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ENERGY EFFICIENCY OUTREACH EFFORTS HIGHLIGHT VALUE OF COLLABORATION IN CAMBRIDGE

CEA is conducting outreach and connecting the dots for Cambridge residents in a series of targeted events that make for an exciting first quarter. CEA is building stronger bridges among industry professionals, low-income communities, the city's youth and even landlords, all with the help of nine dedicated volunteer interns.

In a collaborative event this February, CEA partnered with Coldwell Banker to host a Green Condominium seminar that brought together realtors, banks, and energy auditors. The speakers answered questions about everything from simple in-home efficiency steps to project financing, allowing event attendees to leave with a comprehensive knowledge base. Participants left with contacts in-hand, and the know-how to make energy efficiency improvements based on advice from Sustainable Life Solutions, Next Step Living, Inc., S & H Construction, Coldwell Banker Agents Amy Tighe and Robin Miller, and the Cambridge Portuguese Credit Union.

On February 25th, CEA hosted a successful event at East End House in conjunction with Green Streets' Walk/Ride Day. Members of the community were able to sign up for their free home energy audit, and children played educational energy games, all while they enjoyed a healthy complimentary breakfast!

Looking to boost the energy and money-saving power of energy efficiency within the low-income community, CEA hosted a Leadership Roundtable on Energy Efficiency Outreach Strategies in March. The event provided a collaborative forum that drew 14 representatives from housing providers, senior services, and community organizations looking to improve outreach to under-served members of the Cambridge community. "This is an important step in our shared effort to help the low-income households we serve learn about the value of conserving energy. We look forward to working together on this issue," said Cambridge Housing Authority Executive Director Gregory P. Russ.

Wrapping up a busy first quarter was a Landlord Conference on Energy and Weatherization hosted by the City of Cambridge, CEA, and MA Rental Housing Association. The conference helped Cambridge property owners take advantage of weatherization incentives. The event highlighted zero-percent interest loans offered by NSTAR, and incentives such as a 75 percent rebate for energy efficiency improvements up to \$2,000 per unit.

Cambridge residents should also be on the lookout for more energy efficiency incentives this spring, particularly new rebate programs for replacement of old air conditioners. Meghan Shaw of CEA said, "We're excited to offer renters the opportunity to be more energy efficient this summer!"

The Cambridge Energy Alliance (CEA) is an organization partnering with the City of Cambridge to save Cambridge residents and businesses money, while reducing the City's carbon footprint. Visit <http://cambridgeenergyalliance.org> to learn more.