



Community Economic
Development Strategy

CEDS



2011 Five Year CEDS Regional Project - Action Initiative

Title or Name of the Project:

Southeast Alaska Regional Integrated Resources Energy Plan

Motivation:

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.

This will be accomplished through the utilization of the region's plentiful hydroelectric potential and other renewable resources. Where economically feasible, the development of interconnected transmission grids will share these resources between adjacent communities within the region.

Reliable, affordable energy is key to developing and maintaining strong economies, healthy communities and a quality environment in southeast Alaska.

Objective:

1. To reduce dependence on fossil fuels for electricity, space heat and potentially transportation.
2. To create a long-range action plan to bring affordable renewable energy to communities with least cost options, including the development of electrical grids interconnecting Southeast communities and utilities with hydroelectric generation where this is technically and economically feasible (updates 1997 SE System Plan).
3. To develop strategies for long-term energy security, enhance regional economic development and self-sustaining communities within the region.
4. Work with member communities and utilities to develop adequate energy infrastructure including alternative energy resources (geo-thermal, biomass, wind, tidal) to meet future needs.
5. Reduce and stabilize costs to rate payers and communities thus increasing economic development opportunities.
6. Effectively and wisely make the highest and best use of the region's energy resources.



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Obstacles:

1. Lack of current, accurate information on actual resource capacity, total energy consumption (electrical, thermal, transportation) and community energy load forecasts
2. Limited renewable energy infrastructure to meet current and future needs.
3. Aging infrastructure not always compatible throughout the region nor up to date with technological advances.
4. Scarcity of financing opportunities for very expensive construction of infrastructure.
5. Policies and tariffs that at times reward consumptive behavior and inefficient energy use as well as other demand side issues.
6. Lack of implementation of energy efficiency technology and upgrades.
7. Uncertain and at times adversarial regulatory hurdles.
8. Disconnected and remote communities within the region, some without sufficient renewable resources to develop.
9. A contracting workforce and industrial base that needs affordable and reliable energy to revitalize the region's economy and contribute to its development.
10. Limited access to biomass supplies to support thermal heating solutions for both institutional and residential needs within the region.

Outcomes/ Results:

1. A 50-year plan for energy generation projects and transmission lines will be developed and include community energy load forecasts, resources to be developed and identify energy issues that need to be pursued by communities.
2. Regional initiatives promoted for private-public partnerships to revitalize economically distressed communities through combined energy infrastructure and economic development projects.
3. Coordination of renewable energy generation and efficiency measures for space heat, water heating, smart-grid technologies and transportation.



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4. Identification of financing models and opportunities for construction of infrastructure.
5. Policies and tariffs proposals that address energy conservation and demand side management and associated actionable steps toward the implementation of energy efficiency technology and upgrades as well as regulatory hurdles.

Leadership:

Southeast Conference members including, communities, businesses, SEC Board of Directors and staff along with state and federal elected officials, agencies and staff.

Action Plan and Implantation:

1. Research and review existing energy plans, energy infrastructure and available data from utilities, businesses and communities. Identify issues and obstacles.
2. Develop an Energy Conservation and Demand Side management program for southeast. This action plan implemented, will achieve the goal of 20% increase in efficiency by 2020.
3. Financing plan models will assist utilities, IPP's and communities in constructing energy infrastructure for the public and rate payer's benefit and enable economic development.
4. Overall Energy Action Plan that will identify specific actions, entities to take the action as well as costs and benefits for implementation of the Plan.
5. Public outreach campaign during and after the Plan's development will increase likelihood of Plan's success and community participation and utilization.

Timeline:

The Southeast Regional Integrated Resources Plan will be developed over a 12-18 month time frame with both a short-term and long-term implementation schedule for associated goals and actions.

Once implemented over the duration of the Plan, southeast communities will once again have strong economies, healthy communities and a quality environment with a diversified renewable energy portfolio that will provide energy security for the region that will support an industrial and commercial base for job growth and economic development.



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Performance Measures:

This plan will be the foundation for economic revitalization in the region. Affordable and reliable energy is the cornerstone of every economy and vibrant community. Implementation of this Plan will be key in reversing the population trends experienced over the past 10 years (and forecasted to continue if status quo persists). Renewable energy development will open opportunities in every community for job creation and economic development.

Funding:

Funding has been secured for the development of the Southeast Regional Integrated Resources Energy Plan. Significant funding will be required for its implementation and will be identified within the Plan when completed.