Robert Venables
Community and Regional Energy Planning
Getting to Implementation in the North
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Alaska Energy Authority: Mission

“To Reduce the Cost of Energy in Alaska”

- AEA is an independent and public corporation of the State of Alaska
- Created by the Alaska Legislature in 1976
- 44.83.070: “The purpose of the Authority is to promote, develop, and advance the general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of the state by providing a means of financing and operating power projects and facilities that recover and use waste energy and by carrying out the powers and duties assigned to it under AS 42.45.”
Focusing on Communities

• Emphasizing community-based approach to projects

• Technical assistance, regional planning and project management

• Provide synergy between planning, projects and funding sources

• Assist communities to move to project-ready status

• Break down internal silos
Southeast Conference


- The Conference mission is to help develop strong economies, healthy communities and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska.

- Our vision for Southeast Alaska is to reduce, to the maximum extent possible, the use of diesel as a primary fuel source for the generation of electricity, space heat and potentially transportation.
Alaska’s Energy Plans

**Completed plans**
- Living documents
- Railbelt and Southeast Integrated Resource Plans

**Ongoing plans:**
- AEA-funded, most often working with ARDORs
- Kodiak, Northwest Arctic, Aleut, Bering Straits, Bristol Bay, Copper Valley, Yukon-Koyukuk/Upper Tanana, Chugach

**AEA Advisory Role:**
- Lower Yukon-Kuskokwim
- North Slope
Regional Energy Planning

• Energy Pathways led to regional planning
• Address unique challenges while capitalizing on regional resources
• Locally driven and community-vetted blueprint for sustainability
• Provide specific, actionable recommendations
• Identify means of providing stable and affordable electric, heat and transportation energy from renewable and fossil fuels
• Build capacity at local and regional level to enable stakeholders to continue planning process
Regional Planning Process

- Provide consistent format for planning efforts
- Community-driven process with AEA project management and policy oversight
- Regional priorities not reliant on state funding
- Phased process:
  - Phase I: Information gathering and working draft development
  - Phase II: Stakeholder engagement and feedback
  - Phase III: Technical and economic analysis
Regional Energy Planning Goal

- Planning Results will be:
  - Planning document with accurate, up-to-date information about the current energy picture in each region and the energy resources available
  - Regional priorities (both projects and strategies) developed through a rigorous process of engagement with regional and community stakeholders
  - Analysis of technical and economic feasibility of different types of projects in communities and regions using standard methodology statewide
  - Ongoing process at the regional level to implement priorities and continually update plan as conditions change
Success Story: Thorne Bay Biomass

- School biomass boiler
  - Feasibility funded through Alaska Wood Energy Development Task Group
  - Design & construction funded by REF
- Displaces 9,000 gal. diesel/year
- Parents and students raise money for activities by splitting and stacking wood
- Heats greenhouse; students grow vegetables; served in school lunch; extra sold locally
- Part of curriculum, economic development, local health, local jobs, local energy
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