

## The Rebuild America November 2000 Flash Report “Good News from America’s Communities”

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### **New Partnerships**

The following partnerships joined Rebuild America last month:

Portsmouth Metropolitan Housing Authority; Portsmouth, Ohio

Poudre School District; Fort Collins, CO

San Antonio Development Agency; San Antonio, Texas

San Diego Office of Education; San Diego, CA

Currently, there are 306 active partnerships, located in 48 states and three territories. Altogether, these partnerships have committed to retrofit 544,160,937 square feet.

### **New Orleans Pledges a Science Intensive Future for Its Students**



*State Senator Paulette Irons (second from right) poses in her lab coat with students from the Math and Science Project.*

Both public and private sector organizations have stood behind the state of Louisiana’s Math and Science Project. Aimed at gifted, low-income, urban minorities in grades 9-12, the program offers advanced mathematics and sciences classes and is currently taught in temporary facilities on the campus of Delgado Community College in New Orleans. A variety of organizations provide the project with curriculum. **Rebuild Louisiana** supplies the energy efficiency portion. The overwhelming success of the Math and Science Project, along with the outpouring of local support, make it possible for the program to break ground on their new facilities.

The \$3.9 million building will be located on Delgado Community College grounds. Planners intend for the green building to serve as a giant textbook, with energy-efficiency being incorporated into the curriculum. For example, when light switches are flipped, circuit boards will light up and students will be able to trace the path of the energy. Hands-on access to energy-efficient building measures will allow the learning experience to

be manifested in the building itself. The building's design will promote renewable energy sources, recycling and environmental practices.

"The U.S. Department of Energy is interested in having a working model of a school that's energy efficient, and we hope that's what ours will be," says Math and Science Principal Barbara MacPhee. The school is expected to be operational for the 2002-2003 school year and will accommodate 400 students from the Orleans Parish School District. The curriculum will provide an emphasis on math and science education and to meet these needs, the building will feature science and technology labs, working gardens and a rainforest.

"This is the type of investment we must be prepared to make to ensure that our children, as well as our community, can compete for tomorrow's jobs," said state Louisiana Senator Paulette Irons, who proposed financing for the school and helped gain the approval of the State Bond Commission for the project. In thanks for her efforts, Senator Irons was presented with a personalized New Orleans Center for Science & Math lab coat.

The event was attended by a myriad of state and local officials and was covered by the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*. For more information, contact Louis McArthur of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources at [louism@dnr.state.la.us](mailto:louism@dnr.state.la.us).

### **Using Renewable Energy to Improve Efficiencies in New Hampshire**

On November 15, 2000, the New Hampshire Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services (ECS) hosted a seminar entitled *GeoExchange. Bringing Efficiency to State, County, Municipal, and School Buildings*. Sponsored by the Geothermal Heat Pump Consortium, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the International Ground Source Heat Pump Association, the event featured a live satellite broadcast hosted by Richard Trethewey of the television program "This Old House." Carl Orio of Water and Energy Systems Corp and Mike McQueeney of the Public Service Company of New Hampshire presented an introduction to geothermal heating and cooling. For more information, contact Kirk Stone of **Rebuild New Hampshire** at 603/271-2676 or [kstone@gov.state.nh.us](mailto:kstone@gov.state.nh.us).

### **Revamped Illinois Partnership Hosts Kick-Off**

The **College of Engineering at Southern Illinois University–Carbondale** celebrated the expansion of its Rebuild America partnership on November 15, 2000. Formally the Southern Sustainability Partnership, the College of Engineering is now the lead partner of the newly expanded partnership. The kick-off meeting will introduce the revamped partnership to the community and will provide an opportunity to recognize all partners. The new partnership plans to host quarterly half-day workshops on energy-related topics, and will sponsor monthly speakers and interactive workshops in cooperation with the Association of Energy Professionals, numerous energy assessments throughout the community, and targeted electric motor efficiency improvements. For more information about the partnership, contact Dr. Manohar Kulkarni at 618/453-3221.

### **Rebuild Alabama Workshops Highlight Opportunities for Schools**

More than 80 school and government officials, architects and engineers attended workshops held in Montgomery, Alabama, on October 31, 2000. Sponsored by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs – Science, Technology and Energy Division and the University of Alabama,

Huntsville, the two workshops were designed to help participants build and operate more energy-efficient buildings within the state. A special emphasis was placed on designing an energy-efficient model school and on the benefits of joining the Rebuild Alabama program. To date, the Rebuild Alabama Pilot Program has established 20 partners, including school systems, colleges, hospitals, local governments, utilities, financing organizations and others with an interest in reducing building operating costs through energy-saving improvements.

Speakers included Greg Andrews of the U.S. Department of Energy's Atlanta Regional Office and Larry Schoff of EnergySmart Schools. Workshop topics ranged from geothermal heating and cooling systems to efficient lighting, window insulation, desiccant gas strategies, use of natural daylighting in building designs, use of recyclable materials, sustainable design features and project financing. For more information about Rebuild Alabama, contact Linda Cooper at 334/242-5321 or email at [lindac@adeca.state.al.us](mailto:lindac@adeca.state.al.us).

### **Rebuild America Presenters Network Goes Live**

Do you need an energy-efficiency expert for an upcoming event? Rebuild America can help fill the void with its Network of Expert Presenters, a newly launched web-based service that enables you to browse speaker availability by topic and region and reserve the presenter or presenters best suited for your event. The Network of Expert Presenters is comprised of members of the Rebuild America program team, including representatives from Department of Energy laboratories and the Business Partners program. Speakers bios and headshots are available online, as well. To find out more about the new service, visit the Network at <http://pnl.rbaspeaker.pnl.gov> or contact Doug Avery at [davery@lbl.gov](mailto:davery@lbl.gov).

### **Four Colorado Schools Earn the ENERGY STAR® Label for Buildings**

More schools earn the special distinction! On November 14, 2000, the Poudre School District celebrated the receipt of four ENERGY STAR® labels for buildings from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Fort Collins, Colorado, elementary schools awarded were: Harris Bilingual, Olander, Werner and the Lab School of Creative Learning.

Along with congratulating the individual schools on their successful implementation, the event also recognized the district's dedication and commitment to energy excellence. Attendees include school officials, utilities companies and other partners who were instrumental in the success of Poudre's energy projects. For more information about the event, please contact Margie Bates of DOE at 303/275-4845 or at [Margie\\_Bates@nrel.gov](mailto:Margie_Bates@nrel.gov).

### **Iowa Hosts Energy Workshops**

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources sponsored a workshop entitled *The New Energy Landscape for Communities* on October 30, 2000. Facilitated by the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and co-sponsored by the Iowa League of Cities, the workshop featured in-depth sessions on community responses to changing energy markets, community growth and green economic development.

Thirty-eight people representing a wide range of interests attended the half-day sessions, including local community college students, city officials and state association representatives. The afternoon began with an overview of the Natural Capitalism concept developed by RMI, which shows how the

combination of resource efficiency, mimicry of natural systems and ecological restoration actually increases jobs, income and profits. Afternoon sessions included sessions on how local communities can strengthen their economies while respecting the environment and how major changes in the electric power industry are reshaping the traditional roles of those involved in the industry. The workshop provided participants with concrete examples of communities that have taken actions that not only protected the environment, but also provided economic gains and improved the quality of life for their residents. For more information on the workshop, contact Heather Silberhorn, Iowa Department of Natural Resources at 515/281-5007 or email at [heather.silberhorn@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:heather.silberhorn@dnr.state.ia.us).

### **Wichita Falls Independent School District Receives Recognition**

On Monday, November 20, 2000, Mike Myers of the U.S. Department of Energy and the Texas State Energy Office presented the Wichita Falls Independent School District in Dallas, Texas, with a *Rebuild America Certificate of Appreciation* for their commitment and dedication to the program. School officials accepted the award, which was given in recognition of the school district's successful implementation of energy efficient measures. Mr. Myers hopes that this recognition event will encourage other school districts in the surrounding Dallas/Fort Worth area to join the Rebuild America program. For more information about this event, contact Mike Myers at 512/263-2924 or email at [mt4myers@aol.com](mailto:mt4myers@aol.com).

### **Conference Offers an Opportunity to Consider Low-Income Consumers**

Held in Albany, New York on November 16-17, 2000, the second annual LIFE (Low-Income Forum on Energy) conference focused on the challenges and opportunities facing low-income New Yorkers in the competitive energy market. During the event, Greg Davoren of the U.S. Department of Energy's Boston Region Office, Maureen Lashlee of Dutchess County Community Action Association, and Pat Boynton of New York State Electric & Gas Corporation presented a session entitled *Partnerships & Network Building on Behalf of Low-Income Energy Customers*. For more information about the event, contact Greg Davoren at 617/565-9706 or email at [greg.davoren@hq.doe.gov](mailto:greg.davoren@hq.doe.gov).

### **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: [adenning@drintl.com](mailto: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.eren.doe.gov/buildings/rebuild](http://www.eren.doe.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.*