



Rebuild America Success Stories highlight partnerships working to improve communities by practicing energy awareness and investing in energy-saving measures.

- New Building Design
- Existing Building Improvement
- Operation and Maintenance
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U.S. Department of Energy
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Bringing you a prosperous future where energy is clean, abundant, reliable, and affordable

success story

WEATHERIZATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROGRAM

Rebuild Ada County

Successful Steps in a Long-Term Strategy

Ada County, including the Idaho state capital, is serious about energy efficiency. The county operates on an annually updated five-year planning horizon for energy conservation, and it has put in place strong standards for county facilities. The county decided to retrofit a cluster of county buildings under a performance contract. The results exceeded the contract's guaranteed savings.

Challenge

Ada County wanted to improve the quality of lighting throughout its facilities while saving money and increasing the efficiency of building systems. The county already had a conservation ethic, but it did not necessarily have the financial resources it needed to retrofit several buildings for better lighting, better heating systems and, at the same time, improved plumbing.

The Solution

The county government joined in a partnership, Rebuild Ada County, through which it learned about performance contracting and how to find an energy service company through a request for quote (RFQ) system. Under a performance contract, utility bill savings provide the cash flow to cover the cost of improvements. The county signed a contract with Chevron Energy Solutions to improve several buildings – the Public Safety Building (an office building), a vehicle maintenance shop, an operations shop and three jail facilities (the primary jail, the Work Release Building and the Juvenile Detention Center). Together, the buildings had 152,907 square feet to be improved.

The \$917,014 contract went into effect in June 2001. There were some lighting retrofits at all sites – replacement of T-12 fluorescent lights and magnetic ballasts with T-8 fluorescents and electronic ballasts, replacement of incandescent lights with compact fluorescent lights or tungsten halogen lamps, and changing exit fixtures to use light-emitting diodes (LEDs). An energy management system was installed to control furnaces and rooftop heating-cooling units in all buildings except the primary jail and the Work Release Building (a detention site where inmates are allowed out to work). Variable-frequency drives were added to heat pumps.

Water conservation was included in the contract. It involved installing kits on toilet flush valves and adding aerators to all lavatory faucets.

The 10-year performance contract provides guaranteed savings starting at \$55,054 in the first year and increasing 3 percent a year to \$71,833 in Year 10. Measured savings in the first year came to \$67,185, comfortably above the guaranteed level. The savings were

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Partnership Facts:

Name of Partnership:
Rebuild Ada County

Targeted buildings:
Local government

Space completed:
152,907 square feet

**Annual energy and water
cost savings:**
\$67,185

Amount invested:
\$917,014

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For more information about energy-saving technologies, visit the Business Partners section of the Rebuild America Web site: www.rebuild.gov or contact Rebuild America at: 252-459-4664.

produced by a 13.4 percent reduction in electricity consumption, a 16 percent cut in natural gas use and a drop in water consumption of 11.2 percent.

What the Future Holds

Happy with the results from the performance contract, the company has turned its attention to various other initiatives, such as seeking certification under the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System for the county's new courthouse-administrative building.

To learn more visit: www.eere.energy.gov

A Strong Energy Portfolio for a Strong America

Energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy will mean a stronger economy, a cleaner environment, and greater energy independence for America. Working with a wide array of state, community, industry, and university partners, the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy invests in a diverse portfolio of energy technologies.

Rebuild America is a U.S. Department of Energy program that focuses on improving communities through energy-saving solutions.



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