



Rebuild America EnergySmart Schools Success Stories highlight schools and school districts that are making smart choices about energy, reducing energy and raising awareness of energy issues.

- New Building Design
- Existing Building Improvement
- Operation and Maintenance
- Renewable Energy Technologies
- Financing Building Improvements
- Energy Education



College Station Independent School District

Texas District Takes Advantage of Rebuild America Network

Officials in this Texas district reaped enormous rewards from energy improvements and financing: they paid no money up-front for a \$1.5 million capital improvement project and they improved their schools' learning environments, without redirecting funds for salaries and other operating budgets. The district did it by tapping into the local Rebuild America partnership, Brazos Valley Energy Conservation Coalition.

A Vexing Financial Problem

By Fiscal Year 1999-2000, the district's utility bills exceeded \$800,000 annually. The district also faced a vexing financial problem: a \$3 million shortfall for critical capital improvements in a district that was nearing the maximum legal tax rate cap. The district entered into an extensive budgetary review, and embarked on a plan to reduce over \$1 million from its operating budget. School officials needed an innovative financing strategy to fund these necessary improvements.

Analyzing Energy Audit Results

In the meantime, the district director of operations George McLean and the deputy superintendent for business David Neal became involved in the local energy partnership. Through this partnership, Texas A&M University and its Energy Systems Laboratory and Texas Energy Engineering Services Inc. analyzed the district's utility bills. They also conducted a walk-through energy audit of the school buildings to determine how the schools could reduce energy costs. Their analysis revealed that some of the district's building systems were old and highly inefficient. Importantly, many of the systems needing energy improvements had also been targeted for capital improvement work.

Creative Financing Solutions

The Rebuild America partnership helped the district locate 5.6 percent financing that required no up-front capital outlays. Texas Energy Engineering Services provided engineering and construction management services while the Energy Systems Laboratory provided third party oversight as well as independent metering and verification. The loan will be repaid in 2009, with payments coming from a projected direct annual utility savings of \$183,000.



Rebuild America Schools
U.S. Department of Energy

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**Energy Efficiency
and Renewable Energy**

Continued on back

Partnership Facts:

Name of partnership:

College Station Independent
School District

Targeted buildings:

K-12 school

Space completed or improved:

915,000 square feet (11 buildings)

District size:

7,200 students

Annual energy savings:

24,000 MMBtu

Annual energy cost savings:

\$184,000

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Ultimately, the College Station Independent School District financed \$1.5 million of its capital improvement work with help from Rebuild America and the EnergySmart Schools campaign. The improvements included:

- Replacement of chillers, boilers, and DX units
- Improved gymnasium lighting in four schools
- Upgrade and replacement of lighting in all schools
- Energy management system upgrades
- Launch of continuous building commissioning to ensure efficient operations and maintenance
- Improved irrigation controls to ensure water efficiency

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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