

Philadelphia Wins Local Government Honors

■ Rebuild America Award for Energy Excellence in Local Government – Philadelphia Municipal Energy Office for Rebuild Philadelphia

Under the leadership of the **Municipal Energy Office**, **Rebuild Philadelphia** has made great strides in providing peer-to-peer support to develop and establish other municipal government-led Rebuild America partnerships in Pennsylvania and Maryland. The Energy Office was behind **Mayor Ed Rendell's** proclamations in 1998 and 1999 that advocate the use of Rebuild America as a vehicle for reducing greenhouse emissions and increasing the energy efficiency of the built environment. The Energy Office recognizes the value of undertaking “showcase” energy retrofit projects to capture public interest and support and was instrumental in producing a video that documented the partnership's first major

retrofit of a popular public library. Another high-visibility project, currently in design, is the conversion of a 1930s elementary school into a police forensic science center (currently in design). The extensive energy-efficiency improvements and sustainable design measures are to include the installation of a rooftop photovoltaic system.

Spearheaded by Energy Office Energy Policy Director **Michelle Knapik**, Rebuild Philadelphia has been a leader in developing educational workshops about energy efficiency for local non-profit organizations and trade groups.