



Renewable Energy 101 for Housing and Community Development Conference



By Lydia Beltrán

The Institute for Professional and Executive Development (IPED), a Washington, D.C.-based company well known for its expertise in green affordable housing and community development, partnered with the Florida Housing Coalition to host its national conference on using renewable energy for housing and community development. The effort was part of the Coalition's Affordable Green Housing Partnership Network sponsored by a grant from Wachovia, A Wells Fargo Company, and the generous support of IPED and its sponsors. The conference, held March 24-25, 2011, in Tampa, brought together experts in renewable energy to address affordable housing and community development from perspectives both nationally and Florida based.

Participants learned:

- How to choose the right energy development or retrofit program;
- How to weigh the costs and benefits of various energy conservation measures for a new or existing project;
- How the most common renewable energies work when used on community development projects with emphasis on solar, fuel cell and community wind.

Florida's energy usage research results, design features and partnerships needed to incorporate energy and water conservation and implementation and strategies in addressing a clean energy economy were presented. The panelists provided insight for struc-

turing and partnering to further incorporate energy conservation in tax credit projects.

Government support for solar power and other clean energy technology is critical to our economy and our environment. The key question, especially in Florida: "Can solar development be economically feasible" was explored based on a variety of perspectives including program models.

Supporters of a California-based incentive program (as defined in California Public Utilities Code (PUC Section 2852) for the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) generating systems on low-income multifamily housing finds that solar is economically feasible. The Multifamily Affordable Solar Housing Program (MASH) for affordable housing is designed through the California Solar Initiative (CSI) to: (1) stimulate adoption of solar power in the affordable housing sector; (2) improve energy utilization and overall quality of affordable housing through application of solar and energy efficiency technologies; (3) decrease electricity use and costs without increasing monthly household expenses for affordable housing building occupants; and (4) increase awareness and appreciation of the benefits of solar among affordable housing occupants and developers.

The Florida Housing Coalition will continue the dialogue about Florida's energy needs and role in affordable housing with a Green Track at the Coalition's Conference in September. For more Renewable energy information and/or Florida's Affordable Green Housing Partnership Network contact Lydia Beltrán, Technical Advisor at 954.458.4969. HNN



Stan Fitterman, FHC Technical Advisor Director and COO provided the Welcome and Opening remarks. (L to R) Moderator: Jeff Lesk, Partner, Nixon Peabody LLP; Jeff Periman, CEM, LEED AP, President & Founder, Bright Power, Inc.; David Epley, Program Director, of Energy Performance, Enterprise Community Partners; Laurel Tinsley, Vice President, Director of New Markets, McCormack Baron Salazar, Inc.; Casius Pealer, President, Oyster Tree Consulting