



Jersey City Housing Authority has deal to retrofit 1,600 units for guaranteed energy savings, increased quality of life

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Jersey City Housing Authority officials have announced a \$10 million energy efficiency project they say will slash the authority's energy bills by at least 15 percent.

Accompanied by Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, the officials announced the initiative at a press conference last Wednesday at the Holland Gardens public housing complex, 16th and Erie streets.

The project includes retrofitting 1,600 units of the authority's older buildings to improve heat control, reduce water consumption, improve building insulation, increase the efficiency of lighting fixtures, and improve boiler efficiency.

Solar energy panels to help heat water have already been installed at Holland Gardens.

"The tenants who were having a shower and washing up this morning were using 'green' water," said David Turner, a zone manager for the Building Technologies Division of Siemens.

Siemens Industry of Pine Brook has been awarded the \$10.4 million contract to retrofit the buildings.

The JCHA has taken out a 15-year, \$9 million bank loan to pay for the work. Siemens is guaranteeing \$900,000 a year in energy savings - money that will be used to pay back the loan, officials said.

If the savings falls short, Siemens will pay the bank the difference, Turner said. The balance of the project will be paid with a \$1.4 million federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act grant.

"We are going to save significant long-term energy costs," said JCHA Chairman Raj Mukherji Mukherji. "This will benefit our residents, with reduced carbon emissions, lower energy costs and a healthier environment."

JCHA Executive Director Maria Maio looks forward to a buy-in from the tenants. "This will only be successful if we partner not only with Siemens, but with the residents," Maio said.

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