



## News from POAH

Preservation of Affordable Housing

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### **EcoTeams at four POAH properties save energy**

**Boston** - In late 2009, POAH launched a pilot program, the POAH "EcoTeam", to enlist residents in the effort to conserve electricity at four properties in Rhode Island: Hillcrest Village, Hillside Village, Heritage Village, and Pocasset Manor. On April 20<sup>th</sup>, POAH staff visited the four sites to announce the results and recognize the efforts of the staff and residents that made this initial pilot such a success.

From December of 2009 through March of 2010, each of the four properties showed a drop in average unit electricity consumption when compared to the same period in the prior year. POAH estimates that their efforts contributed to a savings of more than \$9,000 in electric costs across the four pilot properties.

The EcoTeam pilot provided residents with simple energy saving tips and small rewards for reducing their electricity use. Residents were encouraged to share their own energy saving tips with their neighbors and each month received an individual report that showed their personal electric use and how that compared to the building average. The residents of Hillside Village led the way by reducing the per-apartment electric consumption by, on average, more than 180 kilowatt hours versus the same time period a year ago.

*-by Toby Ast, Manager of Energy Initiatives*

See chart

