What are HVAC Upgrades?

If your apartment building recently received or soon will receive a HVAC 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 HVAC upgrades.

HVAC refers to your heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. They are designed to improve your home comfort and maintain good indoor air quality through proper ventilation and filtration. Upgrades to your HVAC system can include any of the following:

- Repair, replacement, or installation of heating and/or cooling systems (e.g., furnace, window or central AC unit)
- Air filter installation
- Cleaning and sealing of ductwork
- Programmable or smart thermostats

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

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 HVAC upgrades that you recently received or soon will receive for your home.

Did you know?

Financial Benefits

Older, less energy efficient HVAC system can cost you a lot of money over the long term, especially if you cool or heat your home often. HVAC upgrades allow you to keep cooling or heating your home as you normally would, even on a tight budget. They can lead to utility bill savings and reduced exposure to weather-related bill spikes and other rate increases.

Health & Safety Benefits

Turning on your efficient HVAC system more regularly can have a positive impact on your health without hurting your wallet. The improved ventilation and filtration replaces your indoor air with a constant supply of fresh air. This can help reduce asthma triggers, respiratory problems, and allergens, and possibly save you a trip to the emergency room. Ventilation also helps control humidity, which can reduce the occurrence of certain viruses, mold, and pests that thrive in humid conditions.

Comfort Benefits

When your system is upgraded and properly programmed, your home will maintain a stable and comfortable temperature and humidity level that are right for you. The improvements can also mean fewer maintenance visits to repair your broken heater or AC.

Education & Learning Benefits

HVAC systems bring in fresh, filtered air, and clear out indoor pollution from your home. It is well-established that good ventilation leads to clearer thinking, making your home a better environment for focus and productivity.

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