

Clean Energy for the Kennedy Arms Community in Elizabeth, New Jersey

Groundwork Elizabeth & Partners is comprised of organizations working together to support the Kennedy Arms community to advance energy and environmental justice.

- Groundwork Elizabeth is a non-profit organization dedicated to environmental justice and community revitalization in Elizabeth and surrounding Union County.
- The Housing Authority of the City of Elizabeth works to meet the housing needs and improve the quality of life for all the residents in its 1,325 units of public housing.
- Kennedy Arms Resident Association is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all residents, fostering a sense of belonging and promoting a thriving community through collaboration, education, and advocacy.
- Rutgers University Center for Urban Policy Research addresses basic and applied research on public policy issues, with a focus on equitable access to resources and opportunities for historically marginalized communities and populations.

Kennedy Arms, an eight-story housing building that includes 125 rental units for low-income senior and disabled households, is one of the oldest of HACE's senior housing complexes.

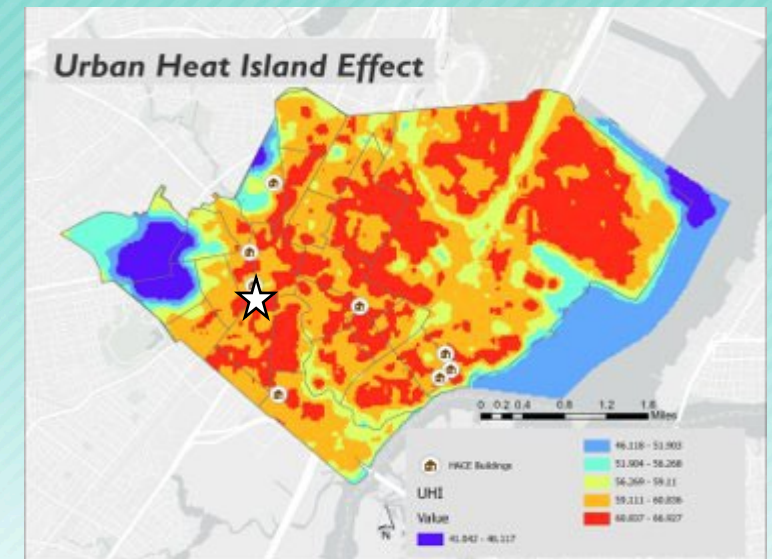
The building is heated by a central natural gas system and has no central cooling system. Outside temperature and air quality are growing health and safety concerns for residents and increasing numbers of hot days and nights, overlapping with poor outdoor air quality, make cooling systems increasingly important. Some residents have installed window air conditioners, but these are inefficient, loud, and expensive to operate, adding to the financial burden for residents. The residents of Kennedy Arms are primarily seniors and people with disabilities. Power for elevators, critical operations, medical equipment, and other life support systems cannot be interrupted. Today, expensive generators that burn natural gas provide this backup. These are expensive to run and contribute to poor air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

The team will work together to support Kennedy Arms residents and neighbors to assess, prioritize, and pursue clean energy solutions to improve quality of life in their community.



Kennedy Arms, Elizabeth, NJ

photo credit: HACE



Heat Islands with Community Site

photo credit: Rutgers University