

# Alaska School Districts – Converting Energy into Educational Dollars!

Art Nash, University of Alaska Cooperative Extension

State Energy Specialist

[alnashjr@alaska.edu](mailto:alnashjr@alaska.edu)

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# So, why are some educators involved?

“This is why we’re involved in the wood business right now, because we have to do something to maintain the quality of education,”

[Scott MacManus, executive director for the Alaska Gateway School District [Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, 4/28/11 - Interior villages making plans to increase biomass use](#)]

# Various players in education react

- Superintendents- 'I'm not a power plant manager, I'm suppose to keep teachers staffed and trained'
- School Board Members- 'I heard of a district that is saving so much money by producing its own power by X technology that we should try X'
- Parents- 'What are those social engineering educrats doing down there!? I thought they were supposed to spend our tax money on teaching the 3 R's!! (and win regionals in football/basketball/hockey....)
- Teachers- ' Who allowed that smoke/sound and how is it going to hurt me in my work environment?'

# Calling all districts.....

- Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) doesn't require fuel expenses to be reported by districts- only an overall category that includes utilities, heating, and transportation energy
- School accounting billers often don't have electronic tickets from fuel vendors, and the vendors have spindled paper
- Inquiries to the superintendent can go to maintenance, facilities or the janitor- you never know.....

# AK projects by school district

Community	School District/Applicant	Renewable Energy Type	Project Status
Adelutian Islands	Adelutian Region School District	Efficiency	Completed
Anchor	Anchor Regional School District	Geothermal	Geothermal system operational with new school building at general site; old
Ardenwood	Ardenwood School District	Geothermal	Geothermal system operational
Barrow	Barrow School District	Geothermal	Operational
Craig	Craig City School District/City	Biomass	Operational
Denali	Denali Regional School District	Geothermal	Operational
Denali	Denali Regional School District	Geothermal	Feasibility
Denali	Denali Regional School District	Geothermal	Geothermal system installed, solar panels installed, not in use
Denali	Denali Regional School District	Geothermal	Operational
Denali	Denali Regional School District	Geothermal	Installed
Denali	Denali Regional School District	Geothermal	Installed
Denali	Denali School District	Efficiency	Completed
Denali	Denali School District	Geothermal	Installed
Kake	Kake School District	Biomass - Pellet	Applied for AEA REF construction funding but chose not to; conservation done
Central	Central Regional School District	Geothermal	Applied for design and construction in 2012
Klawock	Klawock City School District	Biomass	Applied for AEA REF construction funding yet did not receive; conservation done
Kodiak	Kodiak School District	Geothermal, Solar	USOG system operational
Kodiak	Kodiak School District	Geothermal	Applied for federal loan
Kenai	Kenai Peninsula School District	Geothermal	Geothermal system installed
Ketchikan	Ketchikan City School District	Geothermal	Operational
Ketchikan	Ketchikan City School District	Geothermal	Feasibility
Kenai	Kenai Peninsula School District	Geothermal	Operational
Kodiak	Kodiak School District	Geothermal	USOG system operational
Kenai	Kenai Peninsula School District	Geothermal	Feasibility
Kenai	Kenai Peninsula School District	Geothermal	Applied for AEA REF construction funding, conservation done
Kenai	Kenai Peninsula School District/City	Geothermal	Operational (new school)
Kenai	Kenai Peninsula School District	Geothermal	Operational
Kenai	Kenai Peninsula School District	Geothermal	Applied

# When rural, keep in mind....

- Bush seasoned superintendent is very helpful for the slow plod
- Build the social capital, and have the right human capital at the right time brings it together
- Not all scale electrical utilities are required to buy surplus output
- Sharing the knowledge with other interested districts helps with publicity and sharing large item capital equipment helps the cause
- With city school district, improvements from municipal building can be easily leveraged to school district buildings



# Overall lessons:

- Have a community champion in the school who can work across the community
- Keep your old oil systems installed as back up
- Educate the different players with ‘ #FTE’s saved’
- Emphasize community benefits such as new jobs, kids saving for college, fire danger reduction, etc...