Domestic Hot Water

What are Domestic Hot Water Upgrades?

If your apartment building recently received or soon will receive a domestic hot water (DHW) upgrade, this fact sheet is for you! In collaboration with housing providers around the country, Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future (SAHF) developed this resource to help you and other residents understand the various benefits that can result from DHW upgrades.

DHW is a set of equipment that heats up the water you use in your home. You typically do not see where the hot water is produced, but the actual system can be found inside of a utility closet within your home or in a boiler room somewhere in the building. Upgrades to your DHW system can include any of the following:

- Replacement of hot water heater (e.g., tank-style, tankless, central boiler system)
- Boiler controls
- Improvements to distribution pipes (including insulation)

These upgrades can provide a more sustainable and healthier home for you to live in.

Did you know?

Financial Benefits

Old and inefficient systems that heat your water use more energy and cost you a lot of money over the long term, especially if you use hot water often. DHW upgrades can lead to utility bill savings and reduced exposure to weather-related bill spikes and other rate increases.

Health & Safety Benefits

A reliable hot water heater along with the right control settings will reduce situations where you are exposed to scalding hot water that come out of your faucets and showerheads.

Comfort Benefits

When you have a properly-installed and functional hot water system, you will experience more consistent operations and less wait time. Your hot water should turn on when you need it to. This can all contribute to your overall comfort in your home.

Social & Building Resiliency Benefits

DHW upgrades also mean your system will not need to work as hard, which means less wasted energy. A win-win situation for you and the environment.

The Benefits of Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency is good for your home, community, and the environment. SAHF’s research has uncovered 48 distinct benefits of energy efficiency improvements. There are seven different categories of building upgrades: building shell, HVAC, hot water, water, lighting, appliances, and renewables. Each of which can have benefits in five broad categories: financial, health and safety, comfort, education and learning, and social and resiliency benefits.

This fact sheet lists some key benefits associated with the hot water upgrades that you recently received or soon will receive for your home.

Need more information or tips on how to make your home more sustainable?
Contact your property manager or visit ENERGY STAR’s website at https://bit.ly/3w4cKcx