Energy Design Guidelines for High Performance Schools

Contributed by the editors of *AIArchitect* and AIA Knowledge Resources Staff

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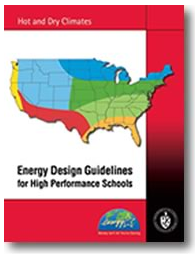
SUMMARY

The U.S. Department of Energy's Rebuild America program published *Energy Design Guidelines for High Performance Schools: Hot and Dry Climates* to provide designers with checklists to promote energy-saving design practices.

GUIDELINES FOR ENERGY SAVINGS IN SCHOOLS



Energy Design Guidelines for High Performance Schools: Hot and Dry Climates, a publication of the U.S. Department of Energy's Rebuild America program, is an excellent design tool that includes time-saving design checklists for site design, daylight and windows, energy-efficient building shells, lighting and electrical systems, recycling systems and waste management, mechanical and ventilation systems, renewable energy systems, water conservation, transportation, and resource-efficient building materials. Each item on the checklists is correlated to these six performance criteria:

- Reducing operating costs
- Designing buildings that teach
- Improving academic performance
- Protecting our environment
- Designing for health, safety, and comfort
- Supporting community values

REBUILD AMERICA

The U.S. Department of Energy's Rebuild America program developed these guidelines from two years of discussions about energy-saving processes with architects, school administrators, teachers, developers, and others with a stake in school design. Seven volumes are now available, covering all climate types in the country:

- Hot and Dry Climates
- Temperate and Humid Climates
- Cool and Dry Climates
- Hot and Humid Climates
- Cool and Humid Climates
- Temperate and Mixed Climates
- Cold and Humid Climates

Each volume addresses all of the checklist topics in detail and provides an overall discussion of "whole building design." Complete with case studies and excellent photographs, the *Guidelines* are available from the Web site http://www.rebuild.gov

RESOURCES

More Best Practices

The following AIA Best Practices provide additional information related to this topic

16.02.03	Basic, No-Cost Green Building Practices
16.02.03	Green Practice Advice
16.02.07	Going Green: Where to Find Green Product Info

For More Information on This Topic

See also “Selecting Environmentally Preferable Products” by Nadav Malin, LEED AP, in *The Architect’s Handbook of Professional Practice* 2005 Update. The *Handbook* Update can be ordered from the AIA Bookstore by calling 800-242-3837 (option 4) or by sending an e-mail to bookstore@aia.org.

Feedback

The AIA welcomes member feedback on Best Practice articles. To provide feedback on this article, please contact bestpractices@aia.org.

Key Terms

- Design
- Use Design
- Healthcare facilities
- Sustainability