

Welcome to the 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. Read on and learn about projects in action, local Energy Ambassadors, and ways you can become engaged and access funding and technical assistance. Your feedback is welcomed and encouraged!

DOE Poised to Build on the Momentum Created by Tribal Energy Wins in Alaska

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy is proud to sponsor the 2016 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention Oct. 20–22 in Fairbanks. In keeping with the event's 50th Anniversary theme, it's an opportune time to reflect on past accomplishments, refresh our strategy, and renew our commitment to improving quality of life for Alaska Natives.

The Office of Indian Energy kicked off the Alaska Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) Program in 2012 and has been providing technical assistance in Alaska since 2013. Through those two programs we have:

- Addressed energy challenges in 16 villages through Alaska START
- Fulfilled 77 requests for technical assistance from 57 Native villages and two regional corporations
- Saved Alaska communities more than \$600,000 in energy costs through Power Cost Equalization support.

"All of this work was aimed at maximizing the returns on DOE's long-term investment of \$11 million in 37 Alaska tribal energy projects between 2002 and 2014," said Office of Indian Energy Alaska Program Manager Givey Kochanowski. "The ongoing successes have created a ton of momentum around energy in Alaska, and this past year we've stepped up our game in an effort to keep the ball rolling."



In September, members of the Office of Indian Energy team traveled to the Ahtna Region to provide technical assistance requested by Gulkana Village. Photo by Karen Petersen, NREL 40426



Office of Indian Energy Director Chris Deschene and Chief Operating Officer Michael L. Rodrigue at a 2015 groundbreaking in Buckland—one of three Alaska Native villages that will benefit from a \$1 million DOE grant for solar PV installations. Photo by Givey Kochanowski, NREL 40422

SOWING SUCCESS:

DOE'S 2016 INVESTMENTS IN ALASKA CLEAN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

- **4** of the **14** tribal clean energy and energy efficiency deployment projects funded through the Office of Indian Energy are in Alaska. With a DOE investment of nearly **\$3 million**, these **4** projects valued at more than **\$9 million** will benefit **10** Native villages.
- **13** Alaskan communities were selected to receive technical assistance as part of the Remote Alaska Communities Energy Efficiency (RACEE) Competition. Those communities were also eligible to apply for and receive funding from DOE to execute on their plans to realize their energy pledge reductions. Announcement expected soon.
- In September, the Office of Indian Energy awarded **7** Alaska inter-tribal organizations and regional corporations nearly **\$6 million**. The funding is aimed at expanding DOE's technical assistance network in Alaska by building regional capacity.

ALASKA ENERGY IN ACTION

START ROUND 3 UPDATE: HOONAH

Located on the northernmost island in southeast Alaska's Alexander Archipelago, Hoonah is one of five Native villages selected in 2015 to receive technical assistance through the Alaska START Program.

As part of that support, the Office of Indian Energy, along with Indigenous Collaborations and DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and Sandia National Laboratories, led a strategic energy planning workshop in Hoonah in May. "We were impressed with

how the workshop helped us prioritize our energy goals and establish a strategy for achieving them," said Tribal Administrator Bob Starbard. The top priority was a wood-fired district heating system for community facilities. To help Hoonah secure funding for the project, NREL is collaborating with the Sustainable Southeast Partnership, the U.S. Forest Service, Alaska Energy Authority, and others on a feasibility study.

Find out what's happening in the other Native villages selected for technical assistance in Round 3 of Alaska START at www.energy.gov/indianenergy/articles/alaska-energy-action-start-round-3-update.



Scoping out the future site of a Cultural Heritage Center and greenhouse that would be fueled by the district heating project in Hoonah. Photo by Jared Temanson, NREL 40423

RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

COMING SOON! FUNDING FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS

The Office of Indian Energy will be soliciting applications from eligible Indian tribes, including Alaska Native villages, Alaska Native regional corporations, village corporations, and tribal energy resource development organizations, for grant money to retrofit tribal buildings with energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and deploy community-scale clean energy systems. Watch our website for additional details.

NEW! CLIMATE ACTION RESOURCES PAGE

A new Office of Indian Energy Web page provides tribes with ready access to climate information and resources—including tribal climate action and leadership updates; climate mitigation and adaptation technical assistance, workshops, grants, webinars, and training; and climate-related reports, websites, and tools—in a centralized location at www.energy.gov/indianenergy/tribal-climate-action-resources.

DOE HYDROPOWER FORUM EXPLORES POTENTIAL FOR TRIBAL PROJECTS IN ALASKA

The Office of Indian Energy hosted the first-ever DOE Tribal Hydropower Forum in Anchorage on Sept. 21, 2016. The event kicked off with an Alaska-focused overview of an Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) resource assessment that identified new hydropower potential from undeveloped U.S. stream reaches, including those in Alaska. Panel discussions explored the latest research and technology innovations in the small hydropower space, the various types of hydropower and their potential applications in remote Alaska, and what is working in Alaska today. Read a blog highlighting what ORNL's New Stream-reach Development study revealed about the total hydropower project potential in Alaska: www.energy.gov/indianenergy/articles/doe-hydropower-forum-explores-potential-tribal-projects-alaska.



Gulkana Village in the Ahtna Region is receiving communications technical assistance from the Office of Indian Energy for marketing its biomass wood pellet business. Photo by Karen Petersen, NREL 40425

BUILDING BRIDGES

ALASKA RECEIVES INTER-TRIBAL PROVIDERS NETWORK FUNDING

As part of a pilot aimed at bolstering regional capacity to implement strategic tribal energy solutions, DOE announced \$7 million in funding in July for eight organizations to provide regional technical assistance to their member Indian tribes. Of those selected for award, seven were from Alaska:

- Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- Calista Corporation
- Kawerak, Inc.
- NANA Regional Corporation
- Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference
- Tanana Chiefs Conference.

“The purpose of this funding is to expand the Office of Indian Energy’s technical assistance network, and the inter-tribal organizations and regional corporations in Alaska already have a framework in place for that,” explained Kochanowski. “They all have a strong track record of collaborating with regional, state, and national partners. Because of their existing partnerships and specific measureable goals for their regions, their applications were highly competitive.”

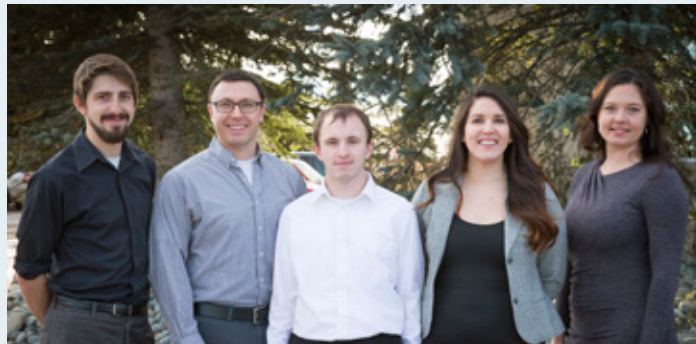
AK ENERGY CHAMPIONS

THE ANTHC TEAM

In 2011, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) launched the Rural Energy Initiative—a program focused on reducing operational costs of rural sanitation systems and other public infrastructure through energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions. Since then, the ANTHC team has completed energy projects in more than 70 rural Alaskan communities, saving them an estimated \$2.85 million annually.

Noting that sanitation systems and community facilities are often the biggest energy users in Alaska’s remote communities, Rural Energy Initiative Program Manager Eric Hanssen said his team is driven by the belief that basic sanitation should be efficient, sustainable, and affordable. “It is our aim to assist every tribal/rural community in achieving this goal,” he said.

Learn more about what ANTHC is doing to make that goal a reality at www.energy.gov/indianenergy/articles/alaska-energy-champion-anthc-team.



The ANTHC team includes (left to right) Gavin Dixon, Eric Hanssen, Kevin Ulrich, Sharnel Vale, Tashina Duttie, and [not pictured] Bailey Gambell. Photo from Eric Hanssen, ANTHC, NREL40424



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