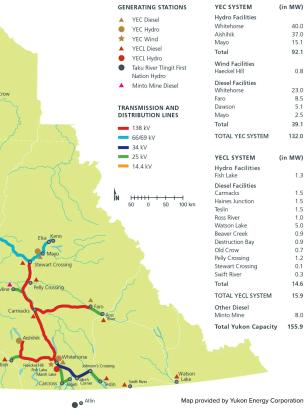


Yukon's Transmission and Generation Facilities



**Robert Venables** Community and Regional Energy Planning Getting to Implementation in the North May 20, 2015



# 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 projectready status
- Break down internal silos



### **Southeast Conference**

- Southeast Conference is the "Alaska Regional Development Organization" (ARDOR), "Federal Economic Development District" (EDD) and USDA "Resource Conservation and Development" (RC&D) Council for the region.
- 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



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# **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





Thorne Bay Biomass and Greenhouse Photos courtesy of Dan Bihn

### 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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