

Welcome to the inaugural U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy's quarterly newsletter for Alaska Native villages and others who are partnering with us to explore and pursue sustainable solutions to rural Alaska's energy crisis. We will highlight examples of projects in action, local Energy Champions, and ways you can become engaged and access funding and technical assistance. Your feedback is welcomed and encouraged!

Energy Ambassadors Prepping for Deployment

DOE's Office of Indian Energy is prepping "Energy Ambassadors" to provide Alaska Native villages with frontline technical assistance to help address energy challenges. Part of a focused approach to advancing clean energy solutions in rural Alaska, the program will develop a "go-to" group of Alaskans who are trained in the basics of energy planning and stakeholder development—and qualified to train others.

So far, there have been two in-person trainings and a webinar designed to equip the Ambassadors with tools and guidance for helping Native villages complete the tasks outlined in the *Alaska Strategic Energy Planning Handbook*: www.energy.gov/indianenergy/downloads/alaska-strategic-energy-plan-and-planning-handbook. Learn more at www.energy.gov/indianenergy/articles/energy-ambassadors-provide-front-line-support-alaska-native-villages.



More than 20 representatives of state and regional organizations participated in the first Ambassadors training in Anchorage. Photo by Jared Temanson, NREL 32758.

COMING SOON!

ALASKA START SELECTIONS

Alaska Native communities looking to kick-start their clean energy projects had a third opportunity to apply for technical assistance through the DOE Office of Indian Energy's Alaska Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) Program. Learn more at www.energy.gov/indianenergy/resources/start-program/alaska-start. This latest round of technical assistance will focus on helping rural Alaska Native communities develop energy plans to help mitigate climate change, conduct energy awareness and training programs, and pursue new renewable energy and energy efficiency opportunities. Applications were due Feb. 6, 2015, and selections will be announced in March or April.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 16-19

Tanana Chiefs Annual Conference
www.tananachiefs.org/events/tribal-member-events/tcc-annual-convention/
Fairbanks, AK

2015 Alaska Native Village Energy Project Development Workshops

The DOE Office of Indian Energy is offering a series of regional interactive workshops that will provide Alaska Native leaders and their staffs with the information needed to navigate the complexities of developing and implementing energy projects. Workshops are free of charge, but registration is requested by emailing tribalworkshops@nrel.gov.

MARCH 23-25, 2015

University of Alaska Fairbanks
College of Rural and
Community Development
Kuskokwim Campus Cultural Center
Bethel, AK

MARCH 26-27, 2015

University of Alaska Bristol Bay Campus
Room 128/130
Dillingham, AK

MARCH 30-APR. 1, 2015

University of Alaska Southeast
Juneau Campus Recreation Center
Juneau, AK

APRIL 28-29

Alaska Native Village Corporations
CEO Meetings
Dena'ina Center
Anchorage, AK

JUNE 1-4

Alaska Rural Providers' Conference
Nome, AK

RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

NEW ONLINE TOOL EASES ACCESS TO FEDERAL FUNDING AND ASSISTANCE FOR ALASKA NATIVES

A new online tool launched in December provides a one-stop shop for Alaska Native villages and corporations seeking information about federal grant, loan, and technical assistance programs they can tap into to support their energy project development efforts. Check out the online tool at www.energy.gov/indianenergy/fedprograms.

TRIBAL CLIMATE CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Through their work on the President's State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness, Mayor Reggie Joule (Northwest Arctic Borough, AK) and Chairwoman Karen Diver (Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, MN) gathered input from hundreds of tribal leaders to answer a pressing question: How can the federal government better support tribal communities in preparing for and responding to the impacts of climate change? The input formed the basis of a supplemental set of tribal recommendations that were released during the White House Tribal Nations Conference in December and are available online at www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/climate_change_task_force_tribal_recommendations_0.pdf.



Galena, Alaska, where more than 200 homes were destroyed when the Yukon River flooded in 2013. Photo by Eliza Hotchkiss, NREL 32759



Pilgrim Hot Springs, Alaska. Photo from the Alaska Center for Energy and Power, NREL 32760

ACEP AND DOE EXPLORE GEOTHERMAL POTENTIAL AT PILGRIM HOT SPRINGS

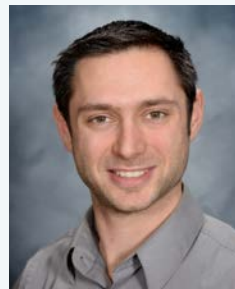
At Pilgrim Hot Springs, 50 miles northeast of Nome, the Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP) has found a sufficient geothermal resource from exploration drilling to tap geothermal energy for many uses, including on-site power generation. Experts consider the resource at Pilgrim to be the largest identified geothermal resource on the Seward Peninsula. Developments there could also potentially allow the Native community to develop the geothermal resource in order to relocate at Pilgrim. To conduct this exploration work, ACEP partnered with the DOE's Geothermal Technologies Office. Read more in the blog at www.energy.gov/eere/articles/pilgrims-progress-update-geothermal-potential-alaska.

AK ENERGY IN ACTION

AKIAK REAPS BENEFITS OF PCE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Akiak Power Utilities, owned by the rural city of Akiak, was facing challenges in properly completing the required reporting forms for Alaska's Power Cost Equalization (PCE) Program. The PCE is vital to rural areas, equalizing power rates across the state by balancing the costs of urban energy infrastructure projects with the diesel expenses of isolated micro-grid utilities. Maximizing the PCE rate can save residential and community facility customers 50% or more on their utility bills and provide utilities with much-needed funds. After applying for technical assistance (www.energy.gov/indianenergy/resources/technical-assistance) through the DOE Office of Indian Energy, the Akiak IRA Council got a hand from Marsh Creek, an Alaska Native Disadvantaged Business Enterprise company jointly owned by Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation and SolstenXP. As a result, the utility was able to comply with PCE requirements and improve service to customers. Read more in the blog at www.energy.gov/indianenergy/articles/alaska-energy-action-akiak-reaps-benefits-pce-technical-assistance.

AK ENERGY CHAMPIONS



DAVID PELUNIS-MESSIER

David Pelunis-Messier knows what it takes to make consequential energy efficiency changes in Alaska. The rural energy coordinator for the nonprofit Tanana Chiefs Conference, who is also an Alaska Energy Ambassador, worked closely with the Minto Council to apply for START assistance to upgrade the Lakeview Lodge in the Alaska Native village northwest of Fairbanks. "They had a very inefficient building," he recalls. Now that has changed. In summer 2014, weatherization began on the lodge's exterior as well as on its insulation, air sealing, doors, and windows. By coordinating with leaders and governmental agencies, David says Minto received the support it needed to retrofit its lodge—and an opportunity to concentrate on people's needs instead of inflated heating bills. Read our interview with David at www.energy.gov/indianenergy/articles/alaska-energy-champion-david-pelunis-messier.