

MASSACHUSETTS AFFORDABLE HOUSING ALLIANCE (MAHA)



After moving into a new Energy Star-rated building in 2008 (designed by an architectural firm specializing in sustainability), the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance (MAHA) decided to dive into sustainability even further by joining the Challenge for Sustainability in 2011.

Being ahead of the curve going into the program, MAHA was unsure what else could be done. Through ABC's coordination, they were able to receive a free energy audit to uncover even deeper potential savings through lighting changes and the addition of motion sensors.

With the help of subsidies from the MassSave Direct Install Program, MAHA was able to make these changes at low cost and with a short payback period.

In addition, MAHA improved its recycling output by increasing the number of collection bins located throughout its work and program space. As a result of the many actions taken, the organization received ABC's Small Business Award for highest score in the Challenge for Sustainability for 2012.



A BETTER CITY

CHALLENGE for
SUSTAINABILITY

*Business and Institutional Leaders
Working Toward a Sustainable City*

MAHA - Energy Retrofit 2012

- **Category:** Non-profit
- **Facility Size:** 9,600 Square Feet
- **Location:** Dorchester, MA - St. Mark's Area Main Street
- **Project Cost** (energy retrofit) - \$1,560
- **Customer Cost:**
Total customer cost - \$468
- **Incentives:**
Nstar (Electric) - \$1,092
- **Projected Annual Savings:**
\$590
- **Payback Period:** 9.52 months

"Although we had already done so much around sustainability within our building, A Better City showed us that there was still plenty of opportunity out there. We are still seeing savings, and pushing ourselves to see what more we can do. The Challenge for Sustainability proved to us that there is always more you can do."

Tom Callahan, Executive Director
MAHA

DIVING DEEPER INTO SUSTAINABILITY

OCCUPANT ENGAGEMENT SIGNAGE



The signage project has allowed MAHA to extend its educational program to include energy, environmental and money-saving tips for homeowners. From explanations about insulation materials to the benefits of bamboo flooring, MAHA's building is a teaching tool. Decisions homeowners make about updating a bathroom, buying an Energy Star appliance or replacing windows or doors can lead to lower costs and a more stable housing environment. MAHA's classes and building help consumers feel more confident making energy-smart choices.

ABOUT MAHA

For 27 years, MAHA has been the foremost voice for low and moderate income families seeking affordable homeownership in Massachusetts. MAHA offers award winning workshops for first time homebuyers and homeowners at its green building and classroom facility in Dorchester.

ABOUT THE CHALLENGE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The Challenge for Sustainability helps business or buildings save money by increasing energy efficiency, reducing resource consumption, decreasing solid waste, and reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions through hands-on technical assistance and access to local, state, and private incentives.

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