



Rebuild America

Rebuilding America — one community at a time

THE BENEFITS

Rebuild America strengthens communities by:

- Improving building performance
- Reducing energy use
- Saving money
- Creating jobs
- Promoting economic growth
- Protecting the environment

The Program

Each year nearly \$100 billion is spent on the energy used to run America's commercial buildings and multifamily housing units. Rebuild America is a voluntary network of community partnerships determined to reduce this energy cost by saving energy locally. Rebuild America partnerships, joining with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), improve the energy efficiency of their communities' buildings.

Working on a local level, Rebuild America helps community organizations access innovative technologies, industry services, customized assistance, and an array of business and technical tools. The program focuses on five building sectors: private commercial, State and local governments, K-12 schools, universities and colleges, and public and assisted housing.

The Approach

Rebuild America builds awareness among community leaders about the high price communities pay for inefficient buildings—and how wasted energy dollars can be redirected to pay for building improvements and other community needs. To help communities invest in their future by investing in energy efficiency, Rebuild America provides access to technical experts, training, guidance materials, and software; local and regional resources; peer exchange networks; and public recognition.

To join Rebuild America, a community organization initiates a partnership with local or State government, utilities, building owners, civic and environmental leaders, school administrators, nonprofits, and economic development organizations. Communities then have one year to set priorities for building improvements in an Action Plan. As a group, they choose target buildings, set goals for energy savings, look for ways to finance the projects, and decide how to coordinate and mobilize their efforts. Retrofit projects often focus on municipal buildings, college campuses, public schools, main street business districts, historic landmarks, and community housing.



Rebuild America partners are transforming the historic Woodland-Olney School in Woodland, North Carolina, into low-income housing for senior citizens.





BUILDINGS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Buildings that are more energy-efficient, comfortable, and affordable . . . that's the goal of DOE's Office of Building Technology, State and Community Programs (BTS). To accelerate the development and wide application of energy efficiency measures, BTS:

- Conducts R&D on technologies and concepts for energy efficiency, working closely with the building industry and with manufacturers of materials, equipment, and appliances
- Promotes energy/money saving opportunities to both builders and buyers of homes and commercial buildings
- Works with State and local regulatory groups to improve building codes, appliance standards, and guidelines for efficient energy use
- Provides support and grants to States and communities for deployment of energy-efficient technologies and practices

The Results

By the year 2003, more than 300 communities will have committed to retrofit 2 billion square feet of floor space. These building improvements will save \$650 million in energy costs every year and reduce air pollution by 1.6 million tons of carbon dioxide annually.

Since 1995, more than 250 partnerships have joined the effort. From rural Alaska to downtown Atlanta, communities nationwide are giving older buildings a new lease on life with innovative technology. Their renovation projects are helping business people, school districts, arts and culture organizations, and public agencies save 20 to 30 percent on their energy bills. This is money that can be put to work back in the community—buying computers for schools and books for libraries, revitalizing America's downtowns, and protecting the environment.

For example, Building Owners and Managers of Atlanta, Inc. (BOMA) has targeted 30 million square feet of commercial office and retail space for renovation. The Portland Energy Office has completed retrofits on 35.8 million

square feet, exceeding its target goals and using only 30 percent of the expected budget. Rebuild Idaho has audited 1 million square feet in the Idaho Falls School District and saved one school \$8,500 in 10 days during a vacation shutdown demonstration. Rebuild Webster City, Iowa, has retrofitted 20 buildings, including several schools, municipal buildings, churches, and private businesses by leveraging a small amount of Federal funding (less than \$50,000) into nearly \$5 million in energy efficiency improvements.

Partnerships are at work in 48 States, three U.S. territories, and several Native American tribes. Some partnerships have leveraged as much as \$25 million in private investment for their projects. They have also partnered with national financial institutions and Federal empowerment/enterprise zones, used municipal bond issues and revolving loan programs, and tapped commercial industry to fund projects. By 2003, Rebuild America communities will have generated \$3 billion in private community investment and created 26,000 new



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT REBUILD AMERICA, CONTACT:

Rebuild America Program • U.S. Department of Energy, EE-41
1000 Independence Avenue, SW • Washington, DC 20585-0121 • (202) 586-9445

Visit the Rebuild America Web site at: www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/rebuild
Or call the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Clearinghouse at: 1-800-DOE-3732

Printed with a renewable-source ink on paper containing at least 50% wastepaper, including 20% postconsumer waste.

Revised April 2000 DOE/GO-10099-701