



**For Immediate Release**

November 13, 2000

**Contact:**

Margie Bates, US DOE  
(303) 275-4845

Patty Crow, US EPA  
(303) 312-6464

**POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT CELEBRATES ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Fort Collins, CO – On November 14, four elementary schools in the Poudre School District (PSD) will receive the prestigious ENERGY STAR® Label for Buildings designation from the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Energy. The four schools, all partners in the federal government’s Rebuild America program, earned the label for their facilities after implementing numerous energy saving upgrades to heating and cooling systems, windows, and lighting.

Harris Bilingual, Olander, Washington, and Werner Elementary Schools all earned the ENERGY STAR® Label for Buildings, and will be awarded bronze ENERGY STAR® plaques to post on their school’s exterior. The label marks their buildings as superior in energy performance. PSD officials estimate that energy improvements in the four schools will save the district a considerable amount of money each year due to energy savings.

ENERGY STAR® offers the only national rating system for energy performance in buildings. The rating system is based on a benchmarking “tool” that measures and scores a building’s energy performance compared to other schools or office buildings nationwide. The ENERGY STAR® performance rating system provides useful baseline information to help building owners set energy performance targets and plan energy efficiency improvements.

PSD officials plan to measure energy use through the ENERGY STAR® benchmarking tool in 35 additional schools in the 42-school system. And future school construction will take full advantage of the efficient, sustainable design guidelines developed during the partnership with Rebuild America.

“We’ve used these guidelines to challenge the design community to help us build the best school facilities possible,” said Dr. Don Unger, PSD School Superintendent, “schools that provide a superior learning environment for kids, assure wise use of financial resources, and at the same time are friendly to the environment.”

DOE, through its Rebuild America Program, creates a network of community partnerships linking partners to business and technical tools and assistance. The partnerships implement projects that save money by improving the energy efficiency of commercial, school and multi-family residential buildings. For example, Rebuild America and its Rebuild Colorado state partnership, along with the Governor’s Office of Management and Conservation, helped bring together the Platte River Power Authority, Fort Collins Light & Power, and the City of Fort Collins Utilities to provide financial and technical support for Poudre School District’s efficiency improvements.

If you would like more information about the celebration, contact Margie Bates or Patty Crow.