

News from POAH

Preservation of Affordable Housing

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Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Salem Mayor join celebration of solar panels at Salem affordable housing complex

Salem, MA - Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Richard K. Sullivan, Jr. and Salem Mayor Kimberley Driscoll today joined residents of the Salem Fairweather apartments at a celebration of three new solar panels installed behind the 127-unit affordable housing community on Highland Avenue. The photovoltaic panels were installed earlier this year and are already yielding renewable, clean energy savings.

In his role as Secretary, Sullivan is Chair of the Mass Clean Energy Center, the quasi public agency which partnered with MassHousing to provide a \$256,000 grant to install the 27.6 kilowatt solar photovoltaic system. The panels will generate over 35,000 kWh a year in free electricity and, in the first two months of operation, generated 3,410 kilowatt hours of clean, free electricity for the site. .

“At POAH, we believe that ‘greening’ our properties is both a good business practice and consistent with our mission of providing comfortable, attractive – and now energy efficient– affordable housing for our citizens,” said Amy Anthony, President of Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH), the nonprofit that owns Salem Fairweather. “In Massachusetts, we are partners with the state in supporting the clean energy sector as part of this administration’s commitment to a strong economy and supporting consumers and businesses. These panels will capture the sun’s energy to help us reduce our use of fossil fuel and protect the environment.”

POAH is proactively pursuing grant funding for greening properties in its portfolio across the country as far west as Missouri to support a strategy that includes: weatherization measures, alternative energy systems, environmentally friendly landscaping and other modifications.

In addition to Secretary Sullivan who serves as the Chair of Mass Clean Energy Center, Anthony recognized Decia Goodwin from MassHousing and representatives from Zapotec Energy, the solar panel installer.

Toby Ast, POAH's Manager of Energy Initiatives delivered a slide show presentation about the project. Salem Fairweather is one of two Massachusetts affordable housing complexes where POAH has installed solar panels; Bridle Path Apartments in Randolph went online last year. POAH is also installing solar systems at its properties in Missouri and New Hampshire.

About POAH: Preservation of Affordable Housing, based in Boston, is a mission-driven, entrepreneurial nonprofit committed to preserving affordable housing resources throughout the United States. POAH acquires, preserves and stewards these resources with creative financial restructurings, physical rehabilitation or redevelopment and long-term management. POAH owns close to 6,800 apartments in nine states and the District of Columbia, serving the working poor, families, individuals, and seniors.

About Mass Clean Energy Center: The Green Jobs Act of 2008 created the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) to accelerate job growth and economic development in the state's clean energy industry. This new quasi-public agency serves as a clearinghouse and support center for the clean energy sector, making direct investments in new and existing companies, providing assistance to enable companies to access capital and other vital resources for growth, and promoting training programs to build a strong clean energy workforce that capitalizes on the job opportunities created by a vital new industry.