

# The Benefits of Green Development

The GDC takes a multifaceted approach to green development that is driven by the holistic goals of LISC's Building Sustainable Communities program. By weaving such disparate areas as transportation, jobs, healthcare, education and food access into the fabric of our green development work, we are sending a message to both the LISC field and the communities where we work that green is integral to comprehensive community development, and that the GDC is equipped to make this connection happen.

LISC's growing green development program is fundamental to the success of Building Sustainable Communities because it brings significant benefits to residents and neighborhoods:

- ↳ Better energy efficiency and less reliance on cars increases household income;
- ↳ Cleaner indoor air reduces asthma rates and improves overall health;
- ↳ Access to public transportation and well-connected, walkable streets improves mobility for even the most vulnerable citizens;
- ↳ Green jobs connect residents to employment options that pay living wages and offer career ladder opportunities; and
- ↳ Urban agriculture and community garden projects help transform blighted properties while providing a source of healthy, locally grown food for communities.



*Saint Polycarp Apartments, Somerville, MA*

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## About our Work



The **Green Development Center** is LISC's go-to resource for comprehensive green community development. From greening affordable housing and charter

schools, to transit-oriented development and green jobs, the GDC provides technical, educational, and financial support to make sustainability an integral component of community development. Webcasts and workshops are offered, and a consistently updated research library facilitates recommendations to projects. The GDC also connects projects to funding opportunities through its green grant programs and its Green Loan Fund.

The GDC promotes sustainability principles that enhance LISC's strategic goals of building communities that:

- 📌 Enhance the built environment
- 📌 Increase family income and wealth
- 📌 Stimulate economic activity
- 📌 Improve access to quality education, transportation, fresh food, and youth development
- 📌 Foster livable, safe, and healthy environments

As the largest organization supporting community development in our nation's urban and rural communities, LISC believes that greener homes, businesses, jobs, and schools are key components in achieving sustainable communities of choice and opportunity - good places to live, do business, work, and raise families.

## Pursuing Green Comprehensive Community Development



*Deconstruction creates green jobs in Milwaukee, WI*

The Green Development Center pursues various avenues for integrating green strategies into LISC's Building Sustainable Communities work. They include working directly with our 30 local offices as well as other LISC national programs and collaborating with industry partners on a range of sustainability issues. Examples are:

**Bay Area LISC**, through its "Green Connection" program and in partnership with Build It Green, published Green Rehabilitation of Multifamily Rental Properties, a resource guide designed to assist affordable housing owners and developers to integrate greener capital improvements and energy efficiency into upgrades of existing multifamily properties. The Green Development Center and LISC's Affordable Housing Preservation Initiative jointly released a follow-up publication entitled, *Getting Started with Green Preservation*.



*Rooftop garden, Urban Studio Apartments, Duluth, MN*

**Boston LISC** launched the CDC Green Retrofit Initiative in 2010, a three-year effort to plan and implement green retrofits into the existing portfolios of Boston-area community development organizations. The Initiative focuses on increasing capacity to understand energy use, develop green capital improvement plans and determine how to fund, finance and implement cost effective improvements.

### **Green Charter Schools Partnership**

in collaboration with LISC's Educational Facilities Finance program and Global Green to create five "green" charter schools that serve low-income children in the Los Angeles area, not only providing green funding and technical assistance to these new schools, but developing best practices that can be implemented in other green school development efforts across the country.



*Oxford Plaza, Berkeley, CA*

**Green Jobs Initiative** integrates workforce development, neighborhood improvement, and greening goals. This national initiative combines LISC's in-house expertise on workforce development and green strategies and focuses on the energy-efficiency sector and deconstruction as green pathways to good-paying jobs.