

The Rebuild America August 2000 Flash Report

“Good News from America’s Communities”

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New Partnerships

The following partnerships were added last month:

Canyon County Commission; Caldwell, ID
East Palo Alto; East Palo Alto, CA
City of Nampa; Nampa, ID

Also, the Association for Energy Efficiency and Affordability partnership (New York, New York) was reinstated last month. That brings our partnership total to 290 partnerships in 51 states and territories.

Church in East Austin Leads the Movement Towards Green Power

The Ebenezer Baptist Church is helping to lead a spiritual reaffirmation by churches nationwide that dictates a greater stewardship of the earth and taking personal responsibility for preservation of its resources.

Located in East Austin (Texas) the church was the venue for a photovoltaic system dedication on August 13, 2000. The dedication was a follow-up to the February 17, 2000 Rebuild America 250th Partnership Celebration, which featured guest of honor Energy Secretary Bill Richardson.



The dedication marked the completion of the solar energy system atop the Ebenezer Church's Daycare & Child Development Center. The 6kw system was donated by Austin Energy, the local utility, as part of its campaign to promote clean energy in Austin and was installed by volunteers from the Texas Solar Energy Society.

This 6kw photovoltaic system is located on the rooftop of the Ebenezer Child Development and Family Life Center.

Altogether, about 220 people attended the event, including several City and church leaders, Austin Mayor Kirk Watson, Ebenezer Church Reverend Marvin Griffin, members of the Southern Baptist Convention and Austin Interfaith, two city council members, local partners and two local television stations. For more information, contact Doug Hinrichs at 301/588-9387.

Are Technical Solutions Your Forte? Then Don't Miss Out on an Opportunity ...

Public Technology, Inc., a Rebuild America Strategic Partner, is awarding projects in either the development or implementation phases for outstanding technology solutions. Projects should have demonstrated results, enhanced revenues, improved community service, cost savings, increased efficiencies and improved ease of management. Applications are due by October 20, 2000. For more information, visit www.pti.org or call 800/852-4934.

Students, Community, Businesses and Local Press Excited about the Solar on Schools Program

Students participating in the Solar on Schools program at Kennett High School in Conway, New Hampshire, were thrilled to be asked to participate in the Conway Village Festival in June. So much so that, in addition to designing and staffing a Solar Booth to educate fair attendees about the PV systems installed at their school, the students also covered the school's front steps with solar displays, made and distributed brochures, and gave tours of the roof-top PV panels.

The students impressed PepsiCo, Inc., who in turn produced a large lawn banner proclaiming, "Solar Power at Kennett." After students marched with the banner in the festival parade, it was displayed on the school's front lawn.

Prior to the event, several students produced a public service announcement promoting the Solar Booth that was aired on local television for a week preceding the event. The local station also taped a show featuring the students presenting their displays, the PV system and the high school's computer monitor.

"The whole event turned out to be a great project-based learning activity for the students," says Karen Franke, Kennett teacher and Solar on Schools Coordinator.

Kennett students were also awarded 2nd place in the Potomac Region Solar Energy Contest. Trophies were presented to the students at the school's annual awards ceremony. Another Kennett team won honorable mention in the competition.

"The community is beginning to recognize Kennett's work with solar energy and we will keep putting the our solar news in the public's eye. The students have already made suggestions how to improve our marketing for next year – they want an electric car in the parade – and we can certainly build on what was accomplished this year," Franke says.

The New Hampshire Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services, Public Service of New Hampshire, and Solar Works of Wilton, NH sponsor the New Hampshire Solar on Schools Program. Ten New Hampshire high schools are now participating in the program. For more information, contact Robin Read at 603/271-2611.

New Hampshire Schools Take Energy Efficiency Seriously

Over a four-day period, Kirk Stone, Rebuild America Program Representative from the New Hampshire Governor's Office of Energy & Community Services, organized numerous technical site visits with school districts throughout the state. Participating districts included Merrimack Valley School District, Hanover

School District and Nashua School District. Each of these districts has begun or is considering major retrofits/new school construction projects within their respective districts.

Events were unique across district lines. On August 10, Rebuild America representatives participated in a daylong design charrette for the planned major renovation of the Oyster River High School, in Durham, NH. On August 11, a breakfast seminar was held at the Merrimack Valley High School Auditorium for 20 of the state's superintendents. The breakfast seminar focused on innovative ways to assist schools in saving energy dollars and reducing energy use in the design, construction and maintenance of new school buildings as well as through retrofits to existing facilities, ultimately creating a better learning and teaching environments.

Technical assistance was provided throughout the week by Rebuild America's K-12 Technical Advisor Larry Schoff (ORNL), Paul Torcellini (NREL), Cindy Gunn (NH's Green Schools Coordinator) and Greg Davoren (Department of Energy, Boston Regional Office). For more information contact Gregory T. Davoren, Boston Regional Office, at 617/565-9706.

Maine Schools Share Their Energy Efficiency Success

Boothbay Harbor (Maine) schools were given an opportunity share their energy efficiency success and to learn from the EnergySmart Schools experts. On August 8, Rebuild America Program Representative Doug Baston and K-12 Schools Technical Advisor Larry Schoff met with the school system's Supervisor of Transportation & Maintenance to discuss energy efficiency improvements made to two schools in their school system.

Energy-efficient retrofits at the schools included lighting upgrades to T-8's and boiler system replacement, along with several others features that were of the original construction. After the site visit, numerous additional energy efficiency improvements were suggested for consideration in the next round capital improvement project and as a part of regular maintenance activities. Patricia Hart of the Lincoln County Commissioner's Office, who serves as the community-based Rebuild America Representative for the Lincoln County Maine Partnership, organized the meeting. For more information contact Gregory T. Davoren, Boston Regional Office, at 617/565-9706.

Rebuild Mississippi Looks to Fund Projects

The Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development-Energy Division (MDECD-ED) **Rebuild Mississippi** Program is soliciting proposals from Rebuild Mississippi partners for environmentally and economically sound projects through smarter energy use in buildings. Projects may include efforts to reduce energy expenditures, retrofit existing buildings, preserve and upgrade historic buildings or provide energy-efficient affordable housing.

MDECD-ED, Rebuild Mississippi Program has a total of \$100,000 in financial assistance for the implementation of energy smart retrofits of eligible community-based buildings or infrastructure. A minimum of two grants will be awarded from this assistance. The goal for the Rebuild Mississippi is to improve energy efficiency in partnership-sponsored buildings by at least 25 percent. For more information, contact Barbara Ousby at 601-359-6600 or email her at bousby@mississippi.org.

• • *Upcoming Events* • •

Rebuild America Business Partners and Other Experts Are Invited to Participate in New Mexico Youth Project

Rebuild America is seeking experts to help teach high school students involved in the Youth Conserving Energy (YCE) project, which is sponsored by **Rebuild New Mexico** and **Rebuild Central New Mexico**. Starting September 4, 2000, participating youth will be trained in basic energy awareness, auditing and weatherization skills over the course of four weeks. In October and November, they will then apply their acquired skills by auditing public buildings and implementing simple energy improvements.

This event is an opportunity for local representatives of the Rebuild America Business Partners program to participate by helping to teach the modules on lighting. Experts are needed to cover lighting efficiency issues such as lamp/fixture types, wattage, color rendition and lighting quality, safety considerations and lighting maintenance. Lessons will include instruction on conducting lighting audit, including comfort survey, payback calculations, typical retrofits, natural lighting and skill level required for retrofits.

There will be 31 youths in each class, ages 16-22, supported by two teachers. Lighting classes are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. on September 20 and 21, 2000. The total teaching time for the guest speaker each day will be about 2.5 hours. The rest of the time is devoted to material review and breaks. Students will get science and math training for participating in this program.

This project is similar to the Annex D Project conducted last November at Rio Grande High School by local Business Partner Representatives. Participating teachers and organizations for that event included: Phil Neils, the Aardvark Co, contracted by The Wattstopper; Brian Lane, Chaparral Electric, contracted to install components by Prudential Lighting; Bill Sherret, West Texas Lighting, performed a presentation for Prudential Lighting; Tom Curtis, Resource Lighting, presented for Fine Light. The Annex D teachers felt that all presenters did a great job and the professional presence was enlightening.

For more information or to participate, contact Barbara Ford, Albuquerque Partnership Contact at 505/246-8490 or email her at truffula@inkey.com

Wisconsin School to Show Off Its Cutting-Edge HVAC Technology to EnergySmart Schools Reps

On September 11, 2000 Rebuild America's Larry Schoff and **Rebuild Wisconsin's** Terry Pease will meet with Dennis Wald, the Director of Facilities from Wausau (Wisconsin) West High School, to learn about a unique HVAC system installed at the school. The HVAC system uses 100% of outside air while simultaneously cutting energy costs. The school is currently saving \$100,000 per year in utility costs as a result of the new HVAC. Dennis Wald will showcase the technology and explain the barriers he faced when attempting to get the system installed. Larry and Terry hope to get the word out about this technology to other schools. Administrators from New Jersey, New Hampshire and other Wisconsin schools have already expressed interest in implementing this technology in their respective school districts. For more information, contact Larry Schoff at 540/961-2184.

Once Again, the Rebuild America Network Shares Its Expertise

Richard "Dick" Koral, the partnership lead for the **Superintendents Club of New York** partnership will be teaching a 13-week course entitled *Managing Affordable Housing. Building Maintenance*. The course will be sponsored by the Association for Neighborhood & Housing Development, Inc. (ANHD), and is slated to begin on September 15, 2000 and run every Friday for 13 consecutive weeks, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

Responsible building maintenance is essential to the ongoing provision of affordable housing and for the preservation of the existing affordable housing projects. This course will provide managers of residential buildings with the skills to manage the operation and maintenance of their building, from roof to basement. This course will also teach attendees how to work with and supervise building superintendents and maintenance staff, how to deal with tenants and tenant representatives, and how to communicate with architects, engineers and contractors.

Specific topics include: Building Rehabilitation Process; Inspections During Construction; Building Science, Audits and the Concept of Efficiency; Heating/ Theory and Practice of Heating Systems, Boiler Plants; Solid Waste, Sanitation; Refrigeration and Air Conditioning; Preventive Maintenance: Inspections, Logs and Budgeting; Plumbing and Domestic Hot Water; Electricity and Lighting; and Maintenance of the Building Envelope.

Classes will feature site visits relating to course work and the most current requirements for buildings and building personnel code compliance. Each student will be provided with a course textbook and be asked to develop a building manual for his or her specific building. Additionally the course will feature field trips to sites that are good examples of the systems being discussed. Other instructors will also be covering the most recent requirements for building and building personnel code compliance.

Classes will be held at the New York Apartment House Institute, NYC Technical College in Brooklyn, NY, where Mr. Koral is director and founder. There is a cost of \$400 for the public and \$300 for employees of ANHD member organizations. To determine your membership status or to register for the class, contact Dan Morlan at 212/463-9600.

Western Regional Coalition Performance Contracting Conference and Workshop Slated for September

Are you interested in learning more about performance contracting and having a stake in shaping its future? The **Western Regional Coalition (WRC)**, a new energy savings performance contracting coalition, is holding its quarterly meeting on September 18 and 19, 2000 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. A performance contracting workshop will be held as a follow-up on September 20, 2000.

The general WRC meeting will be held on Monday and Tuesday and is intended for members and practitioners interested in learning from and working with their peers to increase the delivery of building upgrades and energy efficiency through performance contracting. Attendees will include representatives of state energy offices, energy service companies, finance companies, building owners and equipment suppliers. There is no fee for this event and all are invited to attend.

The WRC workshop on financing energy efficiency projects and performance contracting will be held on Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The workshop is presented in coordination with Rebuild America and Rebuild New Mexico. The event is intended for public and private building owner representatives, including owners, facility managers, energy managers, finance managers and other decision-makers interested in upgrading their buildings. Representatives of state energy offices, energy service companies, finance companies and equipment suppliers are invited to lend their expertise. The fee for the event is \$25.

Both events will be held at the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque, 330 Tijeras NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87102. For more information, send an email to info@leonardoacademy.org or call Michael Army at 608/280-0255.

The WRC is a nonprofit organization of representatives of state energy offices, energy service companies, building owners, finance companies, and others who are working together to upgrade more buildings by: (1) Making energy savings performance contracting a fully available option for upgrading buildings for all building owners, and (2) Working for the continual improvement of energy savings performance contracting as a vehicle for upgrading buildings and increasing energy efficiency. Representatives from all states are invited to participate.

October Fuel Workshop to Be Hosted by the Superintendents Club of New York

High heating oil prices can be disastrous for low-income buildings, which are often struggling to stay solvent. The best promise of alleviating this concern is through efficient heating system operation and maintenance. The recent escalations in fuel costs for the New York City metropolitan area has prompted the **Superintendents Club of New York**, a Rebuild America Partnership, and the Association for Housing and Neighborhood Development, an umbrella group for affordable non-profit neighborhood housing companies in New York, to host another public workshop on fuel conservation. The last workshop was held in February and attracted more than 100 building owners, managers, maintenance personnel and contractors.

The event will be held on Tuesday, October 17 at the Madison Avenue Baptist Church, located at 31st Street in Manhattan. The "Supers Club" is a 501(c)(3) technical society of multifamily building maintenance personnel. For more information about the club, the fuel workshop or publications, visit www.nysupersclub.org

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

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 newly redesigned Rebuild America website for more news, tools, contacts and an event calendar at:

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.