



Solar Energy

Alaska’s high latitude presents the challenge of having minimal solar energy during long winter months when the energy demand is greatest. However, solar energy plays an important role in small, off-grid power generation and low-power applications, such as remote communication sites.

Solar technology is rapidly changing with the advent of less expensive panels, higher efficiency panels, more sophisticated inverters, and micro-inverters.

AEA provides solar energy information, references, resources, and technical assistance, and shares information about solar project issues like microgrid phase imbalance.

Current Status: AEA has awarded three Renewable Energy Fund grants for solar energy projects. The first was to Golden Valley Electric Association for a 1,300 square-foot solar thermal water heating project at the Denali Education Center near Denali National Park. The second was to Alaska Village Electric Cooperative for a 9.6 kilowatt (kW) solar photovoltaic project in Kaltag. The third is to Alaska Power and Telephone for a 24 kW solar photovoltaic project in Eagle. The first two have been operating as projected for several years, and the Eagle project was commissioned in June of 2015.

AEA sponsored and helped to organize a Solar Energy Workshop, led by the Alaska Center for Energy and Power. It was held in Anchorage on April 30, 2015.

AEA has formed an Alaska Solar Working Group to share information and track the performance of solar projects in Alaska. The group met at the April 2016 Rural Energy conference in Fairbanks.



Kaltag Solar Photovoltaic Project

Revised: September 22, 2016

813 W Northern Lights Blvd
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 771-3000

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TO REDUCE THE COST
OF ENERGY IN ALASKA**
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