

Rebuild DC Public Schools Is 150th Partnership

Rebuild America welcomed its 150th partnership – the Washington, DC Public School System – with a kick-off event in October 1997 featuring Department of Energy Secretary Federico Peña and General Julius W. Becton Jr., the schools' chief executive.

The partnership, called **Rebuild DC Public Schools**, will reduce the schools' energy costs by \$3 million a year for five years, a 20 percent reduction from the system's current \$16 million annual energy bill.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will provide expertise, training, and contracting assistance to the partnership, including establishing an energy-use baseline and producing a comprehensive energy retrofit plan for the school system.

“At the local level, this partnership will cut the schools' energy bills and give students hands-on experience and training,” said Secretary Peña. “There's a double benefit – any time we cut energy consumption, we are reducing greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.”

“We'll be focusing on increasing



Secretary Peña congratulates General Becton at Wilson High School

lighting efficiency, repairing and replacing boilers and chillers, and taking other steps to improve the school atmosphere, with your help,” said General Becton. The \$3 million savings will be used, he said, “to hire more qualified teachers; buy computers, books, and other instruction materials; and improve the school security.”

Team Systems International, a Washington, DC-based energy management firm, is managing the project. They are joining DOE, the school system, Friends of the Earth, and others determined to make the school system a model of facility renewal.

Chief Operating Officer Charles Williams noted that Rebuild DC Public Schools is the first K-12 school system to take the lead role in a Rebuild America

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partnership. “We are delighted that we’re on the leading edge of this,” he said.

Dozens of students will participate in the “Savings Through Energy Management” education initiative. They will learn energy auditing, planning, and design, and identify cost-

saving energy opportunities in their schools. Twenty-five public high school students will also participate in a summer internship program at DOE.

“We are going to make this high school and the other 150 schools in the school system a better place to learn and a better place to work,” Secretary Peña said.

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