

REBUILD AMERICA PARTNER: Rebuild Webster City, IA

“The Rebuild Webster City program has provided an umbrella for all of our past and present attempts at economic development and energy-efficiency initiatives.” – *Kelly E. Needles, executive vice president, The Energy Group*

Goals

- ◆ Total Area to be Retrofitted: 3.5 million square feet of commercial space; 100 multifamily units
- ◆ Anticipated Energy Savings: 11,200,000 kWh
- ◆ Anticipated Cost Savings:
 - \$560,000: Year 1;
 - \$6 million+: Year 10
- ◆ Anticipated Capital Investment: \$4.7 million (total investment)
- ◆ Job Creation: 30
- ◆ Emissions Reduction (CO₂, SO₂, Nox): undetermined

Demographics

Target Area: North Central Iowa: Hamilton County, Webster City and surrounding smaller communities served by Webster City Municipal Utility.

Population: 7,800 (Webster City)

Government: City Manager, Mayor and City Council

Approach

The goal of Rebuild Webster City is to retrofit existing municipal, industrial, institutional and residential buildings in an effort to increase energy and water efficiencies by more than 30 percent during a 3-year period. To achieve this, Rebuild Webster City will draw upon a variety of local resources in its multi-faceted approach to a successful launch of the program. Key to the approach is a concerted effort to engage the community's interest and participation on many levels. This approach includes:

- Pursuing performance contracting with energy service companies to allow energy savings to pay for enhanced efficiencies.
- Exploring sources of energy-efficiency financing to help fund improvements.
- Establishing a Steering Committee to lead the program, and separate committees to represent industrial, institutional, Main Street and residential partners to ensure that specific needs are being addressed.
- Paying special attention to improved lighting and air quality in participating buildings.
- Strengthening the community by creating jobs in the energy-efficiency sector that are well-suited for the seasonally unemployed and others.
- Forging relationships and leveraging the resources of existing local, state and federal initiatives.
- Working with the Webster City Community School District to develop and implement curriculum components that involve the children of the community in energy efficiency initiatives.
- Establishing local standards for energy-efficient construction and targeting new homes to implement measures.

- Utilizing the local newspaper, radio and cable channel to cover program kick-off and significant developments as program gains momentum.

Partners

Lead:

City of Webster City
The Energy Group
Webster City Municipal Utilities

Program:

Association of Business and Industry
Chamber of Commerce
Community School District
Corn Belt Power Cooperative
First State Bank
Fort Dodge Messenger
Hamilton County Hospital
K&H Electric
Kiwanis Club
KQWC Radio
Local Main Street U.S.A.
Petersen Construction
Rotary Club
SEGO Electric
Webster City Federal Savings

Status

Rebuild Webster City has parlayed \$50,000 in federal funding into a presently \$5 million retrofit program. The partnership has retrofitted 20 buildings and implemented \$4.5 million in improvements to yield \$542,000 in annual energy cost savings.

Contact

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Internet Access: Yes

Graphics: *Note: "essence" photo of target location, key participants improved or targeted building, logo or city seal are available.*