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Building Blocks for Saving Energy and Money!

As a building owner or manager, energy accounts for a large and growing part of your monthly expenses. But there's good news! Focus on Energy can show you how to save money on your energy bills while improving tenant comfort and satisfaction. And in this special edition of "Building Blocks," Focus on Energy offers some more in-depth energy efficiency advice.

Choosing ENERGY STAR® Qualified Equipment & Appliances

It's that time of year, and many of you may be in the process of restoring and renovating your properties for new tenants. While you're at it, it's more important than ever to add energy efficiency to your "To Do" list. It's easy — just ask yourself the following questions: Am I using ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washers? And what about the refrigerators in each of my units — are they ENERGY STAR qualified? Are my boilers and water heaters as energy efficient as they could be?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, thankfully, Focus on Energy is offering "spring cleaning" advice on the benefits of choosing ENERGY STAR qualified equipment and appliances.

By exploring the use of ENERGY STAR qualified equipment and appliances, such as clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators and boilers; you have an excellent opportunity to combat rising energy costs. In fact, products that have earned the ENERGY STAR have the highest rating a product can earn for energy efficiency (translation: They're cheaper to use!). Here are some examples of the savings potential:

- ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washers can save up to \$110 per year on utility bills, compared to a model manufactured before 1994.
- ENERGY STAR qualified dishwashers use 25 percent less energy and use less hot water — saving about \$90 over their lifetime.
- Refrigerators are the single biggest energy consumer; an ENERGY STAR qualified model can use 40 percent less energy than the conventional models sold in 2001.
- ENERGY STAR qualified condensing boilers also have more efficiencies and capabilities of a traditional water heater. Compared to a standard water heater that is about 70 percent efficient, boilers earning the ENERGY STAR are 87 percent efficient, heating nearly 20 percent more water with the same energy — and energy costs.

Additionally, purchasing and installing ENERGY STAR qualified equipment and appliances is now more affordable than ever when eligible building owners and managers combine financial incentives from Focus on Energy with the new federal tax credits. In fact, incentives are available for many energy efficiency improvements.

Wondering how to get started? You can find out all the ways you can save energy and money with a no-cost energy evaluation from Focus on Energy. A qualified Energy Advisor will visit your site and examine your building's systems, equipment and energy and water usage to find the best ways for you to control costs. Afterward, you'll receive information on recommended improvements to help you save money on energy efficient changes. To schedule an evaluation, or to find out more about incentives and tax credits, contact Focus on Energy at (800) 762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

About the Apartment & Condo Efficiency Services Program

Focus on Energy's Apartment & Condo Efficiency Services Program specializes in energy efficiency for new and existing multi-unit residential properties. The program offers owners, developers and resident information, technical expertise and financial incentives to help make their properties more energy efficient. Building owners enjoy the lower operating costs, while residents benefit from a lower cost of living and a much more comfortable home. For information about the program, call (800) 762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

About Focus on Energy

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Focus information, resources and financial incentives help to implement projects that otherwise would not be completed, or to complete projects sooner than scheduled. Its efforts help Wisconsin residents and businesses manage rising energy costs, promote in-state economic development, protect our environment and control the state's growing demand for electricity and natural gas. For more information, call (800) 762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

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