



San Antonio Housing Authority
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News Release

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SAHA WINS ENERGY STAR AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE FROM THE EPA

SAN ANTONIO – The San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) is the only Texas public housing authority being honored tomorrow (April 12) in Washington D.C. as an award winner for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2011 Energy Star Awards for Excellence in Affordable Housing.

"We're committed to providing healthier environments for our residents by using Energy Star qualified products as we build new communities and reinvest in existing communities," said SAHA Board Chair Ramiro Cavazos. "Using these products provides a healthier indoor air quality for our residents, protects the environment and saves money."

"Partners like the San Antonio Housing Authority are bringing the benefits of Energy Star homes to Americans from all walks of life," said Elizabeth Craig, acting director of EPA's Office of Atmospheric Programs. "Residents of Energy Star qualified homes not only see lower energy bills, but also enjoy increased comfort and reduced maintenance costs. We look to these partners to continue helping Americans afford the comfort and energy efficiency that comes with a home that has earned the Energy Star."

According to the EPA, the average family spends \$1,900 a year on energy bills, with half of that amount going to heating and cooling. They estimate that by using energy-efficient heating and cooling systems with properly sealed ducts, families can save about 20% on their energy bills.

With 6,175 public housing units at 70 properties and 6,612 mixed-income housing units at 44 properties, SAHA and its management partners are the largest landlords in San Antonio.

"We have a responsibility to our residents and the environment to do what we can to make our communities energy-efficient," said SAHA President and CEO Lourdes Castro Ramírez. "We're in the process of developing a sustainability policy, which includes conservation of energy, water and indoor air quality. Ideally, we would like to take the money we save and offer more sustainable options to our residents like community gardens, farmer's markets and alternative energy options."

SAHA is proactively developing and implementing various programs and initiatives to educate residents and employees on ways they can save energy and recycle, for their health and the health of the environment.

In addition, SAHA has been consulting with Build San Antonio Green and Energy Star Raters in an effort to develop ways to make our multi-family developments more energy efficient and sustainable.

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