged public housing agencies (PHAs) to use Energy Star rated equipment where cost-effective whenever they are replacing equipment. The most recent guidance related to this topic is published in PIH Notice 2010-41. When Energy Star equipment is not available, PHAs are encouraged to use Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP)-designated equipment, Water Sense when available and cost effective and cost-effective products. Additionally, the Energy Star for New Homes program creates energy efficiency guidelines. Energy Star homes are 20-30 percent more efficient than their traditional counterparts.

The Energy Star program, administered jointly by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) helps consumers identify products in different areas that use less energy, save money, and help protect the environment. Energy Star products of interest to PHAs include appliances such heating and cooling devices, lighting appliances, thermostats, and Water Sense faucets and showerheads

PHAs can use tools on the Energy Star Web site to help them develop appropriate procurement language for their policies and use the site's online calculators to assist them in determining the payback time and savings for particular purchases. Of special interest is the HUD Energy Improvements Checklist which lists the nine investments that are deemed the most cost-effective as well as other investments that are more cost or time-intensive, but also provide cost-effective returns.

In the past, the Energy Star program has been criticized because program partners, such as manufacturers, were allowed to self-certify the energy efficiency of products. However, in the past year, EPA and DOE have taken steps to strengthen the Energy Star program, promote program accountability, and ensure that the Energy Star label retains value. The new program requirements for product eligibility under Energy Star went into effect in 2011. These new requirements include third party certification for new Energy Star qualified products in all 60 product categories. All partner organizations wishing to certify products under Energy Star were required to recommit to these program requirements. Partners choosing not to recertify were required to stop using Energy Star logos and other materials on any products.

Additionally, EPA announced new requirements for Energy Star qualified light fixtures. Increases in lighting efficiency will phase in over time. Most Energy Star qualified light fixtures will be 30 percent more efficient than currently qualified fluorescent-based fixtures beginning October 1, 2011. In 2013, fixtures will need to be 40 percent higher in efficiency than current qualified models.

To read PIH Notice 2010-41, "Using ENERGY STAR to Promote Energy Efficiency in Public Housing,"

<http://1.usa.gov/k3Hyju>

For PHA-related information on Energy Star, visit: <http://1.usa.gov/ir0rBh>

The HUD Energy Improvements Checklist is also available at: <http://1.usa.gov/p8vD6C>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- » **Going Green: Intelligent Investments for Public Housing**
Presented by HUD, Office of Public and Indian Housing, and CLPHA
July 13 -14, 2011
Boston, MA
<http://bit.ly/kVabLn>
- » **The Energy & Environmental Building Alliance: Excellence in Building Conference**
September 14-16, 2011
Las Vegas, NV
<http://www.eeba.org/conference/>
- » **Solutions for Sustainable Communities: 2011 Learning Conference on State and Local Housing Policy**
September 26-28, 2011
Washington, D.C.
<http://bit.ly/k3DvrD>

HUD and CLPHA Help PHAs Learn Cost-Effective Green Practices

Sustainable housing is a hot topic, but how can PHAs know when they are getting a good deal? Attendees at the conference “Going Green: Intelligent Investments for Public Housing,” will get an opportunity to hear about the latest technology, financing, and Federal housing policy, while also discussing the most cost-effective practices. The free conference is sponsored by HUD’s Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) and the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities (CLPHA). This conference, to be held on July 13 and 14, 2011, at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston, MA, was rescheduled from its original April dates.

Participants will join other members of the affordable housing, sustainable building, and energy efficiency industries in sessions on incorporating sustainability best practices into the daily management of public housing. PHAs can learn strategies for cost reduction that can actually improve residents’ quality of life and help the environment. Opportunities to network and dialogue with HUD officials are also built in.

On the final day of the conference HUD will offer the “HUD Forum on Energy Performance Contracting: Discussion Series,” a specialized separate track for PHAs, housing industry groups, and the energy industry. These sessions continue a discussion series begun in 2009 to improve the timeliness, consistency, and transparency of EPCs and gather feedback to assist HUD in developing EPC guidance.

The conference is geared toward public housing agencies, their staff, and resident organizations, but everyone is invited to attend. Register and find out more at: <http://bit.ly/kVabLn>

Want to find the Green Conference info on Twitter? Look for our hashtag, #MakePHGreen.

HUD Highlights Trends in Healthy Homes at Denver Conference

HUD hosted the National Healthy Homes Conference on June 20-23, 2011, in Denver, Colorado. Goals of the conference included showcasing trends in healthy homes policy and standards, outlining healthy homes designs, and sharing the latest research and innovation to create healthy homes and communities.

HUD presenters introduced attendees to best practices for incorporating energy efficient development into housing, transportation, and the environment under HUD’s Sustainable Community grants. The brand new Healthy Homes Program Guidance Manual was prominently on display. The Manual provides practical advice on implementing a range of indoor air quality and other strategies and technologies learned from the Healthy Homes projects. In the continuing effort to protect children from lead-based paint, HUD held a session discussing revisions the HUD Guidelines for the Evaluation and Control of Lead-Based Paint Hazards in Housing and described a comprehensive childhood lead poisoning elimination plan.

Of particular interest to PHAs also were sessions on community empowerment’s ability to strengthen the intersection of health and public housing systems, the impact of Light-Rail Transit construction on the air quality around a HOPE VI community, smoke-free policies in public housing and the profile of smoke-free multifamily housing pilot in New Hampshire, radon mitigation, indoor air quality improvement in multifamily housing, field insights into Integrated Pest Management, and integration of healthy homes standards into weatherization practices.

To learn more, visit: <http://www.healthyhomesconference.org/>

Resident’s Corner | Planning for a Natural Disaster



Natural disasters have been in the news a lot lately, from the flooding along the Mississippi River to the tornados sweeping across North Carolina and elsewhere. Preparing for disasters can help you and your family be safer and more ready for dealing with an emergency.

Here are some tips:

- Go to interior rooms and halls, especially central stairwells during a hurricane or tornado. Elevators are bad because if your building loses power, you may be stuck in an elevator for a long time. Stay away from glass walls and windows.
- Always have batteries, a flashlight, and candles available.
- Know the escape routes if you need to evacuate your building. Practice these with children.
- Keep a supply of water and canned goods (with a can opener). At least a 3-day supply is recommended; that’s a gallon of water per person per day.
- Have a charged cell phone. Make sure that all family members have the phone number of an out-of-State relative or friend (out of the disaster area) to contact in case you are not all together.
- Choose a place outside your neighborhood where family members should meet in case you are not together.
- Have an emergency supply kit and make sure all family members know where it is. It should include a flashlight, extra batteries, a portable radio, bottled water, and some cash. If there is room, include some canned food.
- If you have to leave your home, make sure each family member is dressed and has on shoes in case you have to be away from home for any length of time.
- Have contact information on paper for young children and put it in their shoes.

For further information on coping with natural disasters, go to: <http://www.redcross.org>

Contact Us:

Public and Indian Housing Information Resource Center (PIH IRC)

2614 Chapel Lake Drive
Gambrells, MD 21054

Toll free number: 1-800-955-2232

Fax number: 1-443-302-2084

E-mail: pihirc@firstpic.org (Put “EcoWise” in subject line)

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