

Rebuild America Project: CERTs and Schools as Energy Conservation Partners.

The CERT Rebuild Project is made possible with a grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce, funded by the Department of Energy. THE CERTS Rebuild project will provide energy efficiency and conservation training for CERT members, representatives from schools and local government partners.

CERT Rebuild Project Objectives

- To provide resources and technical support to CERT groups in meeting their goals of energy efficiency and conservation projects in schools.
- To assist K-12 schools, colleges and universities, cities, counties, other local governments to effectively utilize utility Conservation Improvement Program programs and rebates.
- To assist cooperative and municipal utilities in designing CIP programs that will help CERT regions achieve their goals.
- To Assist K-12 schools in reducing energy use through energy efficiency and low cost, or no cost conservation measures.
- To magnify effectiveness of DOC government building benchmarking and conservation initiatives by encouraging participation and effective use of benchmarking information.



Rebuild America is a program within the DOE's office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. It is a "growing network of community-driven voluntary partnerships that foster energy efficiency and renewable energy in commercial, government and public-housing buildings" (www.rebuild.gov). The program seeks to expand the knowledge of energy efficient technologies and best practices in both the private and public sectors and create networks between these sectors and local governments.



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helping Minnesota communities
determine their energy future

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CERTs Partners: Minnesota Department of Commerce, The Minnesota Project, University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, The Rural Minnesota Energy Board, Metropolitan Counties Energy Task Force, Resource Conservation and Development Councils

CERT Rebuild Workplan

1. Minnesota Project staff will compile a toolbox of resources on energy conservation in buildings as well as K-12 curriculum materials on the subject. They will also develop information on utility resources and other funding mechanisms that will allow schools to implement energy conservation objectives.
2. At CERT meetings, staff will present the toolbox, best options for schools, and available utility resources for schools. The toolbox contents will also be featured in the CERTs newsletter, web page, and fact sheets.
3. With the help of the Department of Commerce, CERTs will conduct outreach in order to get K-12, higher education and other partners to turn in their benchmarking data and attend a workshop in their region.
4. Minnesota Project staff will organize workshops to bring together CERT representatives and K-12, higher education and other partners to identify no-cost, low-cost, and long-term energy efficiency project opportunities, available techno-

logical support, and funding options. One workshop will be held in each CERT region over a two-year period. Workshop dates will be set based on the interest and readiness of each CERT.

5. After each workshop, CERT members will continue to follow up with local school officials, ensure they have the right resources, and continue to move toward project implementation; possibly adding renewable projects, doing deeper energy efficiency or adding new curriculum.

6. The Minnesota Project will add new materials and resources from Rebuild America and other sources to the toolbox as they become available to the CERTs for distribution within each of their regions.

7. The Department of Commerce Energy Bike and the Energy Hog costume will be made available to participants in the CERTs Rebuild Project.

Examples of What Could be Included in the Toolbox

- Rebuild America Publications, such as *Benchmarking Your Building for Greater Success, School Operations and Maintenance, and Understanding your Utility Bill.*
- Curriculum materials that can be adapted to teachers' individual needs.
- Links to fun websites that teach kids about energy efficiency, such as www.energy-hog.org or www.wattsnew.org.
- CERTs case studies highlighting successful projects.
- Information on how to obtain the Department of Commerce Energy Hog costume or Energy bike for use in the classroom or educational event.
- Instructions on using a building's benchmarking data.

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