

# Whole Buildings

Education and training to green your building



Residents at a Solar One workshop.

Solar One, a non-profit leader in green education, offers Whole Buildings, an education and training program that works with your entire building community to save energy and promote sustainable living.

Everyone – residents, superintendants, building owners and property managers – benefits because saving energy means saving money and protecting the environment. The program also provides training in water conservation, recycling, and maintaining a healthy living space.

**We Work With Both Affordable and Market Rate Housing, With A Focus On Three Audiences: Residents, Building Staff, And Building Owners And Managers.**

## GREEN EDUCATION & TRAINING



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY

for electricity and heating through low-cost technology improvements and behavioral changes



### WATER EFFICIENCY

through low-cost technology improvements and behavioral changes



### INDOOR AIR QUALITY

improvement strategies and prevention of asthma triggers such as mold and pests



### WASTE + RECYCLING

procedures in New York City



### HEALTHY FOOD

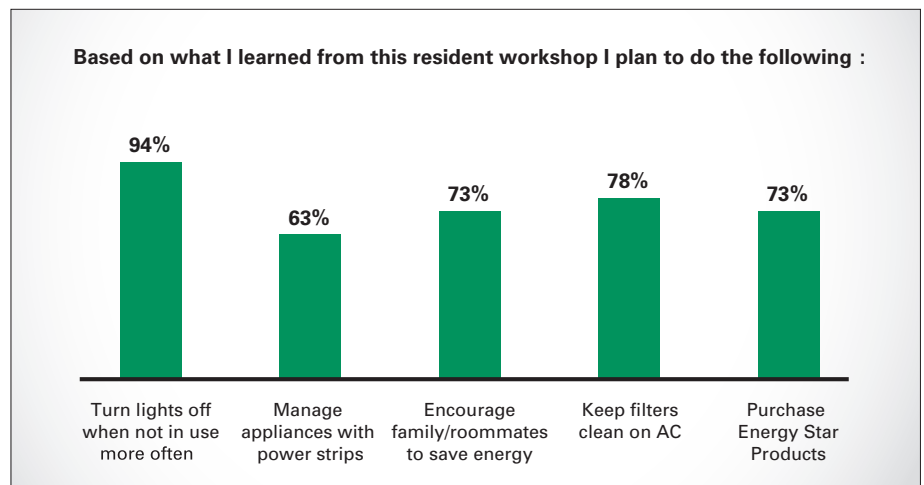
and accessing it in the local neighborhood

## BUILDING RESIDENTS

We provide lively and entertaining workshops that educate residents on ways they can increase the energy efficiency of their apartments, while saving money on their utility bills, contributing to improved health and safety of their families, and protecting the environment.

A key challenge in New York City, is that the environmental infrastructure that powers our buildings, provides our water, and processes our sewage and garbage is “hidden.” We address this disconnect by incorporating hands on activities – such as using a kilowatt meter to identify high energy-use appliances and touring the boiler room or recycling area – into resident workshops. Another challenge is to motivate residents to conserve when they don’t see all of their utility bills. Therefore, we appeal to a range of interests and benefits such as, how the environment impacts residents, comfort of the home, and healthy living. Workshops are accompanied by colorful, engaging and in some instances, humorous, printed materials that reinforce training content and web-based resources.

**Our workshops give residents the tools to take energy saving action to reduce energy bills and a building’s carbon footprint.**



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Active building-wide engagement is critical to any sustainability initiative; behavioral change alone can impact energy use by 10%.

## BUILDING SUPERINTENDANTS AND CUSTODIAL STAFF

We provide on-site green building operations guidance for building staff. Solar One experts in energy efficiency and building operations conduct walk-throughs, identify measures to improve building performance, and answer technical questions.

We also provide energy efficiency and sustainability workshops for multifamily building operators. Each workshop covers building science basics, common energy efficiency and sustainability measures and their implementation, relevant local laws and incentive programs, strategies for engaging building residents in sustainability efforts, and an overview of the additional education and certification programs available in New York City.

## BUILDING OWNERS AND MANAGERS

We work with building owners, property managers, and coop/condo board members to respond to a rapidly changing technology and regulatory landscape.

We can help you:

- identify specific energy use or other problem areas in the building, and measures to address them,
- understand new state and local requirements such as the New York City Greener Greater Building Laws,
- access state and local funding, and
- identify strategies for engaging building staff and residents in sustainability efforts.

## GREEN COMMITTEES

Solar One can also help your building establish a building Green Committee. Surveys conducted after Solar One resident workshops indicate that 65% of participants would become members of “green committees” in order to “help their neighbors go green.”

Solar One works with residents and superintendants to generate ideas and provide technical assistance for 3-4 months to help the Green Committee get established.

Some examples of Green Committee activities include:

- Energy-saving white roofs
- Awareness campaigns for energy/water conservation and recycling
- A building-wide energy reduction challenge
- Involvement in Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs) or establishment of a community garden
- A family-oriented environmental fair with interactive and educational events.



Engaging tenants is key to greening your building.



Whole Buildings is a project of Solar One, NYC's green energy, arts and education center. Over the past seven years, Solar One has built a reputation in New York City as an environmental education, community outreach, green career training, and energy advocacy organization that is creative and on the cutting-edge of environmental and sustainability programming. Solar One's mission is to empower people of all ages with the vision, knowledge and resources to attain a more environmentally sound and sustainable future. We embrace this mission through unique initiatives that attract tens of thousands of people each year from throughout the five boroughs of New York City and beyond.

For more information on Whole Buildings and other Solar One programs, visit [www.solar1.org](http://www.solar1.org).



Solar One's Energy Connections program has provided education and/or training to thousands of residents, superintendents, building operators, condo and co-op board members, and building owners, reaching 17,505 individuals through 72 workshops and public events in 2010 alone. Energy Connections staff also serve as the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) Downstate South Energy \$mart Communities Coordinators. The program connects New York City residents, businesses, and community based organizations to energy efficiency and renewable energy resources through education, outreach, and project partnerships. Our objective is to make all New Yorkers part of our city's ambitious efforts to combat climate change and develop a clean, green city and economy.