

The Rebuild America April 2000 Flash Report

“Good News from America’s Communities”

In This Edition of the Flash Report:

New Partnerships

Kingsville, Texas Partners with U.S. Department of Energy on Solar Energy Project

Rebuild America Presents an Award for Energy Conservation to the City of Reno

Rebuild Niagara-Frontier Celebrates Earth Day

Partnerships Get Radio Airtime in Honor of Earth Day

Earth Day 2000 – Do you have a story?

Ohio Elementary School Utilizes A Renewable Energy Source

Rebuilding America’s Main Streets

Chicago Housing Authority Makes the *Chicago Tribune*

Rebuild America Presented at National School Plant Management Association Meeting

Rebuild Shelby Kicks Off Its Best Ever Arbor Day

Muscatine, Iowa Holds Inaugural Advisory Committee Meeting

A Christmas in April First – Energy Efficiency Measures

Upcoming Events – Business Partners Summit, Tribal Energy Workshop, Schools program on CNBC and more!

New Partnerships

Rebuild Portage City, Portage City, Indiana

Rebuild Tolland Public Schools, Tolland, Connecticut

Mill Creek Community Schools, Clayton, Indiana

Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Inc., San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico

Moscow School District, Moscow, Idaho

League of Oregon Cities, Salem, Oregon

Rebuild Hamilton County S.E.E.D., Iowa

Kingsville, Texas Partners with U.S. Department of Energy on Solar Energy Project

The Kingsville (Texas) City Commission is participating in an exciting community-based project that is designed to save energy and broaden the minds of Kingsville students in regard to renewable energy technology. The Kingsville City Commission is joined by various other entities such as the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Central and South West Electric Utility Corporation (CSW), Central Power and Light Company, The Foundation for Environmental Education, the Kingsville Independent School District, Texas A&M University-

Kingsville, and Kleberg County as partners in the Rebuild America community partnership.

The partnership began in January 2000, when CSW donated and installed 6 energy-efficient photovoltaic panels at the Gillett Intermediate School. The solar panels will eventually be connected to the main electrical grid of the school building and provide an additional energy source. The system also affords the students the chance to learn from the data collected by a computer that monitors the photovoltaic system.



Students at Gillett Intermediate School in Kingsville, Texas, learn first-hand about the benefits of renewable energy sources like solar power.

The formal dedication of the solar panels took place on April 18, 2000 at Gillett Intermediate School in Kingsville. Dignitaries from the DOE, as well as state, regional, county and local officials attended the event, and spoke about renewable energy programs to an audience of about 600 students and community leaders. For more information on Kingsville's efforts, please call the Kingsville Chamber of Commerce at 361/592-6438.

Rebuild America Presents an Award for Energy Conservation to the City of Reno

On Sunday, April 30, 2000, Rebuild America officially recognized the City of Reno's outstanding efforts to advance energy efficiency and renewable energy. Representatives from the Rebuild Nevada partnership presented Certificates of Recognition to Reno Mayor Jeff Griffin and to City of Reno Building Technical Manager Alice Parsons. The presentation was part of the city's Earth Day Celebration in Idlewild Park.

The Reno partnership has been gaining recognition across the network. Paul Johnson, Seattle Regional Team Lead for the Department of Energy, says, "The city of Reno is doing a great job demonstrating how investments in a broad array of clean energy technologies can provide tangible benefits to a community."

The city has been particularly active in auditing and retrofitting and estimates a \$16 million energy cost savings over the next twenty years. The city has implemented a variety of energy efficiency projects. Under contract with the city, Sempra Energy Services, Inc. has begun installing improved lighting throughout structures, variable drives on hot water pumps, and technically advanced heating and cooling systems into selected municipal buildings and park structures. Retrofit efforts also include replacing the hot water heater at Plumas Gym, which would allow the boiler and the hot water tank to run independent of each other, reducing the energy demand.

In another project, the city has replaced the Idlewild pool's seventeen-year-old, inefficient solar panels with newer, more efficient solar panels. These panels are used to heat the pool and to provide hot water for facility faucets and showers. "This really comes down to replacing 60's technology with modern systems, so we get more bang for our buck," said Parsons. "When Sempra took the inventory, they looked for energy wasters in the buildings. They used modern technology to make improvements, and we now realize a cost savings."

Additionally, 7 municipal facilities will be outfitted with Energy Management Systems, which monitor and control energy use from a centralized location. These systems also have the ability to troubleshoot the mechanical systems of the buildings. Trained technicians can detect the indoor air temperature in building miles away and determine if the heater or cooler should be adjusted or turned off completely. The City expects that these remote capabilities will yield significant energy savings over the next 20 years. For more information about the City of Reno's efforts, please contact Public Communication Coordinator Christopher Good at 775/326-6309.

Rebuild Niagara-Frontier Celebrates Earth Day

The City of Buffalo and Erie County, New York, were cited on Earth Day for their community cooperation and leadership in establishing the Rebuild Niagara Frontier Partnership. William M. Flynn, Vice President and Treasurer of NYSERDA, presented certificates of appreciation at the Earth Day 2000 ceremonies at Buffalo State College. Erie County Executive Joel A. Giambra accepted the County award, and Deputy Commissioner of Community Development David Pawlik represented Mayor Anthony M. Masiello.

“The Niagara Frontier was a great starting point for New York’s Rebuild America effort because of the strong support and unity of city and county leadership. This cooperation has attracted business, environmental, and community leaders to form our first regional Partnership,” Flynn said. For more information on the Rebuild Niagara Frontier Partnership, contact Cara Applegate at 301/588-9387.

Partnerships Get Radio Airtime in Honor of Earth Day

Four Rebuild America partnerships participated in radio interviews for Earth Day celebrations. The radio spots ranged from 5 to 25 minutes and allowed the partnerships an opportunity to discuss Rebuild America, their unique partnership activities, program successes and how others can take part in the program. The participating partnerships and corresponding radio stations were:

Rebuild Toledo Energy Collaborative with WFRO-FM

Rebuild Kewanee with WOC-AM

Rebuild Muscatine with KBUR-FM

Building Owners and Managers Association of Atlanta, Inc., with WKUN-AM radio

For more information, contact Elise Rand at 202/466-7391.

Earth Day 2000 – Do you have a story?

Many Rebuild America partnerships participated in Earth Day celebrations. If you’re one of them, we’re not the only ones who want to hear about it. The Earth Day Network wants to post your story on their website! To get publicity for your partnership, contact Michael Closson, Programs Director, Earth Day Network, 91 Marion Street, Seattle, Washington, 98104; phone: 206/876-2000, ext. 213; fax: (206) 682-1184; email: mclosson@earthday.net

The Flash Report wants to hear about it too! Please send a copy of your story to us at adenning@drintl.com and we’ll be sure to get the word out about your Earth Day story!

Ohio Elementary School Utilizes A Renewable Energy Source

On April 7, 2000, the City of Westerville, Ohio, and Westerville City Schools dedicated solar panels at Longfellow Elementary School. In addition to functioning as an energy source for the school, the solar panels will enhance the school’s math and science curriculum by teaching the students about the environmental impacts of energy use and the benefits of renewable energy sources. For more information contact Glen G. Kizer, President of the Foundation for Environmental Education and Rebuild America partnership leader, at 614/823-6243.

Rebuilding America’s Main Streets

The National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Main Street Center gathered for its annual town meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, on April 2-5, 2000. This year’s meeting was a success, drawing a record number of participants – more than 1500.

The National Main Street Center has forged a successful nationwide movement of more than a thousand, volunteer-driven commercial district revitalization programs. Several Rebuild America partnerships have linked with Main Street communities throughout the country to help further revitalization efforts. Representing Rebuild America were Greg Davoren of the DOE Boston Regional Office and Marsha Geyer of Rebuild Ripley, West Virginia, to discuss the synergy between these two community-based programs and present case studies of the existing partnerships between Rebuild America and the National Main Street Center. For more information contact Cara Applegate at 301/588-9387.

Chicago Housing Authority Makes the *Chicago Tribune*

On March 19th, 2000, the *Chicago Tribune* featured a story on the Chicago Housing Authority and their efforts as a Rebuild America partnership. The article highlighted the significant role played by Auburn College of Architecture students and the U.S. Department of Energy in helping to alleviate the severe lighting problems associated with area public housing developments. The Robert Taylor Homes served as a testing ground for a new vandal resistant light fixture designed by the architectural students. For more information on this Rebuild Partnership contact David W.

Anderson at 312/567-6000 ext. 174 or e-mail danderso@thecha.org

(This story was featured on pg. 5 of the May-June 1999 Rebuild America Partner Update.)

Rebuild America presented at National School Plant Management Association Meeting

The annual meeting of the National School Plant Management Association (NSPMA), held April 9-11, 2000, in Gatlinburg, TN, featured a one-hour Rebuild America session. Presenter Larry Schoff, K-12 Schools Market Sector Technical Advisor, spoke to more than 100 facility managers from public schools nationwide and informed them about the benefits of joining the Rebuild America Energy Smart Schools campaign. The session sparked several requests from NSPMA state organizations for further interaction with Rebuild America. NSPMA is a new, rapidly growing, national organization whose members could potentially assist state and regional Rebuild America program representatives in expanding community partnerships. For more information e-mail Larry Schoff at lschoff@bellatlantic.net

Rebuild Shelby Kicks Off Its Best Ever Arbor Day



Smokey Bear gets area children involved in Shelby, NC's Arbor Day festivities, which stressed energy conservation and the environmental preservation.

Rebuild Uptown Shelby, North Carolina, held its annual Arbor Day festival on March 24, 2000. According to Ted Alexander, partnership leader for the Uptown Shelby Association, Inc., "This year was the best yet! We had visits from at least ten school and daycare groups, the Cleveland County Girl's Club, as well as Cleveland Vocational Industries. Over 3,000 seedling trees were given out and information provided to over 500 people. This year we really pushed energy conservation and the Rebuild America program, and gave out all kinds of informational material about energy savings." Also in attendance was Smokey Bear, a crowd favorite. For more information contact Ted Alexander, Uptown Shelby Association, at 704/484-3100.

Muscatine Holds Inaugural Advisory Committee Meeting

Muscatine Power and Water, on behalf of the City of Muscatine, Iowa, joined the Rebuild Iowa partnership in January 2000, and the program is in full swing after holding the first Advisory Committee meeting. The February meeting brought together a diverse group of committee members, from energy service providers to homeowners, to discuss potential energy improvements throughout the community. More specifically, the group's agenda included defining community goals, identifying potentially beneficial local resources, and targeting outside resources that could assist them in furthering their community goals. The outcome of these discussions will be used in developing the community's Action Plan.

A few highlights of the draft Action Plan include goals to reduce community energy consumption by 5% over the next five years, to audit 75% of the cities churches and municipal buildings by the end

of 2001, and to further educate community members on the benefits of energy audits and energy efficiency. The committee has plans to meet monthly in order to oversee the program's progress and offer suggestions for improvements.

During the meeting, Muscatine Power and Water presented Muscatine High School students with a check to support the school's Electrathon™ Team. The team is designing and building an electric car to compete against other state high school teams this spring. The students are challenged to build a car that will travel the greatest distance in one hour with a given amount of battery power. Supporting the team is just one aspect of the educational portion of Energize Muscatine, as the Rebuild program is known locally. For more information on the Rebuild Muscatine initiative, contact John Root, Energy Services Advisor, Muscatine Power & Water at 319/262-3306 or e-mail: jroot@mpw.org

A Christmas in April First – Energy Efficiency Measures

On Saturday, April 29, 2000, Energy Team 2000 - a Rebuild America partnership comprised of 5 San Francisco Bay Area Christmas in April organizations - mobilized hundreds of volunteers to make more than a hundred area homes more comfortable and affordable for low-income, disabled or senior citizens by installing energy-efficiency improvements. Delco Energy Services, California Water Service Co., East Bay Municipal Utility District; Habitat for Humanity; JKRL USA; Positivenergy; RSA Supply; and various individuals donated supplies or money to the project. The Energy Team 2000 was fortunate enough to have a surplus of donated supplies and was able to stockpile supplies for next year's projects.

This year's volunteer effort helped people like Anna Allen, a senior citizen whose Albany home was severely vandalized while she was in the hospital for hip surgery. Now her modest home has a second lease on life as a team of trained energy-efficiency volunteers weather-stripped windows and doors, insulated water heaters, installed long-lasting compact fluorescent lamps and low-flow showerheads and added other cost-effective energy and water saving devices to her home.

Some of the participating homes were open for media visits to catch Energy Team 2000 in action, including Ms. Allen's home. Television Channel KGO News 7 filmed the Energy Team 2000 implementing several energy efficiency measures, including adding a new CFL to the porch light, caulking cracks and installing a water heater blanket. During the media visit, a military officer presented Mrs. Allen with an American flag to replace one given to her at her son's funeral that was later stolen by the vandals. Albany's mayor and vice mayor, both of whom are Christmas in April volunteers, attended the ceremony. The clip was shown on Channel 7's Saturday, April 29, 6 o'clock news program.

Lisa Gartland, Energy Team 2000 leader, reports, "Saturday's work with Christmas in April went really well!! Looks like all five chapters covered more than 100 houses and exceeded our energy savings goals." Energy Team 2000 expects that they accomplished their goal of applying over 500 energy and water conservation measures in over 100 homes will, saving an average of \$6,000 annually in homeowner's utility bills. After a much-deserved week of vacation, Ms. Gartland will compile a complete checklist of energy-saving projects and the actual dollar savings expected from those improvements.

This event marks the first time Christmas in April has installed energy-efficiency measures in homes. Stay tuned for electronic snippets of the event on the Rebuild America website! For more information about Energy Team 2000, contact Lisa Gartland at 510/595-7674, or lisa@pstvnr.com

• • **Upcoming Events** • •

Rebuild America Business Partners Meeting in Henderson, Nevada

On June 13, 2000, Rebuild America will hold a Business Partners Summit in Henderson, Nevada. This one-day event will offer opportunities for peer-exchange with City of Henderson officials, including the mayor, city council members, key department heads, and representatives from the local business community.

Discussions will include future plans for implementation projects, strategies on how to best work with communities and techniques for working with Native American Tribes. Attendees will also break into 3 working groups -- Technical, Education and Awareness and Project Development – to establish goals and strategies for each working group.

Those interested in serving as a member of these working groups, that will serve as a guide for Business Partners in working and interacting with Rebuild Partnerships, are expected to attend this first meeting. For additional information, please contact Doug Avery at 310/798-6927 or davery@lbl.gov

Rebuild America would like to announce twelve new business partners: American Illuminetics, Carlsbad, California; Electric-Glas Heating, Cleveland, Ohio; Energy Assets, Braintree, Massachusetts; EnLink Geoenergy Services, Inc., Sewanee, Tennessee; FineLite, Union City, California; Johnson Controls, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; NOVITAS, Culver City, California; Owens Corning, Toledo, Ohio; Portland General Electric, Portland, Oregon; Power Correction Systems P C S, Los Angeles, California; Stellar Processes, Portland, Oregon and WaterLess Co. LLC, Del Mar, California.

Energy Alternatives for Native American Tribes

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) are offering a unique opportunity for tribal energy officials. “Resources for Your Energy Future – Energy Workshop for Native Americans” is a one-day event for Tribes in Arizona, Utah and Nevada. The event is being held at the Yavapai-Apache Administrative Complex in Camp Verde, Arizona, on May 16, 2000.

The event is intended not only to educate DOE and BIA about the energy-related challenges faced by the Tribes on a daily basis, but also to bring useful energy resources to the Tribes. Many energy-based challenges such as housing, economic development, energy entrepreneurship, equitable power distribution and energy-efficient building issues can be more easily tackled through the utilization of federal programs. For more event information, please contact Wendi Kamtman from Rebuild America at 301/588-4229 or email at wendik@drintl.com.

Energy Education Broadcast to air on CNBC

Education is essential for our lives and in the development of today's children as tomorrow's leaders. Optimal school conditions enhance the instructional process and can lead to higher student performance and test scores. Over the next decade, thousands of schools will need to be constructed across America. Many more existing ones will have to be modernized and renovated. Parents, community leaders and educators must understand what it takes to build a school that will last, while spending tax dollars wisely. As we enter into a new era of school design, innovative technology is available to create the healthiest and best possible learning environment for our children.

See how the next generation energy-efficient school buildings are being constructed - from reflective, climate control roofing to state-of-the-art lighting - during the broadcast of "Designing Smarter Schools," scheduled to air on CNBC on Saturday, May 20, at 3:30 p.m. EDT. The program is co-hosted by Larry Schoff, Technical Advisor for Rebuild America's Energy Smart Schools Campaign, and Jack Lyons, Senior Program Manager for the Department of Education's National Library of Education.

The half-hour television special was produced by the Information Television Network, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education's National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities, Sarnafil, Inc., the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Osram Sylvania.

The Pollution Solution Tour

The National Environmental Trust's Pollution Solutions Tour will be at the Pioneer Courthouse Square in downtown Portland, Oregon, on May 4, 2000. The event will begin with a press conference at 11:00 a.m. and runs until 3:00 p.m., offering an ample opportunity for viewing the tour. Commissioner Erik Sten will officiate the event, which showcases the latest in environmentally friendly and energy-saving technologies.



The Pollution Solution trailer features a variety of energy-efficient technologies to educate consumers about methods to combat pollution.

The Pollution Solutions Tour is a self-contained exhibit of cutting-edge technologies that lower energy costs and limit the amount of pollutants emitted into the atmosphere. The exhibit consists of a trailer outfitted with photovoltaic panels, a solar water heater, a mini-wind turbine, and several energy-efficient appliances. The trailer offers a model of a home that creates more energy than it uses. Other activities include a net metering demonstration.

Additionally, the tour brings the latest in electric-assist drive vehicles, like the Honda Insight, as well as natural gas vehicles, e-bikes, and scooters. There are several informational displays that educate attendees about the environmental price of decades-long pollution and the science behind global warming. For more information on the Pollution Solution Tour log onto www.hotearth.com or call Laura Culberson at 503/221-7922.

Capturing the Value of Steam Efficiency

Increases in steam efficiency can provide real-dollar benefits to the industries and institutions that rely on large-scale boiler systems. That message - and a host of strategies for implementing steam efficiency - will be offered in a one-day workshop held in Portland, Oregon, on Thursday, May 11, 2000. Northwest Natural Gas and the Portland Valve & Fitting Company will host the Best

Practices Steam Workshop, conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy and The Alliance to Save Energy.

Industrial, commercial, and institutional steam users will find value in the presentations given by federal, state, and private sector steam experts. The workshop agenda includes an overview of total-system steam efficiency and outlines opportunities for recapturing money that is lost through neglected steam operations. Additionally, technical tip sheets, case studies, financial incentives, and equipment supplier contacts are available at the workshop or may be downloaded from the program's website at www.oit.doe.gov/steam

For more information about the event, you may call the Program's Clearinghouse at 800/862-2086. To register for the Best Practices Steam workshop, contact Peppi Meyers at Northwest Natural Gas, at 503/226-4211, ext. 2419.

Roanoke, Virginia to host National Meeting on Advancing Community Sustainability

The city of Roanoke, Virginia, will host the National Meeting on Advancing Community Sustainability from June 1-3, 2000. The conference is intended to provide a forum for state and local public officials, business leaders, nonprofit organizations and citizen activists to interact with practitioners who have experience implementing sustainability projects. This will be an excellent opportunity for attendees to determine action plans for achieving environmental, social and economic sustainability.

Presenters will include agency heads, department directors, private sector managers, nonprofit organization officers and others who are experts in their field. Plenary sessions and interactive roundtables will examine the practice of sustainability in each of 3 areas of community life - physical development (e.g., infill, adaptive reuse and sprawl prevention), infrastructure design (e.g., alternative transit, waste management and energy systems), and economic structure (e.g., industrial ecology, local economic resilience and job creation).

Additionally, special resource sessions will focus on programs such as The Sierra Club's Anti-Sprawl Campaign, Federal Programs in Support of Sustainability, Community Development Through Sustainable Jobs, and the services and resources available through the Local Environment Government Assistance Network. Optional training workshops will give participants an opportunity to gain the knowledge or skills needed to promote sustainability in the following areas: "Smart Growth through Ecosystem-Based Processes," "Developing and Using Sustainability Indicators," "The Green Planning Leadership Program" and "Moving the Community from Confusion to Consensus on Sustainability."

The conference will be held at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, in downtown Roanoke, Virginia. For more information, participants may send an email to urban@vt.edu and request a brochure, or they may register online at www.conted.vt.edu/advcom.htm

Keep us informed:

We hoped you enjoyed reading the latest edition of the Rebuild America Flash Report. This report is delivered via e-mail or fax to all Rebuild America program team members, the main contacts of all Rebuild America partnerships and key energy and environmental media. The Flash Report is fast becoming a practical resource for partnerships and other Rebuild America contacts to keep up to date with the many events and occurrences across the nation that affect the program.

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

Remember, no story is too big or too small. We'll feature your news, and then send it to hundreds of individuals who are curious about what's new and innovative in Rebuild America communities. There is always room for another story!

Check out the Rebuild America website for more news, tools, contacts and an event calendar at:
www.erepdev.nrel.gov/buildings/rebuild/

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