

## **Solar Panels Bring New Light to Old Historic Building in Louisville, KY.**

St. Cecilia Elderly Apartments is a historic, renovated building that connects Louisville's past with the future due to the recent installation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) system intended to provide renewable energy for this historic building.

The building was originally founded as a Catholic elementary school, serving the Portland neighborhood between 1874-1971. The building was saved and revitalized with the help of The Housing Partnership, Inc. and Catholic Charities of Louisville. These organizations saw the potential to save a historic building while providing housing to those with the greatest need and who are most vulnerable in the local community. In 2006, the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded over 2 million dollar in funding to help with the project. Backing for the project was also provided by the National City Bank and Historic Tax Credits.

During the reconstruction of the structure, great attention was made to preserve as many architectural features as possible including windows, hardwood flooring and even blackboards. The building has received several awards in recent years for efforts in rehabilitation and preservation.

The latest addition to St. Cecilia Elderly Apartments is a 49 solar panel system installed on the roof-top that will help provide energy requirements in the common-use areas of the building. The system is durable and expected to last for 30 years or more. Over this time, the system will pay for itself due to a combination of clean, free, renewable energy generated; increasing energy costs; and solar renewable energy credits (SRECs). SRECs are credits that you can sell to electric suppliers through an aggregator company that issues you quarterly checks for participating. These electric suppliers are required by law to supply a percentage of their electricity from solar energy. If they do not produce enough of their own energy from solar, they can purchase SRECs from people who do.

Residents of St. Cecilia are proud of their building's solar system. The beauty and history of this restored building is a bridge to the future with its solar technology lighting the way for cleaner and cheaper energy for its residents in Portland.