



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY
211 North Front Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

Phil Friday or Paula Brightbill
(717) 780-3916 (717) 780-3915

WEST PENN POWER SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY FUND
40 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 510
Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601
Joel Morrison
(814) 865-4802 or e-mail wppsef@ems.psu.edu

**“SMART REHAB” WILL PRESERVE AFFORDABLE APARTMENTS
ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS KEY**

Funding provides much-needed boost to rental housing in Western and Central Pennsylvania

GREENSBURG, PA - June 16, 2008 - West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF) and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency have joined forces to preserve affordable apartment units in 23 western and central Commonwealth counties. The two organizations will work together to lower the expense of heating and cooling multifamily dwellings to make sure high energy prices don't force up costs for fixed-income older Pennsylvanians, families of modest means, or persons with disabilities.

Under the two-year “Preservation through Smart Rehab Program” WPPSEF and PHFA will provide funds to determine how apartment buildings use energy, and to pay for modifications to make them more efficient. As much as \$600,000 will be expended on this pioneering joint venture, which should affect no fewer than 30 complexes.

“The cost of energy is one of the most important components in affordable housing,” said Brian A. Hudson, PHFA Executive Director. “It is *the* deciding factor in the economic feasibility for many older properties. That’s why WPPSEF and PHFA view this effort as being so important.”

PHFA will select properties to participate in the program, arrange for energy audits, and review the resulting reports. These “diagnostic” reviews become the basis for replacing, repairing or improving energy delivery and conservations systems in the subject projects. The two organizations believe that by determining the present status of energy use, actions that enhance efficiency, improve delivery, hold down costs to consumers, and keep the apartments affordable can be achieved.

Michele Ponchione, WPPSEF President, said such cooperation between the nonprofit and public sectors encourages other mutual efforts. “PHFA’s focus on improving the quality of affordable housing is the perfect match for our residential energy efficiency programs,” she remarked. “Together, we can build the quality of older apartments while reducing energy usage. It helps everyone in the Commonwealth.”

Announcement of the new agreement took place at the PHFA’s annual Housing Services Conference, taking place in Gettysburg on June 16, 17 and 18th. WPPSEF is an exhibitor at the Conference, which brings owners and managers of affordable multifamily rental developments together with residential services providers. Many residents who live in PHFA-financed developments have fixed incomes, and lowering energy costs is a significant step toward enhancing their quality-of-life issues.

WPPSEF-PHFA Smart Rehab helps rental housing

June 16, 2008

Page two

About West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF)

The WPPSEF funds the development and deployment of sustainable energy technologies in the 23-county Allegheny Power service region. The Fund's mission is renewable and clean energy generation, energy efficiency and conservation and the attraction, establishment and retention of clean energy business. Pennsylvania is a leader in the advancement of sustainable energy technologies. We are living in a truly exciting period of time in which new energy technologies will begin to reshape the way we generate and use electricity. For more information, visit www.wppsef.org.

About PA Home Energy

PA Home Energy is a new program from the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund that is focused on helping Pennsylvania consumers reduce their home energy use while improving their comfort. If you own a home or are building or buying new, learn what you can do to reduce your energy use and save money. The program integrates the general principles of whole house performance with green home design. At the heart of PA Home Energy is ENERGY STAR – a widely recognized brand that is easy to understand. PA Home Energy will be providing a modest financial incentive to the Pennsylvania residents whose electric service is provided by Allegheny Power. To learn more, visit www.pahomeenergy.org.

###