

The Rebuild America June 2000 Flash Report

“Good News from America’s Communities”

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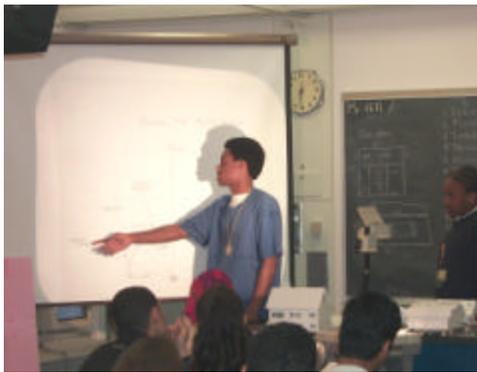
Alamo Community College District; San Antonio, TX

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Hector Public Schools; Hector, AR

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For Students in Boston, Energy Efficiency and Physics Go Hand-in-Hand



Students participating in the *Active Physics* program eventually become confident enough in their physics ability to make classroom presentations.

Rebuild America is supporting an *Active Physics* pilot program at the English High School in Boston, MA. *Active Physics* is a curriculum project supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and developed by the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) and the American Institute of Physics (AIP). The project was created as an alternative physics course for high school students who would not normally enroll in physics.

The pilot program is being conducted at the English High School, where 70% of the students are non-English speaking. The pilot consists of 25 students who have not been successful in traditional science classes. Working in groups, the students have constructed model "prototype homes" that can be used as universal dwellings, are energy-efficient, can be constructed

quickly and use minimal amounts of materials. On June 13 students presented their "prototype homes," which demonstrate their use of physics to address growing housing and energy shortages in many areas of the world. For more information, contact Greg Davoren at 617/565-9706.

Rebuild South Carolina Giving Back in Charleston

Rebuild South Carolina is lending a helping hand to the 113 Calhoun Street project in Charleston, SC. The house, located at 113 Calhoun Street, is a 125-year-old, three-story, wood frame house that

sustained significant structural damage during 1989's Hurricane Hugo. In efforts to return the building to its original charm, the building was donated to the 113 Calhoun Street Foundation. The Foundation, along with the Clemson University Extension Service, the Sea Grant Consortium, the City of Charleston and FEMA, is working to give back to the community. In an example of adaptive reuse, the building will be converted into a community educational facility that incorporates natural hazard mitigation and sustainable design and building practices, including recycled building materials, energy and water conservation measures and indoor air and water quality modifications. Phillips Lighting Company, a Rebuild America Business Partner, is installing indoor and outdoor energy-efficient lighting. The facility is also incorporating renewable energy technologies through a geothermal heating and cooling system, which was procured through a grant from the South Carolina Energy Office and the Berkeley Electric Cooperative. The grand opening of the building is slated for October 2000. For more information, contact Susan Gardner at susang@drintl.com.

Rebuild Philadelphia Renovation Project Video Wins a Telly Award

Rebuild Philadelphia's video, "*The Northeast Regional Library Renovation Project*," has won a Telly Award in the government organizations category. The award-winning video depicts the energy-efficient upgrade of the Northeast Regional Library, part of the Free Library of Philadelphia system. Renovation of the library was made possible through a partnership between the city's Energy Office, Rebuild America, ENERGY STAR® Buildings and numerous private organizations.



Energy-efficient retrofit of the Free Library of Philadelphia system garnered not only energy savings for the city, but a Telly award!

The Telly Awards were founded in 1980 to recognize and showcase outstanding non-network and cable TV commercials, and has since expanded include film and video productions. The Telly Awards represent one of the top competitions in the industry with more than 8,000 entries submitted in 1993. For more information about the project, or the video, call Michelle Knapik at 215/686-3957.

***American City & County* Magazine Bestows Kudos on Rebuild America...**

More good press for Rebuild America! "Energy Efficiency, One City at a Time" is featured in the Energy Manager supplement of *American City & County* (June 2000 edition). The appropriately titled piece, written by freelance journalist James R. Dukart, provides an overview of the Rebuild America program and takes a closer look at three partnerships – EnergyWorks in Kansas City, MO, Rebuild Henderson in Henderson, NV and the City of West Hartford, CT partnership. The story sheds an educational and positive light on the Rebuild America program and is full of persuasive and interesting facts, figures and quotes. For the full story, see the June 2000 edition of *American City & County* or visit www.americancityandcounty.com to subscribe.

... and *Energy User News* Is Not To Be Left Out!

Energy User News is doing its best to keep up with the Jones'. The June 2000 edition's case study features the collaboration between the Rebuild Boston Energy Initiative and the Boston Housing Authority in efforts to increase energy and water efficiency in the city's public housing. See the June 2000 issue for more about the partnership's performance contracting successes or visit www.energyusernews.com

State Grants Awarded to Rebuild Kewanee and Rebuild Fulton

On June 12, Rebuild Kewanee and Rebuild Fulton, both Illinois partnerships, were awarded grant funding from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs. On hand to present the grants were Rebuild America State Representatives Greg Lenaghan and Don McGee and Rebuild America Regional Representative Geri Perrotte. Mark Mikenas, the coordinator for Rebuild Kewanee, presented Certificates of Appreciation to Rebuild Kewanee partners. For more information about the event, contact Geri Perrotte at 312/886-8597.

Performance Contracting Workshop Hosted by NAESCO and NYSERDA

As part of their Rebuild America effort, the New York State Energy Research and Development Administration (NYSERDA) hosted an Energy Performance Contracting Workshop on June 7 in Mount Morris, New York (approximately 25 miles south of Rochester). Don Gilligan of the National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO), a Rebuild America Strategic Partner, facilitated the workshop.

The workshop was designed to enable municipalities, school districts, State agencies, hospitals and other public-sector decision makers to present energy performance contracting as a viable strategy to reduce facility costs. The workshop offered assistance in developing and evaluating proposals and explanations of project financing mechanisms, the New York regulatory framework and how to monitor and verify savings. NYSERDA also discussed their financial incentives program. Due to the success of this event, a similar seminar is being planned for August 16, 2000 in Syracuse, NY. For more information about the event, contact Peggie Neville at 518/862-1090, ext. 3368.

Community Energy Partnership Grants Awarded in New Hampshire

New Hampshire Governor Jeanne Shaheen officially announced the ten communities and school districts that have been awarded grants from the Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services (ECS). The winners were: Town of Bradford; Chichester Central School; Town of Eaton; Town of Goffstown; Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District; Manchester School District; City of Nashua; Town of Northumberland; Strafford County and Town of Warner.

ECS, a Rebuild America state partnership, awarded the funds through the newly created Community Energy Partnership (CEP) grant program. In August, a second round of energy conservation and renewable energy project proposals will be considered for funding under the CEP grant program. An official request for proposals will be issued in August and a "bidders seminar" for potential applicants will be held in September. Finalized proposals will be due in early October.

The CEP grant program is one of several ECS initiatives established under the Rebuild New Hampshire umbrella within in the last three years in hopes of promoting renewable energy and energy conservation in New Hampshire communities. Other programs include Solar on Schools, New Hampshire Green Schools, the Renewable Energy Technology Grants Program and the Building Energy Conservation Initiative to improve energy efficiency in state buildings. For additional information on New Hampshire energy programs, contact Kirk Stone, of the Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services, at 603/271-2676 or email him at kstone@gov.state.nh.us

Western Regional Coalition elects Officers and Board of Directors

The 18-state Western Regional Coalition (WRC) formally adopted a new organizational structure and elected officers and a board of directors at its quarterly meeting held May 22-23 in Portland Oregon. Newly elected officers included: President -Bret Hunter of CMS Viron; Vice President - Mike Glenn of the Utah Energy Office, Secretary - Clint Loughed of Washington State, and

Treasurer - Doug Dahle of NREL. The charter Board of Directors consists of individuals representing ESCOs, state energy offices, financial firms, building service providers, universities, and national labs. During their meeting, each state reviewed their progress to date and discussed issues concerning exemplary methods, outreach activities, and fundraising.

The WRC was formed to provide information and resources to help develop successful energy performance contracts and to meet the needs of member states in the western region. Having grown from an initial group of five states, WRC members include state energy offices, energy service companies (ESCOs) and other energy professionals serving the west. For additional information please contact Mike Glenn of the Utah Office of Energy Services (801/538-8654) or Ron Shelton, Rebuild America Financial Services (865/576-7324). The WRC website is located at: www.wrcperform.org/

Oregon State Energy Office Sponsors Financial Services Workshop

On May 22 the Oregon State Energy Office sponsored a Rebuild America Financial Services workshop in Portland, Oregon in conjunction with the Western Regional Coalition meeting (see above). The workshop targeted practitioners that serve the building energy efficiency market, and included architectural/engineering professionals, building facility managers, finance companies, equipment suppliers, and energy service companies. For further information please contact Sharon Hanson of the Oregon Energy Office (503/378-8534).

Rebuild Iowa Explores the Concept of “Natural Capitalism”

On April 11, 2000, The Iowa Department of Natural Resources, along with Rebuild Iowa, sponsored a one-day workshop entitled “Creating Community Change.” The purpose of the event was to encourage community leaders to take advantage of energy efficiency and sustainable development practices that enhance businesses as a whole. The sessions provided attendees with planning insight that will facilitate a reduction energy costs and an increase productivity for community homes, businesses and public facilities.

More than 60 participants attended the workshop, which was facilitated by Hunter Lovins, Co-CEO of the Rocky Mountain Institute. Lovins is also co-author of *Natural Capitalism*, a book that outlines the title concept and includes resource efficiency, mimicry of natural systems and ecological restoration that increases jobs, income and profits. Morning discussions explored the concept and featured compelling success stories from Fox River Mills and Frontier Herbs that showed how innovative businesses in Iowa are improving their bottom lines. The afternoon featured three breakout group sessions designed to provide greater detail on three topics -- Green Building, Improving the Bottom Line and Healthy Community Strategies. During these breakout sessions, attendees identified actions that would overcome barriers to incorporating these “Natural Capitalism” concepts into daily activities. The workshop closed with the breakout groups gathering to present and review their findings and to brainstorm additional ways to incorporate “Natural Capitalism.”

“Changing how people think is a big job, and the staff at RMI was primed for the challenge. Through the Natural Capitalism workshop, RMI provided the inspiration and knowledge state and local leaders need to make Iowa a more economically vibrant and environmentally sustainable place,” said Monica Stone, Executive Officer, Iowa Department of Natural Resources. For more information on Rebuild Iowa, contact Heather Silberhorn at 515/281-5007 or email at heather.silberhorn@dnr.state.ia.us

* * *Upcoming Events* * *

Designing Smarter Schools to Air Nationwide in July and September

Due to high broadcast station interest, CNBC will be airing *TECHNO 2100: Designing Smarter Schools* during the week of July 4-9, 2000 and again the week of September 5-10, 2000. A full listing of air times, markets and channels is available through the top story section at the Rebuild America Website (www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/rebuild). Check your local cable television listings for the correct channel listing for CNBC.

The program is co-hosted by Larry Schoff of Rebuild America and Jack Lyons of the U.S. Department of Education. *TECHNO 2100: Designing Smarter Schools* was produced by the Information Television Network (iTV) 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. For more information about iTV, call 1-888-380-6500, or visit www.itvisus.com

EnergySmart Schools and Owen's Corning Launch Invention Contest for Kids

Four creative elementary school students will have an opportunity to meet the nation's top energy scientists and engineers to make their energy-saving idea a reality. The U.S. Department of Energy and Owens Corning is sponsoring a nationwide invention contest in which students must draw an original, energy-saving device and submit a 100-word-or-less description of how it works for a chance to be appointed an EnergySmart Schools Inventor and participate in the EnergySmart Schools Inventor Summit in December 2000.



Winning inventors will also receive a \$250 savings bond and an all expense paid trip to a DOE laboratory to build their inventions with help from DOE scientists and Owens Corning engineers. Winners will then continue on to New York City, NY to exhibit their award-winning, energy-saving inventions.

Students entering the fourth, fifth or sixth grades in Fall 2000 are eligible to enter the contest. Full contest rules are available at www.eren.doe.gov/energysmartschools/contest_rules.html. Entries can be mailed to "The EnergySmart Schools Invention Kid Contest", c/o Owens Corning, One Owens Corning Parkway, Toledo, Ohio 43659. Entries must be postmarked no later than November 10, 2000. For more information, contact Lani MacRae at 202/586-9193.

***Buildings* Magazine Holds New Construction Award Competition**

Buildings magazine is holding an award competition for new construction. Winners will be selected on the basis of aesthetics, functionality, originality, use of materials, sensitivity to site, construction program, considerations of life safety, etc. Submissions should fall under three categories: Private/Corporate, Public/Government and Specialty Spaces. Winning projects will be published in full color in the October 2000 New Construction Awards issue of *Building* magazine and submitters will receive special recognition at an industry awards luncheon on October 20, 2000 in Chicago, IL. For full contest rules and entry procedures, visit the magazine's Website at www.buildings.com and click on "awards."