

# Rebuild Connecticut Partnership Initiatives



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"Communities Using Energy Wisely"

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Issue 16- September 1999

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## Upcoming Workshops

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### Financing & Performance Contracting

Two REBUILD AMERICA workshops on municipal financing options will take place in October. Both workshops will cover the financing of energy efficiency projects, but the Connecticut workshop will emphasize performance contracting.

- October 5<sup>th</sup> 1999, Crowne Plaza, Warwick, Rhode Island, sponsored by the RI Energy Office
- October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1999, United Illuminating Electric Service Work Center, Shelton, Connecticut., co-sponsored by the CT Office of Policy and Management and United Illuminating

Contact John Ruckes at (860) 418-6384 to get more information for the Connecticut Workshop and Pat Condon at (401) 222-6920 for information about the Rhode Island Workshop.

### Building Commissioning

Building commissioning is a systematic approach used in both new and renovated buildings to ensure that every aspect of the building is properly integrated to provide peak performance. By verifying proper installation, functioning, operation and maintenance of equipment, the commissioning process guarantees that over time, efficiency measures continue to deliver the expected savings.

*"Building Commissioning: How to Achieve Peak Performance in Your Buildings"* seminar, which is being co-sponsored by Rebuild Connecticut and the University of Massachusetts will take place at the Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center in Sturbridge, MA on October 22, 1999.

Contact John Ruckes at (860) 418-6384 or Dragan Curcija at (413) 545-4454 for registration information.

### Adjustable Speed Drives

An efficient motors and adjustable speed drive workshop, sponsored by Northeast Utilities, is being held in three locations throughout the region in September.

- September 21, 1999, Danbury, CT
- September 23, 1999, Springfield, MA
- September 24, 1999, Ledyard, CT

Contact Dick Schondelmeier at (860) 665-2706 for more information. 

## Rebuild Proposals Being Solicited from CT Communities

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The Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) announces a competitive solicitation for funding to create new REBUILD AMERICA partnerships and/or strengthen existing partnerships *with particular emphasis on creating or expanding cooperative linkages between a municipality and its schools*. Proposals could encompass building retrofits in existing schools, efficiency in new school construction, educational programs, procurement practices, renewable energy resources, and/or linkages between school facilities and the surrounding community. Ultimately, the emphasis should be achieving the goal of *implementing building retrofits in school buildings and/or ensuring that new school construction encompasses all available cost-effective energy efficiency options*.

Contact John Ruckes at (860) 418-6384 for further questions and to obtain a Rebuild America Proposal Solicitation. 



## 1999 National Rebuild America Forum a Success

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By all accounts, the National REBUILD AMERICA Forum in Las Vegas was a huge success. Over three hundred individuals from 46 states, the District of Columbia, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Province of Ontario, Canada participated.

Conference planners and organizers did a superb job of designing a forum that covered a wide range of interests that is representative of REBUILD AMERICA programs around the nation. Sessions held over the 2 ½ day forum ranged from energy efficient tools and technology to sustainable community development; from interactive peer exchange to marketing; from partnership development to energy performance contracting. Attendees were also treated to several special speakers.

Among them were Dennis Hayes, the national coordinator of the very first Earth Day, and John Schaeffer, CEO of the Real Goods Trading Company. The forum also introduced 16 private sector “business partners” that will provide additional expertise to partnerships through education and other resources.

The forum was a great opportunity to take practical information and put it to use in local REBUILD AMERICA activities. Below is a sample of one successful Rebuild project that was provided to attendees.

### *EnergyWorks Lights Up Kansas City*

Until EnergyWorks brightened up the day, employees of the Kansas City Government faced a gloomy and depressing work environment. “It was dark, dismal, dingy, and dirty,” explained city employee Iris Stiller. “When someone walked into the (lobby) area, it was just like walking into a cave,” she added.

Things began looking up, however, once EnergyWorks studied the City Hall lighting problems and helped city architects develop a plan for energy-efficient lighting. After the lighting upgrades were made, city employees agreed that City Hall had lost its depressing “Gotham City” look.

EnergyWorks has developed quite a specialty in brightening up gothic buildings. It recently retrofitted the turn-of-the-century building that serves as headquarters of Heart of America United Way. Now, the local United Way has two things to celebrate - its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary and its “new and improved” headquarters.

The Kansas City-based Metropolitan Energy Center (MEC) organized EnergyWorks as a Rebuild America partnership in 1995. MEC decided that the new partnership would deliver technical and financial assistance and information on energy efficiency to government, schools, and local non-profits. The goal: to help these organizations cut their energy use by 25 percent by the year 2000.

These buildings were targeted, said EnergyWorks Director Voris Williams, because many of these organizations are forced by economics into older structures that they cannot afford to repair. In addition, many public and non-profit groups do not realize that by properly managing their energy resources, they will have more funds available to fulfill their organizational missions, Williams explained. He predicted that the energy conservation efforts of EnergyWorks will create a ripple of benefits throughout the community, such as more food for destitute families and increased screening for infectious diseases.

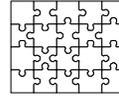
EnergyWorks has successfully leveraged its funds too. Each dollar that the partnership received in Federal funding has resulted in energy efficiency investments of \$50. To date, nearly \$20 million of energy efficiency projects have been completed in over four million square feet of building space owned or leased (long term) by non-profits, public agencies, and schools.

EnergyWorks has worked with officials from three community college campuses, to help them energy-retrofit a total of 26

buildings. When these upgrades are completed, one college estimates that its \$1,400,000 annual energy bill will be cut by nearly a third.

Williams knows that helping local non-profits, public agencies and schools also helps boost the local economy, both directly and indirectly. EnergyWorks has shown that energy use has important and positive effects on the community, from the buildings themselves to the people they house.

*For more information on EnergyWorks Rebuild America activities, contact Voris Williams at (816) 531-7283.*



## **CT Conference of Municipalities Forms Power Purchasing Pool**

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), responding to the deregulation of the electric and gas industries, has signed an agreement with National Energy Choice to create a buying pool for its members. CCM represents 148 of Connecticut’s 169 cities and towns. Cities and towns will have the option of joining the pool as deregulation takes effect. By combining the purchasing power of municipalities, the pool should be able to offer savings over and above the savings anticipated to take place under deregulation.

Municipal governments use energy for a wide range of activities, including building operations, street lighting and traffic signals, water and waste treatment and pumping, ice rinks, and athletic field lighting.

Aggregation of electricity purchases from cities and towns throughout the state should provide opportunities for dollar savings. Savings, in turn, could allow local governments to free up funds for other important municipal services. The agreement also includes examining options for purchasing natural gas as a buyers’ group in order to save money.

*Contact CCM for more information at (203) 498-3025.*

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 partnerships help make communities stronger by stimulating economic growth, creating jobs, saving money, and improving environmental quality while saving energy.

*Rebuild Connecticut Partnership Initiatives* is designed to inform partners about energy issues and opportunities, and to share successes of partner activities. Contributions for future editions can be sent to: John Ruckes, OPM/Energy by fax (860) 418-6495; or by e-mail: [john.ruckes@po.state.ct.us](mailto:john.ruckes@po.state.ct.us)

