

# ENERGIZE NEW YORK

Fall 2001

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## A MESSAGE FROM RICK GERARDI,

NYSERDA'S RESIDENTIAL ENERGY AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM DIRECTOR

New York State's innovative version of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Rebuild America program, "Rebuild New York's Communities," kicks off its third year with the first edition of **Energize New York**. As we implement four new partnerships and continue to support established partnerships, NYSERDA remains committed to the premise that energy-efficiency strategies for New York State will only succeed with the support and action of local communities. Rebuild will concentrate its efforts in "Rebuild Energy Target Zones," neighborhoods or community sectors that could most benefit from energy-efficiency measures to address economic, social, and other concerns.

Rebuild New York's Communities requests that partners share local experiences and resources to implement projects such as downtown redevelopment, energy-related job training, and residential energy improvements. NYSERDA will contribute to these projects through our current programs. Together, we will use energy efficiency to improve the places where we live economically, socially and environmentally. This strategy, when applied throughout New York State, will help provide a sustainable energy future for us all.

## ALBANY EMERGES – Creating A Lasting Partnership for the Capital/Saratoga Region

"There are two kinds of people in this world," says Mark DeChiro, the first coordinator for Rebuild Capital/Saratoga, "those who throw things away and those who pick them up." It does not take a waste management expert to see which one DeChiro is, as he takes a measured approach to establish Rebuild Capital/Saratoga as an effective force in the region.

An area native with 19 years of experience running weatherization programs for Albany County Opportunity Inc., DeChiro's Rebuild coordinator position is hosted by the Environmental Business Association of New York, Inc. (EBA), a non-profit green business group. In his new capacity, DeChiro will work with local leaders, businesses, and community advocates to help them increase energy efficiency.

This challenge is one that Rebuild Capital/Saratoga is ready for, observes DeChiro. "The pace of this program is going to be slow, controlled growth. That is important, because people aren't going to sign on if they think this is going to be short-lived."

Rebuild Capital/Saratoga hopes to draw in a diverse a group of participants. From small businesses to energy advocates, all are encouraged to participate.



*After 19 years in weatherization, Mark DeChiro has taken on the challenge of Rebuild coordinator for the new Rebuild Capital/Saratoga Partnership formed this fall.*

Controlled growth and community access only represent half of Rebuild's strategy; in the final equation, Rebuild Capital/Saratoga is aiming to derive its energy from something less tangible. DeChiro feels that "There isn't any one strategy that will be a magic wand. It will boil down to the partners' personal values."



## SUCCESS STORIES

### SPRINGTIME IN BUFFALO

If spring set the tone, Rebuild Buffalo/Niagara is set to have a stellar year. In March, the Partnership received the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Champion Award for its achievements in promoting DOE and NYSERDA programs at the local government level.

The following month, Rebuild coordinator Mark Mitskovski and Isabell Berger of the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning participated in the Western New York Earth Day Celebration 2001. The event drew 1,500 participants and the Rebuild

Buffalo/Niagara staff distributed information on everything from NYSERDA's Flex-Tech Program and Green Design programs to its Alternative-Fuel Vehicle opportunities.

Throughout the summer, the Partnership was approached by inventors, businesses, and community organizations requesting information on energy conservation and incentive programs. The Partnership continues to reach out. "We're far from complete in what we need to do," says Mitskovski.

## LONG ISLAND ENGAGES BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

This has been a good year for Rebuild New York's Rebuild Long Island Partnership and coordinator Charles Lutz. Contacts facilitated by the Partnership between public and private sectors interested in energy efficiency are creating opportunities for meaningful progress.

In the 18 months since the program began, three major businesses (Johnson Control, KeySpan Business Solutions, and TriGen Energy Services) have signed on as Rebuild National Business Partners, and will team with Rebuild Long Island to increase energy efficiency options in the marketplace.

Given the nature of Rebuild Long Island, the networking that produced these relationships should be no surprise. "The Partnership has...evolved into a clearinghouse for information," says Lutz, whose experience in energy services led him to found the Partnership under contract with the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) in October of 1999. By specializing in directing requests and resources, Rebuild Long Island has been able to respond to partners' changing needs and get results.

At the July Partnership meeting, Lutz paired two organizations interested in developing school-based distributed generation systems. "Two days before [the meeting] I got a call from Aspen [Systems] - they were looking for a school district to do a case study on distributed generation. At my seminar, I

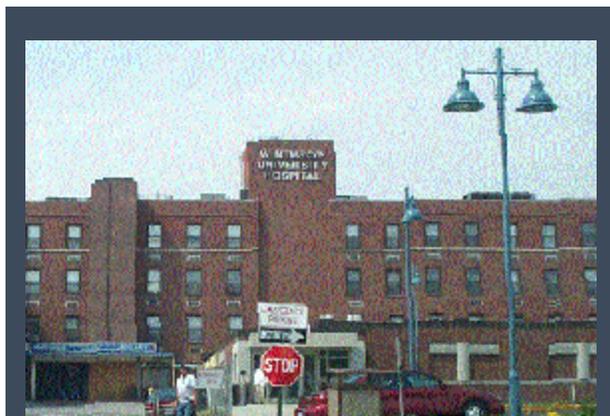
had invited a representative from the Eastern Suffolk County BOCES and I connected them at the Rebuild meeting," Lutz reports. This management style has also led to energy-efficiency studies at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola.

For as much as consumers benefit from the Partnership, Rebuild Business Partners benefit as well. In return for their participation, National Business Partners are publicized through the Department of Energy's **Rebuild America** website – [www.rebuild.org](http://www.rebuild.org). The page catalogues their professional information, areas of expertise and contact data. However, it is through networking that the Business Partners' professional reputation can best be shared.

"National Business Partners get to network at a higher level," notes Lutz. "They get exposure on a national level . . . these are people who have extended and proven themselves . . . So [when

I am asked a question] I can respond, 'Well, have you talked to [the National Business Partners]?'"

Rebuild Long Island will continue its business relationships, as well as expand its influence to residential and low-income sectors. Lutz wants the message to get out. "There are a number of different organizations on Long Island that have their finger in the energy efficiency pie, but I would like people to know that they can call Rebuild Long Island and be directed to the right people."



*At Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, Rebuild Long Island has partnered with the hospital administration to study potential energy-efficiency renovations.*



## REBUILD BUFFALO/NIAGARA DRAWS ON LOCAL RESOURCES

**A**s a mid-sized American city finding its way in the post-industrial era, Buffalo may appear similar to other American cities. When it comes to planning energy projects, however, this region is unearthing resources and opportunities that will lead it into the future.

Mark Mitskovski, Rebuild Buffalo/Niagara coordinator, is heading up local efforts. Hosted by the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, Mitskovski has been leading Rebuild for more than a year with notable synergy. “Our focus has been to get people involved and interested in actually starting their [energy] projects, or at least laying the groundwork so they can see what resources are there,” he observes.

With regional resources and stakeholders, the Partnership has been able to support a number of projects. Mitskovski is assisting the City in its expansion of Buffalo’s district-heating system – a central plant that currently produces heat for eight public buildings. The updated system could eventually serve many City, State, and federal buildings in downtown Buffalo. Cogeneration will be part of the upgrade, using waste heat from the plant to create electricity. Under consideration is a plan for linking the district-heating system to City schools that will be extensively renovated in a \$1 billion, 10-year education initiative. Mitskovski is attempting to bring

Northeast Generating, a local power generator, into the project, and urging the affected downtown building owners to take steps towards greater energy efficiency. As Mitskovski explains, “What good does it do if you build an efficient heating plant . . . then send [the heat and electricity] into buildings that are losing all their heat and using excess electricity?”

The Partnership is also trying to use the Region’s natural resources. For example, Erie County has one of the longest stretches of undeveloped waterfront in the nation – an environmental attribute that could be harnessed for the wind. Since last year, several companies have conducted studies on the feasibility of installing wind turbines. Many of the targeted sites are also brownfields. Using contaminated land for wind energy is a positive use for land that has little value.

Much of Rebuild Buffalo/Niagara’s work – networking at Earth Day events or reaching out to local builders – is not on as grand a scale as wind turbines or district heating, but provides much needed services to the community.

“People are discovering that we’re a resource [for energy services],” notes Mitskovski. Therein lies the strength of the growing Buffalo/Niagara Partnership – the ability to work with large energy-infrastructure projects while simultaneously addressing community needs.

## SUCCESS STORIES

### WALKING THE WALK

**A**s Rebuild Capital/Saratoga seeks partners, it brings the credibility of starting at home, at its 126 State Street office building in Albany.

With help from coordinator Mark DeChiro and the Environmental Business Association, the building owner, Mark Pastreich of Poughkeepsie, has already upgraded the lighting system in the 30,000 square-foot commercial property. Contractors are being brought in, with NYSERDA’s assistance, to conduct energy audits.

When the audits are complete, the group will explore options for energy-efficiency measures and a photovoltaic array on the roof.

As Mark DeChiro observes, “A journey of a thousand miles starts with one step, and this is certainly a step in the right direction.”



In their Albany office building, EBA/NYS, host for Rebuild Capital/Saratoga, is assisting the building owner in an extensive energy-efficiency retrofit.



## POWER LINKS

To keep informed about programs, community resources, and energy-efficiency, follow these links:

### NEW YORK STATE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**1-866-NYSERDA**

[www.nyserdera.org](http://www.nyserdera.org)

Resources for energy-efficiency projects and descriptions of NYSERDA programs.

### NEW YORK ENERGY \$MART<sup>SM</sup>

**1-877-NYSMART**

[www.getenergysmart.org](http://www.getenergysmart.org)

Energy-saving tips and ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> labeled products and special promotions targeted at the residential sector.

### REBUILD AMERICA

[www.rebuild.org](http://www.rebuild.org)

Updates and resources from Rebuild partnerships across the country.

### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)

Information on national initiatives and other U.S. DOE programs.

## State of New York

George E. Pataki, Governor

### NEW YORK STATE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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## UPCOMING SOLICITATIONS

The first edition of *ENERGIZE NEW YORK* presents an exciting opportunity to reflect on the success of Rebuild New York's three existing Partnerships, and looks towards the future as Rebuild New York's Communities expands across the State.

In September 2001, NYSERDA will be releasing a request for proposals (RFP) to bring the program to four new regions: Finger Lakes, Southern Tier, Mid-Hudson, and Central New York. An annual amount of \$75,000 will be available to each of the four contract organizations to host the Rebuild program, including a Regional Coordinator.

Organizations will provide matching funds or in-kind commitments. Additional information will be available at bidders' conferences in Syracuse and Poughkeepsie in October. Applications are due in early November.

For a complete proposal, contact Karen Whalen by fax at 518-862-1091 or phone at 518-862-1090, ext. 3268, or download the solicitation from the web at [www.nyserdera.org/641rfp.html](http://www.nyserdera.org/641rfp.html)



## Rebuild New York's Communities

Rebuild New York's Communities is a NYSERDA program under the umbrella of the United States Department of Energy's (DOE) Rebuild America program. Rebuild targets regional needs by increasing energy efficiency and addressing energy resource challenges in residential, commercial and industrial buildings, schools, and public and institutional facilities, including low-income communities. To meet this challenge, Rebuild Regional Coordinators establish and manage regional partnerships of stakeholders who match energy-related projects with available resources, including those offered by NYSERDA and DOE.

Published quarterly by NYSERDA to report on Rebuild New York's Communities activities, *ENERGIZE NEW YORK* incorporates news from Rebuild partnerships across New York State, expanding on community-focused activities of NYSERDA.

