

A Case Study *Wilson Housing Authority*



Why Smoke-Free?

The Wilson Housing Authority made the decision to go smoke-free while renovating and building new units at its Forrest Green property. According to Kelly Vick, Wilson Housing Authority President, it was a “no brainer” to implement the policy following renovations. Vick also noted that an expected decrease in the cost of upkeep of the apartments contributed to the decision to go smoke-free.

Process

The units were vacant during the renovations, so residents were notified of the policy when applying to live in the units. There are penalties for smoking on the property, including a verbal warning for the first violation, a written warning for a second offense and potential eviction for repeat offenders. To date, the Wilson Housing Authority has not had to evict any residents or engage in any legal action resulting from the smoke-free policy.

Results

The results have been positive and have not had an effect on occupancy. Residents who are smokers feel the benefits of the new amenities and new units outweigh not being able to smoke in the unit. The Housing Authority is considering expanding the policy to include a high-rise property.

Recommendations for Other Housing Authorities

Vick recommends taking advantage of opportunities such as renovation of existing units or the construction of new units for policy implementation and choosing the high risk/high impact locations.

**Together we can
clear the air.**



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

Learn more about why other property owners and managers went smoke-free and how they did it.

**Visit the NC Smoke-Free Housing Website at
<http://www.smokefreehousingnc.com>**

State of North Carolina | Department of Health and Human Services | N.C. Division of Public Health
Tobacco Prevention & Control Branch www.tobaccopreventionandcontrol.ncdhhs.gov
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