

# ***Double Honors Go To Oregon***

Oregon took home two Energy  
Champion Awards:

- **1999 Rebuild America Partnership of the Year Award – Portland Partners for Energy Efficiency Program, Portland Energy Office**
- **1999 Rebuild America Award for Innovative Financial Management – Rebuild Oregon, Oregon Office of Energy**



*Sharon Hanson of the Oregon Office of Energy and Curt Nichols of the Portland Energy Office accept Energy Champion Awards.*

Rebuild America recognized Rebuild America partnerships spearheaded by the Portland Energy Office and the Oregon Office of Energy for working to improve Oregon communities by encouraging businesses to save money and reduce energy waste by investing in energy-efficiency improvements.

Because of the Portland Partners for Energy Efficiency efforts, Portland area businesses and local



government have made energy-efficiency improvements in buildings totaling 47 million square feet during the past three years, which is saving \$5 million each year in energy costs. Portland Energy Office Senior Energy Program Manager **Curt Nichols**, who manages the partnership, says energy savings like these benefit both businesses and the environment.

Portland and the rest of Oregon have an advantage – in the form of a tax credit – when it comes to encouraging business investment in energy efficiency. Rebuild America has honored the Oregon Office of Energy for its vision in offering the Business Energy Tax Credit that motivates Oregon to save money and energy and reduce air pollution by investing in energy-efficiency. Oregon businesses may take a tax credit for up to 35 percent of the cost of energy-efficiency improvements.