



## QUICK FACTS

Planning creates a pathway for strategic, community-focused and data-driven decisions that stretch public dollars and protect investments in energy infrastructure

## FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

INFO@  
AKENERGYAUTHORITY.ORG  
907.771.3000

REDUCING THE COST  
OF ENERGY IN ALASKA  
WWW.AKENERGYAUTHORITY.ORG

# ENERGY PLANNING, DATA MANAGEMENT

## CURRENT STATUS

AEA continues to incorporate lessons learned from the completed Alaska Affordable Energy Strategy into AEA's day-to-day operations to improve the Authority's efficiency and effectiveness in serving Alaska's communities.

Four recent examples of how AEA's planning program is working with other AEA programs to implement best practices are: 1) the creation of new metrics for project evaluation and selection for the Rural Power System Upgrade (RPSU) program; 2) the creation of a pilot project and guidebook to provide business management assistance to PCE-eligible utilities through a USDA Rural Business Development Grant; 3) the creation of community energy dashboards and delivery of assistance for community energy planning assistance through the Denali Commission START program, and 4) strengthening AEA's data collection and analysis processes.

## PROGRAM BACKGROUND: REGIONAL PLANS & AKAES

The Alaska Affordable Energy Strategy (AkaES) was a comprehensive research and analysis project that produced a suite of recommended policy, regulatory and funding changes that collectively could improve energy affordability in non-Railbelt communities. This project was initiated by 2014 Alaska LNG project legislation that directed AEA to prepare a plan to develop infrastructure that will deliver affordable energy to areas in the state that will not have direct access to a North Slope natural gas pipeline. AEA was tasked with identifying the most cost effective means of generating, delivering, receiving, and storing energy for the targeted communities. AEA delivered the final report to the legislature in December 2016.

AEA investigated potential pathways, both infrastructure and non-infrastructure solutions, to long-term energy affordability. A key component of the AkaES was compiling, storing, and analyzing data, and ensuring that it continues to be meaningful for available to stakeholders (see <http://www.akenergyinventory.org/energymodel>). University partners, federal and state agencies, and private contractors performed research that generated valuable insight into practical project and program development best practices that AEA is currently implementing.

Previous to the AkaES, the Alaska Energy Authority contracted with Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDORs) and other regional entities to provide regional energy planning to identify energy priorities and sustainability solutions. Plans are available from AEA's website (<http://www.akenergyauthority.org/Policy/RegionalPlanning>).

AEA continues to provide technical assistance to regional energy planners, community energy champions and local energy working groups that were established as a part of the planning effort. Implementation of the plans is ongoing and long-term work which AEA will continue to support by providing technical, financial and evaluation assistance.

## ONGOING PARTNERSHIPS

Through a pilot project, partially funded by the USDA, to develop curriculum for a utility business management program, AEA is collaborating with the RCA, DCRA, Denali Commission, REAP, Department of Energy, APA, and other stakeholders.