



Better Buildings Challenge Multifamily Newsletter: September 2019

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Key Announcements

- Mark your calendars! The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) 2020 Better Buildings Summit will be June 8-10, 2020 in Arlington, Virginia (just outside Washington, D.C.). Early Bird registration opens in January 2020. Stay tuned for more information on sessions, speakers, special events, and more.
- HUD has issued [new guidance](#) highlighting tools to help Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grantees and subrecipients further advance and leverage partnerships at the local level. As the demand for housing and community development grows, so will the need to build successful partnerships with the nonprofit and private sector.
- BBC Multifamily partners are increasingly investing in solar power and experiencing benefits that include increased resiliency, additional savings, and job creation. Learn about the Chicago Housing Authority, New York City Housing Authority, and Puerto Rico Department of Housing's [solar power progress](#).

Join the Fall Webinar on Overcoming Barriers to Tenant Data Collection

Tuesday, October 1, 3:00 - 4:30 PM EST

Register for the Fall Webinar

As multifamily housing providers work to rehabilitate properties, benchmarking their portfolios' energy consumption is critical for making strategic investment decisions and verifying promised savings. While utility data collection is relatively straightforward in multifamily properties with only owner-paid utility accounts, most properties involve some combination of owner-paid and tenant-paid utilities. The data associated with tenant-paid utility accounts is critical to creating a complete picture of how an entire property is performing in terms of energy and water consumption and costs.



Unfortunately, owners and managers of multifamily housing face unique and persistent barriers to accessing tenant-paid utility data. Utility data-sharing rules and regulations continue to develop rapidly but vary significantly from state to state. Some utility providers are still hesitant to provide aggregated data for tenant-paid accounts to property owners due to privacy concerns, as well as technological and procedural barriers.

On October 1, 2019 you are invited to attend a webinar to hear housing and data practitioners discuss strategies to overcome barriers and collect 100% whole property data.

Register for the BBC Multifamily Fall Webinar

During this webinar we will:

- **Learn about the BBC's new alternative path to reaching the 20% energy savings goal for Multifamily Sector partners.**
- Explore resources that provide guidance on state benchmarking ordinances and the regulatory environment.
- Discuss strategies for engaging utilities and tenants in data collection.
- Delve into working with third-party organizations and the tenant data sampling calculator to increase access to utility data.

The webinar will include presentations from three energy efficiency experts skilled in data analytics and benchmarking. Presenters include: Mercy Housing's Caitlin Rood, Rethinking Power Management's CEO Ilene Mason, and WegoWise by Apfolio's Claire McLeish.

Spotlight on Partner Success

East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC) published a new **Showcase Project on Casa Arabella**, a 94-unit apartment community in Oakland, California. EBALDC has partnered with The Unity Council (TUC) to develop the property. Casa Arabella will provide permanent affordable housing to nearly 400 residents in the Bay Area as well as formerly homeless U.S. military veterans. The property will have many high-performance energy efficiency features, including low-flow water fixtures, ENERGY STAR® appliances, and a solar hot water system. EBALDC expects these efficiency measures to result in an annual energy cost savings of approximately \$13,000 and annual energy savings of 18%.

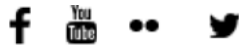


Rendering of the Casa Arabella Project

Congratulations to BBC Multifamily Sector partners Houston Housing Authority (HHA) and San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) on achieving **2019 Awards of Merit** from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) for energy efficiency projects. HHA was honored with an award in Program Innovation for achieving utility savings resulting from an Energy Performance Contract (EPC) with Siemens Industry Incorporated. SAHA was recognized for their energy efficient rehabilitation of their Charles Andrews Apartments and redevelopment of the Wheatley Park Senior Living Development. They were also commended for their innovative Solar Mesh idea and **SMARTI.SAHA.ORG** Microsite that uses solar energy to access a local network and distribute free Wi-Fi.



HHA's Historic Oaks of Allen Parkway Property



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