



Overview of AOBA's Environmental Initiatives - 2008

Recognizing the critical significance of energy conservation to contain costs and reduce environmental impacts, AOBA has undertaken a number of environmental initiatives.

In March, AOBA, as the Washington area BOMA affiliate, officially signed onto a **7 Point Challenge**, developed by the Building Owners and Managers Association International (BOMA). By endorsing this challenge, AOBA members have committed to the goal of reducing energy consumption in members' commercial buildings by 30 percent by 2012. As part of the challenge, AOBA has also pledged to serve as an industry leader in promoting energy efficiency and conservation.

In April, AOBA launched a new **Energy Managers Roundtable**, which brings together executives responsible for energy management and conservation in local office and apartment buildings. Members of the peer-group forum, comprised of more than 50 representatives, are already sharing best practices regarding energy management issues, equipment, technology and vendors. The Roundtable is helping meet the needs of AOBA-member property owners and managers, who face rising energy costs -- the largest operating expense for most buildings, and who are striving to make their buildings as environmentally sustainable as possible.

In a related education program, AOBA continues to promote **BOMA's BEEP** (Building Energy Efficiency Program) webinars to members at no fee. Members may take advantage of this specific educational opportunity, available on scheduled dates at AOBA offices.

During the summer of 2008, AOBA conducted case studies to determine energy efficiency opportunities in a gas-heated, multifamily residential building in the rent-controlled environment of Washington, DC. The results of these case studies will be presented at AOBA's **Greening Existing Buildings** conference on Sept 25, 2008 and will be available online.

AOBA has enhanced its "**Going Green**" website feature at www.aoba-metro.org. This online resource includes a unique summary of current environmental laws, regulations and incentives relevant to AOBA members, as well as case studies, helpful links and handy-to-reproduce **Green Tips** for residents and tenants.

Also, the **AOBA Alliance**, a subsidiary of AOBA, is now in its 8th year of negotiating procurement contracts for energy generation. The largest customer-based energy aggregation group in the metro area, the AOBA Alliance identifies opportunities for its members to achieve savings in energy purchasing, including the purchase of "green" energy through renewable energy certificates (RECs). These RECs, which include solar, wind, biomass and geothermal energy, are "green-e" certified by the Center for Resource Solutions to assure authenticity.