

Partnership Leader of the Year

Wendell Jones, Rebuild Little Rock, AR

“The commitment from all [our] partners has allowed the Rebuild Little Rock program to move toward a major change in the way we do business with respect to energy. We are proud and honored to be a part of a well-needed program.” – Wendell Jones

The community’s unprecedented support of Rebuild Little Rock largely can be attributed to the commitment of Wendell Jones, who has dedicated many hours to ensuring that the partnership would help Mayor Jim Dailey and other community leaders fulfill a vision for the “rebirth of Little Rock.”

Jones, Little Rock’s director of general services, launched a partner recruitment effort that included peer departments such as Little Rock Planning and Codes, Parks and Recreation, and the Public Housing Authority. He also engaged other organizations central to the community, such as the Little Rock School District; the Arkansas Energy Office; the University of Arkansas; the State of Arkansas Building Services; and the Enterprise Community.

This expansion positioned the partnership to have a pervasive and far-reaching impact on the community. Four community organizations committed one or more buildings each to serve as partnership “pilots for action.” Their retrofit will have a significant and positive impact on each organization and on the architects, engineers, general contractors and suppliers who are implementing the energy-efficiency improvements.

Rebuild Little Rock is a model of how to create and manage a successful partnership. This is a result of Jones’ ability to focus the partnership on planning for the future while securing early commitments and successes – then building upon both.



Mark Ginsberg, U.S. Department of Energy deputy assistant secretary (left); Wendell Jones; and Jim Dailey, mayor of Little Rock, AR

A tireless advocate of Rebuild America, Jones is willing to tackle the tough issues that can derail a program. His direct, results-oriented approach has been instrumental in guiding the effort to achieve goals and milestones. On his own dime he has traveled to workshops on energy efficiency in addition to dedicating many hours of his spare time to fortifying the Rebuild Little Rock initiative. Jones has taken on this challenge without additional staff.

His service truly has been “above and beyond.” He has succeeded in connecting Rebuild Little Rock with many valuable players in the city and has exhibited exceptional skill and determination in translating the goals of the program into action.