Renewable Energy

What is Renewable Energy?

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

Renewable energy upgrades take advantage of a free resource, the sun, to power your community spaces and even your homes in certain situations. Renewable energy upgrades to your building can include any of the following:
- Solar photovoltaic panels to generate electricity
- Solar thermal panels to heat water

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 renewable energy upgrades that you recently received or soon will receive for your home. When renewable energy upgrades are combined with a suite of energy efficiency upgrades, the benefits to you and other residents increases tremendously.

Did you know?

**Financial Benefits**

**Building Owner**
Traditionally, the electricity generated from the solar panels installed on top of your building end up powering the community spaces, such as the office, community room, and hallways. For you and other residents, solar panels enables the owner keep the building affordable. Utility costs is one of the biggest expenses for property operations. Lowering utility expenses with solar means more funds for other upgrades and services on site.

**Resident**
With renewable energy, the electricity can be generated either on the top of your apartment building or in some situations, your home could be powered by renewable energy generated from within your community - also known as community solar. In some regions, there are programs in place that can provide low- to no-cost solar subscriptions to low-income community members. That translates to lower utility bills or none at all for you and other residents.

**Social & Building Resiliency Benefits**

Renewable energy also translates to increased energy security. Your building will have access to reliable and affordable clean energy. A win-win situation for you and the environment. If your power goes off during a storm or due to a utility outage, your building and/or home may be able to generate enough electricity to power critical equipment and charge your essential devices.

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](https://bit.ly/3w4cKcx)