

# Rebuild Connecticut Partnership Initiatives



"Communities Using Energy Wisely"

Issue 17 – November 1999



## USPS Constructing "Green" Buildings

With approximately 35,000 facilities nationwide and a building program that includes the construction of 500 to 700 new facilities annually, the United States Postal Service (USPS) has to be concerned about energy efficiency. As a result, the postal service has begun a "green building" program, which includes energy efficiency as one of its key components. The first "green" post office was recently completed in Fort Worth, TX.

A "green building" entails incorporating energy efficiency into its design and using more environmentally responsible and ecologically superior products and materials than those that are typically used in construction. As a result, environmental impact is minimized, the building environment is healthier, and at the same time, operating costs for energy are reduced.

The USPS set a goal of keeping the cost for the Fort Worth Post Office within 10% of the average construction cost for a typical building. This goal was successfully met. Construction of the 26,000 square foot building was completed in about 300 days.

The postal facility includes an impressive number of "green" features, including:

- High efficiency heating and air conditioning systems,
- Natural light supplemented with high efficiency fluorescent lights that are automatically balanced using dimming controls,
- A well-insulated exterior envelope, including the use of low-e glass,
- Recycled plastic in toilet partitions and wall bumpers,
- Recycled tires in the loading dock bumpers,
- Compressed straw wall panels,
- Positive pressure ventilation to minimize indoor air quality problems associated with excess moisture,
- Recycled cellulose in the ceiling tiles and sheathing/millwork panels,
- Waste fly ash in the concrete and the use of recycled concrete,
- Wood obtained from sustainable managed forests,

- Paint, flooring, and adhesives with low to no volatile organic compounds (VOCs) reducing occupant exposure to harmful emissions,
- Incorporation of a rainwater harvesting system, since droughts are common in Texas, and
- Reduction, reuse, and recycling of construction debris.

The USPS did not stop with the building in its efforts to embrace environmental friendliness. The Fort Worth site includes energy efficient landscaping and uses locally available native plants to reduce the need for watering. USPS also installed a compressed natural gas refueling station, which not only saves money with lower fuel costs, but reduces pollutants from vehicle exhaust as well.

For additional information on green building activities of the USPS, visit [www.usps.gov/environ/](http://www.usps.gov/environ/) 



## Bridgeport Kicks Off Efficiency Projects

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, Bridgeport arranged an event to announce the implementation phase of the city's efficiency projects and to highlight Bridgeport's participation in the Energy Star Building and REBUILD AMERICA programs.

The introductory session featured remarks from Mayor Joseph P. Ganim; John Fabrizi, President of the Common Council; and John Marsilio, Director of Public Facilities. After offering their comments, Julio Rovi, representing the Energy Star program, provided an overview of the Energy Star Buildings program. This was followed up by a REBUILD AMERICA awards presentation to the City of Bridgeport, the mayor, and the director of public facilities in appreciation for their active support. In addition, a certificate of accomplishment was awarded to the entire Total Quality Management (TQM) Energy team, which was instrumental in making sure that a REBUILD Action Plan was completed and implemented. Each team member received a REBUILD AMERICA lapel pin and hat. Finally, United Illuminating Company's Roy Haller presented Bridgeport with two incentive checks totaling almost \$22,500 for efficiency upgrades in the Health &

Social Services Building and for installation of high efficiency traffic signaling in the city.



**Connecticut's Rebuild America Program Representative, John Ruckes (right), gives certificates of appreciation for the City of Bridgeport and for Mayor Joseph Ganim to John Fabrizi, President of the Common Council, who accepts the awards on behalf of the Mayor.**

Following the formal ceremony, an Energy Star workshop was held. Julio Rovi demonstrated several of the internet-based tools available to help Energy Star partners with their energy projects.

*To obtain more information about the Energy Star program and about program tools available, visit the web site at [www.epa.gov/energystar/](http://www.epa.gov/energystar/)*

## **New Rebuild America Initiative Launched**

At the National REBUILD AMERICA Forum in Las Vegas, the Business Partner Initiative was announced. This initiative is designed to benefit community partnerships and expand the market for energy efficient products, practices, and services. Partnerships have asked for assistance in: identifying local resources; financing projects; choosing the best technologies for retrofit options; and becoming informed implementers for their communities and organizations. Business Partners, which include providers of products, services, financing, information, research, training, assistance, and consulting, are looking for opportunities to: expand their customer base; partner with local, regional, and national partnerships; and to be part of the SOLUTION for an energy-efficient and environmentally sound America.

Each potential business partner is required to submit an Action Plan. The plan must include: (1) free services offered by the company, such as product seminars or design assistance; (2) for fee services provided by the company, including the costs involved; and (3) a detailed listing of products and services offered by the company.

Once the Action Plan is submitted and approved, the business is brought on as an official Rebuild America Business Partner. Then, the Business Partner is able to participate in the program and work with partnerships as assistance is requested.

*If your company wishes to become a Business Partner or for more information on the Initiative, visit the Rebuild America web site at <http://www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/rebuild>, or contact Doug Avery by e-mail at [davery@lbl.gov](mailto:davery@lbl.gov) or by phone at (310) 798-6927*



## **Restructuring: Status of Standard Offer Rates**

On October 1, 1999, the Department of Public Utilities Control (DPUC) issued Draft Decision reports on Standard Offer Service (SOS) for United Illuminating and Connecticut Light & Power, meeting its statutory deadline under the 1998 Electric Restructuring Act. At this time, however, no final numbers are available for the specific prices for electric generation, the so-called Generation Service Component, or GSC. The GSC price for each specific rate class is a benchmark. It is the price which competitive electric suppliers will try to beat or at least match. The latest word from the DPUC is that final GSC numbers for both companies will be released on December 22, 1999.

Electric restructuring begins in twenty-four Distressed Municipalities on January 1, 2000. Customers in the remaining towns and cities will be eligible to choose a competitive electric supplier on July 1, 2000.

*For more information, visit the DPUC web site, <http://www.state.ct.us/dpuc/>, or call Bill Cox at OPM, 860-418-6238*

REBUILD AMERICA is a program which consists of people working as partners on a local level to renovate buildings for improved energy efficiency. REBUILD AMERICA partners help make communities stronger by stimulating economic growth, creating jobs, saving money, and improving environmental quality while saving energy.

Visit the national REBUILD AMERICA WEB Page at the following address: [www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/rebuild/](http://www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/rebuild/)

*Rebuild Connecticut Partnership Initiatives* is designed to provide information and share successes of partner activities. Article contributions can be sent to: John Ruckes, OPM/Energy, 450 Capitol Avenue, MS# 52ENR, Hartford CT 06106-1308; by fax (860) 418-6495; or by e-mail: [john.ruckes@po.state.ct.us](mailto:john.ruckes@po.state.ct.us)



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