LISC recently awarded grants to two Boston area CDCs for green development projects, through its partnership with the Kendeda Fund. Fenway CDC was awarded a $40,000 construction grant to install a solar thermal hot water system at a Burbank Street building that houses 36 families. This grant will help the property save up to 50% of the costs and energy used for heating the building's water. Fenway CDC is planning a larger rehab and retrofit of the property, including high-efficiency boilers, a white roof, lighting upgrades, and aggressive shell improvements to conserve energy and stabilize operating costs.

LISC awarded Somerville Community Corporation (SCC) was a $7,500 green planning grant for its third phase of the Saint Polycarp Village development. SCC is planning for this new development to be a zero net energy project – the building will generate as much energy as it uses! To help achieve this aggressive goal the Kendeda Fund and LISC Green Development Center awarded SCC a green planning grant.

The property will incorporate super-insulation on all walls and roofs, highly efficient windows, low-flow water fixtures, and solar powered hot water and electrical systems. Air filtration and ventilation systems, along with low toxicity paints, flooring, cabinetry, and other products, will ensure healthy indoor air for 31 families.

In addition to being environmentally responsible, these green projects will save residents money on their electric bills, ensure a healthy operating budget for the projects, and serve as a demonstration and an inspiration to other developers.