



Energy Efficiency Success Story Westwood Apartments, Chicago, IL

Savings

- **40%** annual savings on energy costs

Building Overview

- Building owner: Preservation of Affordable Housing
- Building type: Seven buildings including 102 units

Upgrades Completed

- Installed high efficiency gas furnaces, exhaust fans, and domestic hot water heaters
- Installed solar hot water systems
- Air sealing and insulation completed
- ENERGY STAR® appliances installed

Project Summary

Westwood Apartments is a complex of seven buildings along 62nd Street in the Woodlawn neighborhood of Chicago. The redevelopment of the complex is a vital part of Preservation of Affordable Housing's (POAH) CHOICE Neighborhood Initiative to redevelop Grove Parc Plaza, a 504-unit distressed Section 8 housing complex along the nearby South Cottage Grove corridor, and invest in distressed housing in the Woodlawn neighborhood.

POAH is redeveloping the Grove Parc site into a mixed-use, mixed-income community, combining residential, commercial, and recreational uses. Grove Parc's Section 8 units are being preserved as an affordable housing resource for residents in the Woodlawn area. POAH will eventually create a total of 1,000 units of affordable and market-rate housing in Woodlawn.

Westwood is the largest of four properties POAH acquired through the federally funded Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), which provides resources to convert vacant and distressed properties into newly renovated housing to support community stability.



With funding from Elevate Energy, POAH was able to incorporate comprehensive energy efficiency improvements in the Westwood rehabilitation project. Energy efficient features include three high efficiency gas furnaces, high efficiency exhaust fans, new high efficiency domestic hot water heaters, Energy Star appliances, and air sealing and insulation. In addition, a 720,000 Btu solar-thermal hot water system, consisting of 15 solar panels on each of the seven buildings, was provided by the City of Chicago. The improvements are expected to reduce energy and water costs by as much as 40 percent.

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(855) 372-8377

buildings@ElevateEnergy.org

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