

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Denali Commission, U.S. Forest Service, and AEA Announce Over \$1 Million in Funding for Biomass Projects in Rural Communities

(Anchorage) – The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA), along with Federal partner agencies the Denali Commission and the U.S. Forest Service, announce a cooperative effort to invest \$1,037,000 with over \$400,000 in community matching funds in state-of-the-art district wood heating systems in three rural Alaska communities.

“We are happy to continue our long-standing partnership with the Denali Commission and the U.S. Forest Service that through our combined efforts promote renewable energy projects in Alaska and bring benefits to the communities of Mentasta Lake, the Native Village of Kluti-Kaah, and Craig,” said AEA Executive Director Curtis W. Thayer. “This support from our partners in benefitting these and other rural communities in the future is an endeavor we undertake with hope and a good deal of pride. The energy that comes from this cooperative effort is felt within each organization.”

The biomass projects funded under this partnership include the building of a wood chip heating system for the Mentasta Traditional Council, phase 1 construction of a woodchip district heating system for the Native Village of Kluti-Kaah, and fabrication of a wood-fired boiler for the Craig City School District’s High School Campus.

Biomass systems are renewable energy resources that help keep money in the local communities (or economies), displace fossil fuels, and provide local jobs. Because most of the wood used for these systems is waste it supports wildfire mitigation efforts, as well as helps to provide fire breaks while heating community buildings.

The projects are scheduled to be completed by December 31, 2021.

The Alaska Energy Authority is a public corporation of the State of Alaska. Its mission is to reduce the cost of energy in Alaska.

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