



## Hydroelectric Program

As Alaska's largest source of renewable energy, hydropower supplies over 20 percent of the state's electrical energy in an average water year.

There are currently at least 52 operating hydroelectric projects in Alaska. Most are owned by the utilities they serve. Alaska has much untapped hydroelectric potential. The majority of Alaska's hydroelectric energy resources are located mainly in southeast and southcentral, with some resource opportunities in the interior, south west and the Aleutians.

AEA's hydroelectric program supports projects through grants for hydropower development for electrical power generation; organizes workshops and training sessions; and coordinates state assistance in developing exploration and study of potential new hydropower sites across the state.

AEA also owns the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric project and received a FERC license amendment for the Battle Creek Diversion. The Susitna-Watana Hydro project is currently working toward the Study Plan Determination. The project will then be put on hold due to the States limited funds.

**Current Status:** The Alaska Energy Authority's hydroelectric program is currently administering 22 Renewable Energy Grant Fund (REF) and Legislative grants and assisting with other existing and developing hydroelectric projects.

### About Hydroelectric:

Hydroelectric plant configurations include conventional dam reservoir projects which regulate flows through the drawing down of reservoir levels, and smaller capacity run-of-the-river projects which rely upon the rate and fall of natural streamflow to produce power. Though time consuming to permit and expensive to construct, hydropower is a mature technology with the capability of locking in power rates for 50 to 100 plus years.

For a hydropower resource to be capable of economically-viable power production, a number of attributes must be present: (1) flowing water of sufficient quantity, (2) elevation drop in the river or stream (head), (3) proximity to load (power sales) and (4) minimal environmental risks from project development.

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TO REDUCE THE COST  
OF ENERGY IN ALASKA**

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