



Community Energy Efficiency Partnerships

Efficiency is the Bottom Line

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A No-Brainer?

– Energy savings go straight to the bottom line but many businesses don't pursue them.

- ☒ No time
- ☒ No energy manager
- ☒ Not enough technical or cost knowledge
- ☒ Don't know how to find help





A Wealth of Utility efficiency programs

- Massachusetts utilities offer an array of programs for business of all sizes
 - Technical assistance to assess needs
 - Incentives for efficient equipment
- Utilities reach out to customers through bill inserts, business associations, public events



But many not easily reached

- Many business owners think of their energy bills as simply costs, not something to be managed.
- The person who pays the bills and gets program announcements often is just the bill payer. Information doesn't get to the decision maker.



The Rebuild America Model

- Rebuild America/Rebuild Massachusetts is an initiative that develops community energy partnerships (700+ nationally).
- Partnerships are locally formed and based. They identify local energy and water efficiency needs and devise strategies and actions for improvement.



Current Mass Partnerships

- Barnstable
- Boston (Boston Housing Authority)
- Newton
- Worcester schools
- Mass. Department of Housing & Community Development (performance contracting in public housing)



Current Partnership Focus

- Current partnerships focus on municipal facilities and development of performance contracting mechanisms to finance improvements without adding tax/borrowing burdens:
 - Schools,
 - Public buildings
 - Public housing



Community Development Model

- In Boston the Dept. of Neighborhood Development combined Main Streets efforts, with state-funded infrastructure/storefront improvements and marketing of local gas and electric utility small business programs by city of Boston project managers.



Community Development Results

- Result: More than 200 energy efficiency projects with local small businesses, with costs of \$5,000 - \$30,000 and energy savings of 10 – 25%
- These projects concentrated on lighting but some included heating and air conditioning.



What makes Partnerships Succeed?

- A local government or community group that serves as a partnership home
 - Municipal government
 - Private Industry Councils
 - Other community-based organizations
- An energy efficiency champion who mobilizes organizations and individuals and persists.
- Technical and financial resources
 - Utility energy efficiency programs
 - Community development initiatives (Main Streets, infrastructure improvement programs, tax incentives)



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