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JAMAICA PLAIN, ROXBURY

New solar panels atop Amory St. housing development in Jamaica Plain

Posted by Matt Rocheleau August 3, 2012 03:26 PM

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(Boston Housing Authority)

Pictured are: William McGonagle, Boston Housing Authority administrator; Dan Helmes, BRA energy manager; Jeffrey Simon, Mass Recovery & Reinvestment Office director; Steve Carvalho, state Department of Housing and Community Development chief of staff; John J. Drew, Action for Boston Community Development Inc. president and CEO; Christie Howe, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center project manager; and seniors and people with disabilities who live at the Amory Street Development.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Solar panels recently installed atop a public housing development in Jamaica Plain will reduce the city's hot-water bill for the complex by about 40 percent, officials said.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held last week at 125 Amory St., where a project to install 96 solar panels atop the six-story building was recently completed, according to the Boston Housing Authority.

The housing agency said it expects to save 40 percent on its domestic hot-water bill at the 184-unit facility, located near the neighborhood's border with Roxbury and reserved for low- and moderately-income seniors and people with disabilities.

The projected savings amount to \$13,000 per year for a lifetime of 25 years, or a total of \$325,000, officials said.

The project cost \$311,088 to complete. It was paid for by \$102,718 in stimulus funding and a \$208,370 contribution by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center.

The housing agency said the project is one of the largest solar-thermal, domestic hot water heating installations in Massachusetts.

"This project is a win-win; it provides better services to our residents while saving money on utilities in an environmentally friendly way all at the same time," Mayor Thomas M. Menino said in a statement.

Partners in the project joined the city housing agency at the celebratory ribbon-cutting on July 25, officials said.

The project was managed by Action for Boston Community Development, based in downtown Boston, and Action, Inc., based in Gloucester. New

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England Solar Hot Water installed the solar thermal system. The project was designed by BEAM Engineering, with assistance from Paradigm Partners. In addition, Paradigm Partners provided contractor management services.

“Projects that save money and conserve energy are critical to the future of public housing, which serves as an invaluable resource to over 45,000 families statewide,” Governor Deval Patrick said in a statement.

E-mail Matt Rocheleau at mjrochele@gmail.com.

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