

The Rebuild America March/April 2000 Flash Report

“Good News from America’s Cities and Towns”

New Partnerships

Oxford Public Schools
City of Akron, IA
Prince George’s County, MD
Rebuild Muscatine, IA
Historic Downtown Program/Rising Sun Redevelopment Commission, Rising Sun, IN
Portage City, IN
City of Portage, IN
Loogootee Community School Corporation, IN
Washoe County School District, NV
Rebuild in April, CA
Fallon Paiute – Shoshone Tribes
Rebuild Long Island Partnership, NY

Assistant Secretary Reicher Meets with City of Austin Business Leaders



Assistant Secretary Dan Reicher and MetalOptics Vice-President Bob Peery, showcasing an energy efficient light fixture.

On February 17th, the City of Austin was the site for a special Rebuild event—the 250th partnership celebration. The Secretary of Energy, Bill Richardson, Assistant Secretary of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Dan Reicher, U.S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett, and Austin Mayor Kirk Watson were on hand to honor the City of Austin as the 250th Rebuild America Partnership and to recognize the 12 business leaders who had helped make the project a success.

MetalOptics—one of the 12 organizations recognized—hosted a Business Reception and tour of their state-of-the-art facility after the city celebration. MetalOptics donated approximately 30 efficient light fixtures to the Ebenezer Baptist Church, a key partner in the local East Austin neighborhood, and slated as one of the 1st buildings to be renovated.

Assistant Secretary Reicher and Rebuild Austin partnership representatives traveled to MetalOptics manufacturing plant to see how efficient lighting fixtures are made with environmentally friendly processes. MetalOptics Vice President Bob Peery welcomed Assistant Secretary Reicher to the plant, and led a tour of the facility. After the tour, Assistant Secretary Reicher addressed the assembled business leaders and dignitaries on the future of clean energy products and discussed the Department of Energy’s goals and vision for clean energy.

Other leading businesses recognized were Austin Energy, the local utility and a partner to Rebuild Austin. Austin Energy donated a 6-kilowatt roof-mounted photovoltaic panel for

the East Austin neighborhood daycare center. Lithonia Lighting, a Rebuild America Business Partner debuted the "Basics of Efficient Lighting" guide, which is co-produced by Lithonia and Rebuild America. Representatives from Owens Corning, a Rebuild America Business Partner, and Central Southwest Utilities, both active with Rebuild America partnerships in Texas, were also in attendance.

This event is another great example of how Rebuild America helps bring the public and private sectors together to affect community change. For more detailed information contact, Doug Hinrichs at 301-588-9387 or e-mail doug@drintl.com

Rebuild America Celebrates its 250th partnership-- Rebuild Austin!

On Thursday, February 17th, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson joined U.S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett, Austin Mayor Kirk Watson, partnership representatives Reverend Marvin Griffin and I.Q. Hurdle, and other local and state officials to honor the partnership between the Department of Energy and community-based organizations that revitalize economically depressed neighborhoods across the nation. Austin is the 250th Partnership in the Department's Rebuild America Program, which has reached the 250th milestone three years ahead of schedule. To read the full story and photo spread, see our March/April 2000 issue of the Rebuild America Partner Update.



[Ebenezer Baptist Church](#)

ENERGY PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING WORKSHOP For Public Housing Authorities May 1-4, 2000

The Illinois Office of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, in conjunction with The US Department of Energy's Rebuild America Program, is sponsoring an Energy Performance Contracting Workshop for local government and public housing officials and Energy Service Companies on May 1-4, 2000. This course will be presented by the University of Illinois, Great Lakes Center for Occupational & Environmental Safety & Health in Chicago (in HUD/EPA building). Other participating organizations include Oak Ridge and Argonne National Laboratories and the National Center for Appropriate Technology.

Energy Performance Contracting for PHA's

Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) is one of the few vehicles where Public Housing Authorities (PHA) can generate revenue for their operations. And that is just a side benefit to lowering energy costs and making the dwelling units more comfortable.

Leading experts will present step-by-step active-learning exercises and use a case study approach to give participants the tools to implement Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) in their own Public Housing Authority. Course size is limited to 30 persons. This 4-day course includes all instructional materials and lessons for \$750.00. **To Register:** Call the Great Lakes Center for Occupational and Environmental, Safety and Health

312-996-6904 (*Mention Energy Performance Contracting Workshop*) or visit the website at <http://www.uic.edu/spha/glakes/ce/index.htm>.

For Additional Information Contact:

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Or visit: www.rebuild.org/news/news.asp

Rebuild America Peer Exchange—Philadelphia Region, March 27-29, 2000

A Rebuild America Peer Exchange will be held in Morgantown, WV on March 27-29, 2000. This meeting will provide an opportunity to explain the new Business Partners program and what it brings to the Rebuild America partnerships; to discuss EnergySmart Schools; to clarify the State Energy Program grant process and the technical assistance available from the Department of Energy national laboratories. Attendees will include representatives from the Rebuild America partnerships in the Philadelphia region. For more information contact Susan Guard, Philadelphia Regional Team Leader (215) 656-6965.

DOE Staff Assists Superintendents Club of New York City

On February 23, staff from Argonne National Laboratory, Brookhaven National Laboratory, and the Boston Regional Office spoke at an emergency meeting of the **Superintendents Club of New York City**, in response to the high cost of heating oil in the Northeast. The meeting focused on measures building owners and superintendents can take immediately to operate heating and hot water systems at greater efficiency to cut oil consumption without threatening the comfort of tenants. The DOE representatives recommended some basic steps to save energy in the near term, such as reducing an oil burner's firing rate or installing a more efficient burner. They also discussed efficient technologies developed with Office of Building Technology, State and Community Programs support, such as the Flame Quality Indicator, which signals when an oil heat unit needs servicing to maintain peak efficiency. Program Contact: Jim Cavallo, Argonne National Laboratory, 630-252-8688; Tom Butcher, Brookhaven National Laboratory, 631-344-7916. For information about how to set up a Superintendents Club in your city contact Richard Koral, Superintendents Club of NY; NYC Technical College; 300 Jay Street, M214; Brooklyn NY, 11201; Phone: 718-260-5225 or e-mail dkoral@ceep.ce.nytc.cuny.edu.

Solicitation Results Announced in Connecticut

The Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) announced the results of the solicitation focusing on municipal partnering with K-12 schools and/or higher education facilities. A total of four communities will receive grants for their proposed projects:

Cheshire, already an active **Rebuild America** participant, put together a detailed proposal to address efficiency implementation in all municipal buildings in the town. The particulars of their project proposal address a variety of measures at eight school buildings.

Meriden has built an energy efficiency partnership with its parochial schools, and intends to focus first on those schools in inner-city Meriden. The program will expand throughout the city to include public schools and municipal buildings. The city also plans to expand a pilot energy monitoring system citywide, and to become an aggregator for Meriden electricity customers.

Oxford has developed a three-year action plan for the Oxford Center School campus, which includes seven satellite buildings in addition to the main school building. A team of individuals has been brought together to implement the project and to develop a **Rebuild America** Action Plan. Under **Rebuild America**, Oxford plans to expand energy efficiency activities to three additional schools, five town buildings and potentially three private buildings.

West Haven builds upon its existing **Rebuild America** activities with the innovative creation of a solar powered “Cyber Café” at the West Haven High School. The project will result in the installation of photovoltaic panels to power 30 internet-connected workstations. They will be used as an educational tool for students at the high school.

Response to the solicitation was strong. As a result, OPM will repeat the solicitation in the near future. For more information about the Rebuild Connecticut Partnership contact John Ruckes, OPM/Energy, 450 Capitol Avenue, MS# 52ENR, Hartford CT 06106-1308; by fax (860) 418-6495; or by e-mail: john.ruckes@po.state.ct.us

Rebuild New Hampshire Names First Awardees of Community Energy Partnership Grant

Seven municipalities, three school districts, and one county were recently selected for energy conservation and renewable energy project grant funding by the **New Hampshire Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services (ECS)**. ECS, a Rebuild America state partnership, awarded the funding through the new Community Energy Partnership (CEP) grant program.

Winning proposals were required to: a) propose well thought out energy efficiency and/or renewable energy projects; b) present a clear plan for educating the public, including local school students and their families, about both the economic and environmental value of implementing the energy project; and c) exhibit strong evidence that the project, and the educational aspects were going to take place in a supportive setting and reinforce community partnerships that would continue after the grant money was gone.

Twenty-one proposals were received and evaluated by a team of six ECS and regional DOE staffers. The eleven winners will receive a total of \$94,758 on a 40/60 matching basis -- that is, the grants will cover no more than 40% of any one project, with \$15,000 as the ceiling. Winning projects ranged from \$760, to help fund a student and school staff energy training and audit program, to \$15,000 to assist with energy conservation measures essential to the

completion of a Community Center renovation project. CEP grant award money comes from the state's oil overcharge restitution program funds.

Before these grant projects can begin and be announced by name, they must receive approval from New Hampshire's five-member Executive Council. Due to the time required to develop the contracts and to have them properly reviewed before being placed on the agenda of a Council meeting, it is anticipated that final award announcements will be possible just before Earth Day 2000. And ECS has already begun work on the second round of CEP grants, an RFP for which will be released in late summer of 2000.

The Community Energy Partnership grant program is one of several ECS initiatives established under the Rebuild New Hampshire umbrella in the last three years to promote renewable energy and energy conservation in New Hampshire communities. Other programs include the Solar on Schools Program, New Hampshire Green Schools, the Renewable Energy Technology Grants Program, and the Building Energy Conservation Initiative to improve energy efficiency in state buildings.

For more information please contact Kirk Stone, Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services, 57 Regional Drive, Concord, NH 03301; phone: 603-271-2676; kstone@gov.state.nh.us

Building Better Communities: Spring Workshop

The Rocky Mountain Institute is running a Community Change Workshop to be held April 11, 2000, in Des Moines, IA, sponsored by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and is targeting Rebuild Iowa communities, local officials, city and county governments, organizations, bankers, business owners and other community leaders. Together, these groups will learn how to create change in their communities by integrating energy efficiency into daily life. **The keynote speaker will be Hunter Lovins, CEO of the Rocky Mountain Institute.**

Participants will also be encouraged to organize an activity that demonstrates energy efficiency and sustainability for Earth Day 2000. Follow-up discussions will help assess the communities' progress and provide an opportunity to share information with peers.

The Community Change Workshop will be held in Des Moines, IA. For more information about the workshop, contact Heather Silberhorn, at 515/281-5007; email: heather.silberhorn@dnr.state.ia.us

Rebuild Little Rock Receives High Marks for New Curriculum

Rebuild Little Rock's (AR) new high school freshman physics class is receiving much attention from educators. Rebuild Little Rock's participation in the U.S. Department of Energy's "Lighting in the Library" initiative was featured in the Christian Science Monitor on January 18th, 2000. The article titled, "*Actively Teaching Physics: Trying to Get Ninth-Graders Hooked Early*" describes students efforts to calculate the electricity used to provide lighting in school libraries and determine the feasibility of saving energy and money by using energy-efficient lighting fixtures for all five Little Rock high schools. At the end of the school year, the students will present their findings to the Little Rock School Board. Teachers say that

this "groundbreaking initiative" will effectively institutionalize an energy component into the existing curriculum and turn student recommendations into real action. City and state leaders are enthusiastic about the project. "This project exemplifies the type of community development and partnerships that our department is excited about," says Barbara Pardue, executive director of the Arkansas Department of Economic Development. Students learn to build insulation, study the insulation's heat consumption and determine where energy loss is occurring. Students have so far expressed very positive reactions, says one student: "I have never thought about some of this stuff before. I always thought physics sounded evil, but anything that makes you think can't be bad. And it's really a fun class." To read the entire article visit <http://abcnews.go.com/sections/science/DailyNews/physics000118.html>

Rebuild Shelby: Focus of BTS February Lecture

Rebuild Shelby, (NC), a Rebuild America partnership, was the focus of February's lecture topic - "Community Revitalization through Energy Savings" on Thursday, February 17, 2000, at the National Building Museum. Ted Alexander, Executive Director of the Uptown Shelby Association and leader of Rebuild Shelby, demonstrated how his organization is working with Rebuild America and other community programs, such as the National Main Street Program to revitalize his town through energy efficiency. The monthly lecture series is sponsored by the Office of Building Technology, State, and Community Program (BTS) and the National Building Museum. Lectures cover research, design, and building construction practices as well as energy efficiency and environmental issues. See our in-depth story on Rebuild Shelby in the March/April issue of the Rebuild America Partner Update newsletter. For more information about Rebuild Shelby contact Ted Alexander, Uptown Shelby Association, Inc.; Phone: 704-484-3100 or e-mail usa@shelby.net. For more information about the lecture series being offered at the National Building Museum, contact Jim Fremont, U.S. Department of Energy, at 202-586-5735 or e-mail james.fremont@hq.doe.gov.

New Hampshire Governor Announces Renewable Energy Grants

New Hampshire Governor Jeanne Shaheen announced that five state organizations and businesses will receive grants through the Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services (ECS) to develop projects that use several different solar energy technologies to produce pollution-free energy. "This is an important step in our efforts to improve air quality and the environment here in New Hampshire," Gov. Shaheen said. "These projects will demonstrate that it is increasingly practical to use renewable energy sources to improve the environment by reducing harmful air emissions, including those that contribute to global warming, caused by energy sources such as coal and oil."

Projects receiving grants of up to \$10,000 include the following: a solar electric system and exhibit at the Seacoast Science Center at Ordiorne Point State Park, visited by more than 80,000 people a year; the "Solar Express"; a solar powered delivery vehicle to be built by the Peterborough-based Monadnock Solar Electric Car Team; Amoskeag Fishways in Manchester to develop a solar and renewable energy education program; the Concord Area Trust for Community Housing for a solar hot water heating system for a Concord apartment building; and Sunweaver Energy in Northwood for solar electric installation and solar education programs. Each project includes programs to educate the public about the benefits of renewable energy.

The Renewable Energy Technology Grants Program is one of several Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services initiatives established in the last three years to promote renewable energy and energy conservation in New Hampshire. Other programs include the Solar on Schools Program, New Hampshire Green Schools, the Building Energy Conservation Initiative to improve energy efficiency in state buildings, and the Community Energy Partnership Grant Program for local governments. For more information, contact Kirk Stone at 603-271-2611 or e-mail at kstone@gov.state.nh.us.

Rebuild America in the Press

A number of feature articles in trade and business publications have been published on energy efficiency that highlight the Rebuild America program including:

“The Bottom Line of Office & Commercial Energy Retrofits - The 'split incentive' skews the line”; BOMA's *Office & Commercial Real Estate Magazine*, Volume I, Winter/Spring 1999.

“Reeling from Wheeling? A look at the effects of a deregulated market on power quality and reliability”; *Energy Decisions*, June, 1999.

“Museum-Quality Energy Retrofits”; *Energy & Environmental Management*, 1999.

“Back to School for Energy-Wasting Buildings”; *Education West*, August/September, 1999.

“Renewing Buildings”; *Urban Land*, November/December, 1999.

“Design to Lead, Design to Learn”; *Learning by Design—a special supplement to the American School Board Journal*, Spring, 2000.

To receive a copy of these articles, contact Wendi Kamtman at 301-588-9387 or e-mail at wendik@drintl.com.

Fallon Piute-Shoshone Tribes join Rebuild America

Rebuild America Seattle Regional Team Leader, Paul Johnson reports that the Tribal Council for the Fallon Piute-Shoshone Tribes from Nevada have signed a resolution and will join Rebuild America. The Fallon Piute-Shoshone Tribes were presented with a copy of a resolution adopted by the Rosebud Sioux Nation in South Dakota, that states that it is their "intention" to meet the goals and objectives of Rebuild America but that they are not obligated in any way. The Piute-Shoshone used the Rosebud Sioux Resolution as their guideline for writing their own, thereby removing the final obstacle to their joining Rebuild America. By presenting the Piute-Shoshone with an alternative, demonstrates the flexibility of the Rebuild America program to accommodate prospective partnerships under differing circumstances.

Tell Us More:

We hoped you enjoyed reading your latest edition of the Rebuild America Flash Report. This report is delivered via e-mail or fax to all Rebuild America program team members and the main contacts of all Rebuild America partnerships. The Flash Report is becoming a great resource for partnerships and others within Rebuild to keep up to date with all the events and happenings going on across the country.

Please share your news with us! Let your colleagues know what you are up to by submitting material for the Rebuild America Flash Report. It's easy - contact Alex Zartman at D&R International by phone: (301) 588-9387, fax: (301) 588-0854, or e-mail at

AlexZ@drintl.com No story is too big or too small! We'll write it up and shoot it out to hundreds of individuals who want to hear what's new and innovative in Rebuild America communities at work. There is always room for another story!

Note: Be sure to include your name and contact information with any submissions. Information used in the Flash Report may be included in Rebuild America weekly reports to the US Department of Energy.

Hope to hear from you soon!