

Celebrate Earth Day

On April 22, 1970, 20 million people across America celebrated the first Earth Day. It was a time when cities were buried under their own smog and polluted rivers caught fire. Now Earth Day is celebrated annually around the globe. Through the combined efforts of the U.S. government, grassroots organizations, and citizens Earth Day started as a day of national environmental recognition that has evolved into a world-wide campaign to protect our global environment. Earthday.gov is a cooperative effort across the entire U.S. government which includes Earth Day information, events and links.

Earth Day Events

These are links to Earth Day events happening around the country:

New York, NY

[Earth Day at Grand Central](#)

Washington DC

[Earth Day on the National Mall](#)

Miami, FL

[Miami Goin' Green Earth Day Event](#)

Thousand Oaks, CA

[City of Thousand Oaks Arbor Earth Day](#)

Kiawah Island, SC

[Kiawah's Green Festival: "Greenival"](#)

Flagstaff, AZ

[Earth Day 2009](#)

Chicago, IL

[Earth Day at Loyola University](#)

Earth Day 2009, April 22, will mark the beginning of the [Green Generation Campaign](#) sponsored by [Earthday.net](#). This two-year initiative will culminate with the 40th anniversary of Earth Day in 2010. With negotiations for a new global climate agreement coming up in December, Earth Day 2009 must be a day of action and civic participation, to defend the Green Generation's core principles:

- A carbon-free future based on [renewable energy](#) that will end our common dependency on fossil fuels, including coal.
- An individual's commitment to responsible, sustainable consumption.
- Creation of a new green economy that lifts people out of poverty by creating millions of quality [green jobs](#) and transforms the global education system into a green one.

Increased Terms Allowed on Energy Performance Contracts

On January 26, 2009, the PIH Operating Fund Program issued its Final Rule concerning increased terms of energy performance contracts (EPCs). The final rule adopts the October 16, 2008 interim rule, without changes.

In HUD's implementation of Asset Management, PHAs are provided with incentives for energy conservation and utility rate reduction. See 24 CFR, §990. These energy conservation measures may include, but are not limited to: Physical improvements financed by a loan from a bank, utility, or governmental entity; management of costs under a

performance contract; or a shared savings agreement with a private energy service company.

When PHAs undertake energy conservation measures financed by an entity other than HUD, the payments on this financing previously could not exceed 12 years (See §990.185(a)). With the issuance of the final rule (effective February 25, 2009), the maximum term of an energy performance contract between a public housing authority and an entity other than HUD may now be up to 20 years. Similarly, existing energy performance contracts may be modified, without reprocurement,

to allow repayment over a period of no more than 20 years. The increase in the maximum EPC term is provided by statutory amendments and will enable longer payback periods for energy conservation measures.

References:

01/26/09 Final Rule:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-1252.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Environmental Assessment Training for Experienced Practitioners

▶ [April 20-22, 2009](#) | Chicago, IL
TO REGISTER CALL: 312-996-6904

Michigan Green Jobs Conference

▶ May 11, 2009 | Lansing, MI
www.tinyurl.com/greenjobsconf

Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) for PHAs

▶ [June 22-26, 2009](#) | Chicago, IL TEL
TO REGISTER CALL: 312-996-6904

Orientation to Environmental Assessment (OEA)

▶ [August 10-14, 2009](#) | Chicago, IL

Healthy Buildings 2009

▶ Sept 13-17, 2009 | Syracuse, NY
www.hb2009.org

Correction to March EcoWise

The potential funding described in the March EcoWise is not available for independent agencies and would only be available to PHAs that are part of a jurisdiction's government. All Recovery Act grant funding has been allocated and HUD is not taking applications for funding. We regret any confusion regarding this matter.

Start a Gardening Program



Starting a gardening program at your PHA can increase access to healthy food, improve economic opportunities and build unity with residents. A successful gardening program should begin with a plan, making the garden easier to care for and more productive. Planning must be started well in advance of planting in the spring. For tips on starting a garden, including selecting a location, preparing the soil, choosing what to grow, and obtaining seeds [click here](#).

The Housing Authority of the City of Erie gardening program is featured in the Regional Spotlight. This type of program is proving to be an effective tool in addressing community issues ranging from hunger and food insecurity, community revitalization, environmental stewardship, and economic development.

Housing Authority of the City of Erie

Twelve youths from the Housing Authority of the City of Erie, Pennsylvania (HACE), began their community gardens in the spring under the guidance of Erie County Penn State Master Gardeners, Earth Force, the Erie County Health Department, and the HACE. There are five garden plots, measuring about 5 feet by 9 feet each, where the HACE kids have grown fruits and vegetables. The goal for the young gardeners is to help the community realize how efficient it is to plant and maintain gardens and to learn to care for their environment. Classes in cooking and canning are also being offered to all the participants. For additional information on this program:

CONTACT **Michael Fraley, Resident Initiatives Coordinator**
✉ mfraley@hace.org

Check Out the Energy Improvements Checklist

In coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) has developed a checklist of energy improvements that is readily available to all PHAs. This checklist is an easy to use tool that PHAs, especially small PHAs, can use when looking for energy efficiency measures to implement with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. This information will assist PHAs in selecting and prioritizing energy conservation improvements, maintenance tasks to perform, and the type of energy efficient equipment to purchase. You can find the energy improvement checklist at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/phecc/> listed under "Additional Resources".

Low-Income Multifamily Recycling Project is off to a Great Start

In 2008, the Monterey Bay Area Regional Low-Income Multifamily Recycling Program was funded by a California Department of Conservation grant. This grant was used to implement comprehensive recycling and waste reduction programs at low income multifamily housing complexes throughout Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties by offering technical assistance and outreach and education. A partnership of twelve local agencies, including the County of Monterey and County of Santa Cruz Housing Authorities, and local garbage and recycling haulers will implement this program which aims to reduce waste by approximately 600 tons over the two and half year project term.

The first phase of the project was completed by implementing comprehensive recycling programs at thirty-one (31) multifamily complexes throughout Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties. Twenty-six (26) of the thirty-one (31) facilities were housing authority sites. It is estimated that these thirty-one (31) facilities will recycle approximately 200 tons annually!

During this first phase, the partnership distributed over 2,300 internal recycling bins and provided one-on-one outreach and education to more than 1,200 residents through community events or door-to-door outreach. The partnership also hosted four (4) waste reduction workshops where residents learned how to save money and the environment by adopting the three R's; Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and by learning how to compost food and yard waste at home.

"Many people don't realize that recycling your cans and bottles and composting food scraps and yard waste can not only reduce their monthly garbage bill, but can significantly reduce their carbon footprint at the same time states Mandy Caruso Brooks, Senior Program Specialist at Ecology Action. "Reducing the amount of items you purchase, using reusable containers and bags, and recycling as much as possible can have similar money saving and carbon reducing effects."

The partnership was also recently awarded another \$2.6 million grant from the California Department of Conservation to expand the project to an additional 150

multifamily complexes and student campus housing units throughout Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties. This award was the largest received in the state and will continue to allow this collaborative effort to implement comprehensive recycling programs, address greenhouse gas reduction and promote the local Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program <http://www.montereybaygreenbusiness.org>.

Ecology Action of Santa Cruz is the grant administrator for this project. For more information visit: http://www.ecoact.org/Programs/Zero_Waste/Multi_Family_Recycling/index.html or contact Mandy Caruso Brooks at mcaruso@ecoact.org.



We want to hear from you! Please send us nominations for projects to be highlighted in the EcoWise success stories.

Contact us at ahull@deval.us

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