Supporting Sustainability Initiatives in Affordable Housing
Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura

Project Overview

Background: The Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura (HACSB) has been building and managing affordable housing for more than 60 years. Today, HACSB provides quality, low-cost housing and support services for 4,000 Ventura County residents across more than 30 properties.

In 2013, HACSB pledged to reduce their overall energy usage by 20% by 2020 under the Department of Energy’s Better Buildings Challenge (BBC).

Results

• BBC: Applied for and received over $5,000 in utility rebates, led monthly Sustainability Team meetings, assisted with green lease implementation, participated in 2016 Better Buildings Summit in Washington, D.C.
• LEED-ND: Completed LEED-ND checklist for Fall 2016 certification.
• Community Gardens: Helped start 3 resident-led community gardens, established HACSB as a Food Forward receiving agency from which HACSB residents have received over 2,000 lbs. of donated fresh fruit, organized the building of 9 “food hubs” to hold Food Forward donations and community garden produce.

Fellow Roles and Responsibilities:
• LEED-ND technical support/project research
• Energy data collection, tracking, and reporting
• Rebate research and applications
• Plan and organize community gardens
• Research and implement new sustainability initiatives
• Facilitate internal Sustainability Team

What’s Next for HACSB Sustainability?

• 2016-2017 HACSB CivicSpark Fellow
• Westview Village LEED-ND certification – Fall 2016
• Green lease implementation
• Expansion of on-site, resident-led community gardens
• Continued utility data collecting and tracking through WegoWise
• Continued fruit donations from Food Forward

Abbie Huvard – LA Region: Abbie was born and raised in Ventura County. She graduated with a BS in Environmental Management from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and has a wide array of experience ranging from Ocean Lifeguarding to working for an international wine company. After CivicSpark, Abbie plans to pursue a Bachelor’s degree in Nursing.