



ALASKA RENEWABLE ENERGY LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE



Report to the Legislature

February 28, 2009

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Dear Members of the Legislature:

House Bill 152 established a renewable energy grant fund, a renewable energy grant program, a state heating assistance program, and the Alaska Renewable Energy Task Force.

The seven member Task Force is comprised of three members from the Senate, three members from the House and one appointee from the Governor's office. The Task Force is bipartisan, bicameral, and its members represent a broad cross-section of communities throughout Alaska,

The Task Force's primary purpose is to assess the potential of renewable energy resources in Alaska and make recommendations for a statewide energy plan.

The Task Force recommends that prior to implementation of a statewide energy plan Alaska should contemplate and adopt a comprehensive Alaska Energy Policy. To that end, the Task Force informally, through its committee members, recommended to the Senate and the House the establishment in both bodies of a "Special Committee on Energy". That recommendation was adopted at the beginning of the 26th Legislature.

The Task Force recommends the Legislature hire a consultant to facilitate the development of an Alaska Energy Policy.

The Task Force finds that Alaskans should have access to an adequate, reliable, reasonably priced, and safe supply of energy.

- Energy is necessary for Alaska's basic infrastructure, and economic and technological development.
- Alaska is rich in vast amounts of renewable energy resources in the form of wind, solar, geothermal, hydrothermal, wave, tidal, biomass, river in-stream, and hydropower.

The Task Force recommends the Administration complete an inventory of all agencies in Alaska that are investing, researching and working on energy issues.

- This inventory should include, but is not limited to, nonprofit organizations, Regional and Village Corporations, our University, government agencies and individual projects exploring conservation, weatherization, renewable and alternative energy projects and projects that seek to reduce carbon emissions.

The Alaska Renewable Energy Task Force appreciates the depth of understanding and investment necessary to complete the above recommendations.

The Task Force is reviewing its role and working with the "Special Committees on Energy" in our respective bodies', to plan a course of action to shape an Alaska Energy Policy and implement and invest in an Alaska Energy Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

The Alaska Renewable Energy Legislative Task Force

Alaskans live in a state with abundant renewable resources but are challenged by long distances and small markets. We believe that an Alaskan Energy Plan should include short-term (1-3 years), intermediate (5-10 years) and long-term (10 years plus) goals. In advancing an Alaska Energy Plan drafters should consider conservation, weatherization, carbon reduction while balancing the monetization of Alaska's nonrenewable resources. Alaska should coordinate its efforts with its remote, rural, suburban and urban communities, other government agencies (regional, tribal, borough, municipal and cities), Alaska nonprofits and private sector business to reach solutions that benefit individual communities throughout Alaska.

September 9, 2008

Task Force members met via teleconference and selected our leadership and set our next meeting date.

September 16, 2008

The Chair participated in a group discussion at the "2008 Alaska Rural Energy Conference" in Girdwood regarding the Task Force and its proposed role in providing energy to Alaskan's.

October 21, 2008

Task Force members met at the Anchorage LIO, Steve Haagenson provided a project overview of Alaska's Energy Plan that is currently being formulated by the Administration. The Administration has hired the University of Alaska Anchorage's Institute of Social & Economic Research (ISER) to develop a matrix to calculate energy usage in rural Alaska (heating oil).

November 10, 2008

Task Force members met at the Anchorage LIO. Steve Colt and Nick Szymoniak from ISER presented the framework, their methods and measures used as the basis for the "Alaska Energy Plan" presentation given by Steven Haagenson, Alaska's State Energy Coordinator, at the October 21, 2008 meeting.

December 8, 2008

Task Force members flew to Fairbanks to tour the Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC), visited the proposed "Certified Alaska Tough" program and the "Sustainable Northern Shelter Project". In addition we received an overview from Gwen Holdmann and Dennis Witmer at the Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP). The Task Force then toured the geothermal project at Chena Hot Springs and participated in a presentation on the use of geothermal and other alternative energy resources available in Alaska. We also previewed a project known as the "Chena Chiller" or "PureCycle ® Solution".

The Task Force supports the Special Committees on Energy and their efforts to analyze available data and working models on energy issues nationally and internationally. The Task Force supports the Special Committees' efforts to reach out and visit communities throughout Alaska to provide a better understanding of those individual communities' opportunities and challenges.

Below is a link to the Guide developed by the Alaska Energy Authority which we all hope is a first step towards Alaska's energy independence

[A Guide for Alaskan Communities to Utilize Local Energy Resources](http://akenergyauthority.org/PDF%20files/AK%20Energy%20Final.pdf)
<http://akenergyauthority.org/PDF%20files/AK%20Energy%20Final.pdf>

Projects of interest to the Task Force for your consideration

ALASKA CENTER FOR ENERGY AND POWER (ACEP)

“The Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP) based at the University of Alaska is dedicated to applied energy research and testing focused on lowering the cost of energy throughout Alaska and developing economic opportunities for the State, its residents, and its industries.”



“The Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP) seeks to meet state, industry, and federal demand for applied energy research in order to lower the cost of energy throughout Alaska and develop economic opportunities for the State, its residents, and its industries”

**10kW VRB battery system
currently undergoing testing at
the University of Alaska**



ACEP
Alaska Center for Energy and Power

[Alaska Center for Energy and Power, 10kW VRB battery system information at UA](http://www.uaf.edu/acep/projects/Energy-Storage-Devices-Flow-Battery-Testing.pdf)
<http://www.uaf.edu/acep/projects/Energy-Storage-Devices-Flow-Battery-Testing.pdf>

COLD CLIMATE HOUSING RESEARCH CENTER (CCHRC)

Located in Fairbanks Alaska on the UAF Campus, “The Research and Testing Facility (RTF) is a living laboratory with nearly 1,000 sensors incorporated into the building. We address real-world building problems by testing built-in components under real environmental conditions as well as in controlled laboratory situations.”

Sustainable Northern Shelter Project

“The Sustainable Northern Shelter Project was developed to address rural community needs for homes that will stand up to the challenges of a northern climate. The goal of the project is to work with the community of Anaktuvuk Pass to develop a housing design that will benefit their community. The project will begin spring of 2008 and develop over the next two to three years, possibly continuing in other regions.”



Photo: Seth Kantner collection



**COLD CLIMATE HOUSING RESEARCH CENTER
CCHRC**

**Sod House
in Northern Alaska**

[Sustainable Northern Shelter Project link to the Cold Climate Housing Research Center](http://www.cchrc.org/App_Content/files/SNS_Project_Approach_071508.pdf)
http://www.cchrc.org/App_Content/files/SNS_Project_Approach_071508.pdf

Alaska Renewable Energy Legislative Task Force Members

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District A, Sitka, Vice-Chair

Senator Huggins
District H, Wasilla

Senator Thomas
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District 5, Haines

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District 37, Dillingham

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For further information about the presentations we received or the activities of the Task Force please contact Representative Fairclough’s office at 907.694.8944 or 907.465.3777