



August, 2010

Employees Receive Green Management Certification

In the past several months, CHP has held Green Property Management certification trainings in Christiansburg and Richmond, Virginia for dozens of its employees. The training sessions, which were sponsored by NeighborWorks[®], a U.S. Department of Labor Energy Training Partnership grant, and the National Center for Healthy Housing, with assistance from Steven Winter Associates and Tohn Environmental Strategies, are required of organizations taking part in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s *Assisted Housing Green Retrofit Program*.

Under this program, grants and loans are made available through HUD's Office of Affordable Housing Preservation (OAHP) for eligible property owners to make energy and green retrofit investments in a property using *Green Building* principles.

The goal of the *Assisted Housing Green Retrofit Program* is to ensure the maintenance and preservation of the property, the continued operation and maintenance of energy efficiency technologies, and the timely expenditure of funds.

Green Building emphasizes sustainable development as a way to create properties with a residents. This approach to environmentally and socially responsible development includes consideration of building design, materials and techniques used in construction, and all the systems, appliances, and fixtures within the building.

Under the *Assisted Housing Green Retrofit Program*, CHP has begun improving 3 of its Virginia rental communities with the assistance of HUD funding: Wytheville Community Apartments in Wytheville, Wellesley Apartments in Newport News, and Holly Court Apartments in Kilmarnock.

To date, 38 CHP staff members have attended the training in order to learn the latest techniques and technologies for making cost-saving green improvements at properties, and all have subsequently received their certification from the National Affordable Housing Management

Association (NAHMA), which was contracted by HUD to administer the Credential for Green Property Management (CGPM).

Topics covered in the training are:

- Green Building Principles and Practices Overview
- Energy Efficiency
- Water Efficiency
- Integrated Pest Management
- Indoor Air Quality
- Green Operations and Maintenance

Other subjects covered in the curriculum include Green Site Landscaping; Xeriscape; Composting; Green Building Systems; Alternative Energy Sources (Solar, Wind, Geothermal, Combined Heat and Power, Co-generation); ENERGY STAR (including indoor and outdoor lighting) and WaterSense Programs; Recycling and Waste Reduction; and Resident Green Education.

To maintain Green Property Management certification, each individual must receive 4 hours of training each year.

Said CHP Vice President of Property Management, Scott Reithel, "I think that as citizens, employees, and employers, we need to understand how to become better stewards of our environment. Staff and resident education on how to cultivate and maintain sustainable properties not only helps CHP in fulfilling this moral obligation, but as we improve and expand our environmental practices, these methods will become even more economically beneficial to our properties."