

Rebuilding West Liberty, Kentucky: *A Clinton Global Initiative America Commitment to Action*

In March 2012, a small community nestled in the foothills of the Appalachians was nearly destroyed by a monstrous tornado. Seven lives were lost, 400 homes demolished, \$50 million of damage incurred, and most of the downtown devastated.

Rather than view this crisis as a hopeless tragedy, the 3400 residents of West Liberty, Kentucky, instead saw an opportunity to rebuild their town as a 21st Century, sustainable community, and to develop a path to create a more competitive, entrepreneurial economy. From the heart of coal country, West Liberty could provide a replicable, energy-diversified model for post-disaster recovery communities across the globe, and – perhaps more significantly – an example for other distressed areas of rural America.



Rebuilding West Liberty, Kentucky, a CGI America Commitment to Action, is a multi-faceted approach to redevelop this small town in coal country as a national model for sustainability -- through the construction of state-of-the-art, energy efficient homes that utilize renewable technologies, and through the educational promotion of its innovations to school children and similarly-situated rural communities across the country.



Constructing New Homes

The first phase of this project is a \$7.9 million plan to construct 52 new Energy Star certified housing units that will serve hundreds of community residents who have been displaced by the storm. With a 48 unit multi-family, energy-efficient development already funded and under construction, the focus is now on four single-family homes that will provide a test case for innovative new designs and technologies to be utilized as the project expands. These site-built homes will include solar and geothermal systems that will *eliminate all utility costs* for these homeowners and provide a replicable model for an energy-efficient future.

Educating the Public on Energy Efficiency

Excitingly, the project also includes the installation of a web-enabled Energy Efficiency Education Dashboard that will provide a global audience real-time monitoring of the energy improvements, video tours of the facilities, and a curriculum for public schools in Kentucky, and perhaps the United States.

Commitment Partners

This project is a collaboration among city leaders, leading Kentucky non-profits including the Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises (FAHE), Next Step and Frontier Housing, as well as the University of Kentucky and Morehead State University.

Funding

This project will leverage \$6.8 million from state and federal tax credits and private investments already committed. To fully succeed, we are seeking \$500,000 from generous private investors and partners. By making a contribution to FAHE, a 501(c)(3) organization, donations will be tax-deductible.

Please consider joining us as a project partner in this historic effort – an opportunity to provide a replicable model for post-disaster recovery, as well as to help transform a region of our country struggling in the new economy, into a 21st century global example for sustainability.

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