

DAILY NEWS

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Nonprofit's Energy in Efficiency

BY ELISE KIGNER

The south Bronx will get a little greener when a new affordable apartment complex opens its doors this fall.

The Intervale Green building is equipped with energy-efficient appliances that will lower energy costs by 35%, a huge draw at a time when fuel costs are driving up rents.

"Everyone is struggling at the supermarket, gas stations and at home," said Nancy Biberman, president of the nonprofit Women's Housing and Economic Development Corp., which is sponsoring the Crotona Park East development.

"The solution," she said, "is to take buildings and make them more energy efficient."

The roof of the new apartment complex at 1330 Intervale Ave., between Freeman and Jennings Sts., collects storm water and absorbs solar heat. The complex offers low-flow showers, energy-efficient boilers and air-sealed rooms to keep down heating costs. Newly-planted trees, shrubs and gardens will add oxygen to the air.

"We really want the development to have an impact on everything around it," Biberman said.

The building is also made of nontoxic materials to help keep the air fresher in a neighborhood with the highest rate of asthma in the Bronx.

Thousands of families are expected to enter a lottery for the 128 units available for low-income tenants. There are also 39 units available for families coming out of the shelter system.

The \$45 million project is subsidized by borough, city and state sources, including the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. Rents go from \$782 a month for a one-bedroom apartment to \$1,089 a month for three bedrooms.

Application information is available at www.whedco.org. Applications are due Aug. 3.

The nonprofit also hopes to level the playing field for tenants by providing wireless computer service in each apartment and offering free computers.



"The digital divide is something that keeps kids with low incomes at a disadvantage," Biberman said.

An artist's rendering of what the Intervale Green apartment complex will look like when completed. (above)

Currently under construction on Intervale Ave. between Freeman and Jennings Sts. in Crotona Park East, the development features energy-efficient apartments for low-income families. (right)