



# EmPowering Residents

## *Energy Conservation Education*

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[www.phfa.org](http://www.phfa.org)



# EmPowering Residents

**Developed by PHFA and co-sponsored by the  
Pennsylvania Aging, Utilities and Economic  
Education Consortium, Inc.**

The consortium consists of the following contributing member organizations:

\$1 Energy Fund

Allegheny Power

Equitable Gas Company

Columbia Gas of PA/MD

Dominion Peoples

Duquesne Light Company

National Fuel Gas

PECO Energy Company

Pennsylvania American Water

Pennsylvania Department of Aging

Pennsylvania Insurance Department

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

Pennsylvania State University

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging

T.W. Phillips Gas and Oil Company



# EmPowering Residents

- Project Goal

- ✓ Help residents reduce energy consumption



# EmPowering Residents

## Why bother?

Affordable rental housing in PA

- ✓ Almost 70,000 apartment units older than 25 years
- ✓ Major increases in utility costs
- ✓ Increasing utility expenses place properties into financial stress & threaten the future of affordable rental housing

**BUT, there are solutions...**

# EmPowering Residents

## The Energy Pyramid





# EmPowering Residents

## ■ Energy Conservation

- ✓ No cost
- ✓ Effected by residents' energy usage
- ✓ Involves changes in habits

## ■ Examples

- ✓ turning off lights
- ✓ Using microwave vs. oven
- ✓ Match pot size to burner size



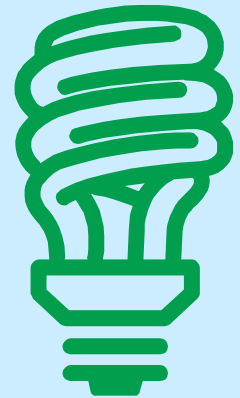
# EmPowering Residents

## ■ Energy Efficiency

- ✓ Involves investment

### ■ Examples

- ✓ Compact fluorescent light bulbs
- ✓ Power strips
- ✓ Occupancy switches
- ✓ Weatherization





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## *Energy Efficiency (continued)*

If the property is participating in PHFA's Smart Rehab Program, be sure to include what is being done:

1. Energy Audit
2. Improvements to the building
3. Savings reinvested back into the property.



# EmPowering Residents

- EmPowering Residents Program Goals
  - ✓ Help residents to start saving energy
  - ✓ Reduce overall energy use at development
  - ✓ Combine energy efficiency with energy conservation thru resident education
  - ✓ Create a conservation culture at development



# EmPowering Residents

- EmPowering Residents Program Challenges
  - ✓ When utilities are included in rent
  - ✓ Engaging residents
  - ✓ Creating quality learning experiences



# EmPowering Residents

- The best chance for success is when residents are involved and working together
  - ✓ Residents more likely to share conservation knowledge/experience when showing others
  - ✓ Residents may know best ways to encourage others to be involved
  - ✓ Residents lend credibility to program



# EmPowering Residents

- Service Coordinator can
  - ✓ Identify interested residents
  - ✓ Assist residents in collecting energy-related information
  - ✓ Help connect the causes of energy-related situations
  - ✓ Work with maintenance staff in understanding building structure



# EmPowering Residents

- Designing Your Program
  - ✓ Get residents involved
  - ✓ Establish unique energy savings program name – e.g. Rolling Meadows Empowering Residents
  - ✓ Establish goals for program
  - ✓ Figure out who can help you – representatives from utilities or energy assistance programs?



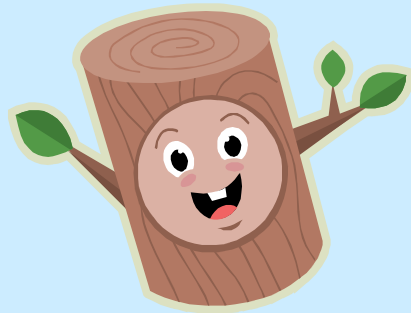
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- Designing Your Program (continued)
  - ✓ Design strategies to achieve goals & promote programs
  - ✓ Include energy assistance resources
  - ✓ Develop menu of energy saving activities that all residents can do



# EmPowering Residents

- Launching program
  - ✓ Start off with a fun event
  - ✓ Distribute upcoming schedule of events
  - ✓ Get residents to sign energy pledge





# EmPowering Residents

- Sample Activities for Resident Energy Program
  - ✓ Energy tour of building
  - ✓ View building's energy bills
  - ✓ Maintenance staff talk about maintenance & repair issues
  - ✓ Bring residents together to compare energy bills
  - ✓ Help residents do energy assessments in their apartment, complete the home energy survey



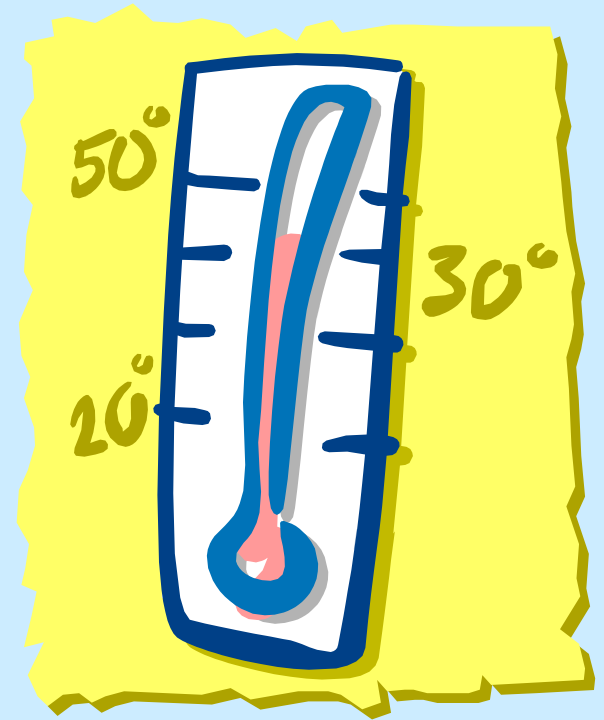
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- Sample Activities (continued)
  - ✓ Identify power drain using watt meter
  - ✓ Demonstrate heat from light bulb using Easy-Bake children's oven
  - ✓ Demonstrate minimal difference in light "quality" with compact fluorescent light



# EmPowering Residents

- Resident Energy Saving Items
  - ✓ Compact fluorescent light bulbs
  - ✓ Power strips
  - ✓ Fridge & freezer thermometers
  - ✓ Tip sheets
  - ✓ Magnets with simple energy tips
  - ✓ Pamphlets & Posters
  - ✓ Energy saving nightlight





# EmPowering Residents

As Mark Twain said, “Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it. ”

Here’s your chance to do something about what everyone else is just talking about! Get involved and make a difference!!





# EmPowering Residents

- Energy Saving Resources
  - ✓ US Dept of Energy <http://www.energysavers.gov/>
  - ✓ Energy Saving Tips for Renters  
<http://energywisepa.org/resources/audiences/renters>
  - ✓ US Dept of Energy Act Now to Save  
[http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/services/yhttp/campaign\\_materials.html#eam](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/services/yhttp/campaign_materials.html#eam)
  - ✓ Consumer Guide: Energy Conservation for Apartment Dwellers  
<http://www.dps.state.ny.us/aptdwell.html>





# EmPowering Residents

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Housing Services Representative

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