



CATEGORY: Energy / Community Organization

TRANSITION HOUSE
Cambridge, MA

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Transition House staff partnered with HEET to do an energy efficiency barn raising and a staff and resident education campaign, aided by 40 volunteers. They teamed up with New Generation Energy to monitor electricity usage and, based on the results, replaced their refrigerators and freezer and hot water system, saving considerable energy and money. They convinced NSTAR to include the agency in the Low-Income Multi Family Energy Retrofit Program (LEAN) and have carried out efficiency measures identified in the program's energy audit, including comprehensive building insulation.
- Staff and residents are learning and practicing ways to conserve energy and natural resources. The agency recycles everything possible, orders supplies that use recycled material, and puts its utility savings into its programs. Residents are able to save on living expenses and have increased appreciation of the long-term impacts of their actions. As their children learn in school about climate issues and the importance of reducing their energy footprint, they are able to bring these lessons back to the shelter and to their homes.
- To give children a chance to engage with the natural world, a Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom has been installed, with raised beds for a vegetable garden and a rain barrel to collect downspout rainwater.

ABOUT TRANSITION HOUSE:

As Cambridge's domestic violence prevention and services agency, Transition House has served survivors continuously since 1975 in its emergency shelter and longer-term housing programs.

Its circa 1890 house has been a temporary home to thousands of people seeking safety from domestic violence. Staff members believe they have a special responsibility to maintain the shelter, and they have undertaken projects to make it more energy efficient as well as to make sustainability practices part of daily operations. This Transition House Green Door Campaign for Sustainability brings together staff and the families they serve in an effort to connect the desire to make their operations more sustainable with the mandate to serve the community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact Risa Mednick at rmednick@transitionhouse.org.



ABOUT THE GO GREEN AWARD

The City of Cambridge annually recognizes local businesses and organizations for outstanding practices in transportation, waste reduction and recycling, energy, stormwater management, climate protection, and community sustainability. The awardees make significant contributions to the reduction of the carbon footprint of Cambridge and to making the city more sustainable.