



Polyiso Insulation Chosen for State-of-the-Art Affordable Housing

High Thermal Resistance Polyiso Donated by Hunter Panels, Atlas Roofing, and Carlisle Construction Materials for Passive House Design

WASHINGTON, November 18, 2014 – Polyiso roof insulation will be used in an innovative apartment building project that combines state-of-the-art environmental features with affordable rents for homeless families. The polyiso insulation, donated by the Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Associations' (PIMA) Hunter Panels and Atlas Roofing Company, as well as by Carlisle Construction Materials, will be used in the Transitional Housing Corporation's Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Commons (Weinberg Commons).

As the first ever "Passive House" designed for low income housing in Washington, DC, Weinberg Commons will reclaim three blighted buildings in Southeast DC using architectural principles that reduce the carbon footprint and the utility costs for low-income tenants.

When finished in mid-2015, the apartments will provide 36 low and moderate income families including 12 homeless or formerly homeless families with below-market rents, employment services and other support for youth and families. One-third of the units will be reserved for families with more intensive needs.

"Our goal is sustainability, not just in the environmental sense, but in an economic sense to keep these families in a stable, supportive situation," said Polly Donaldson, executive director of the Transitional Housing Corporation, a DC-based nonprofit that functions as the co-developer, landlord and service provider on this project.

Generally considered the most stringent energy standard in the world, Passive House building is an innovative approach to net-zero building. Instead of relying on active energy reduction systems with high installation costs, Passive House buildings concentrate on energy use reduction. Passive House buildings work with natural systems to manage heat gain and loss, saving up to 90% of utility costs. In fact, the U.S. DOE recognizes the Passive House approach as the most efficient means of achieving net-zero building operations.

"It is a privilege for our members to be part of a project that addresses both homelessness and sustainable housing," said Jared Blum, President, PIMA. "Polyiso insulation is known for its high thermal performance and will be a key contributor for this net-zero building that is extremely insulated, heated by passive solar gains and requires ultra-low energy for space heating or cooling."

The groundbreaking ceremony for Weinberg Commons was held in October and attended by Washington Mayor Vincent Gray.

About THC

Transitional Housing Corporation (THC), a nonprofit organization, strives to end family homelessness in the District of Columbia through the provision of a continuum of housing opportunities wrapped by

comprehensive supportive services. In 2014 THC will help over 500 families find housing stability and economic viability, creating transformational changes in their lives.

About PIMA

For over 25 years, the Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA) has served as the unified voice of the rigid polyiso industry proactively advocating for safe, cost-effective, sustainable and energy efficient construction. PIMA's members, who first came together in 1987, include a synergistic partnership of polyiso manufacturers and industry suppliers. Polyiso is one of the Nation's most widely used and cost-effective insulation products available. To learn more visit www.polyiso.org.

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