

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AEA Announces \$17 Million in Renewable Energy Grants for 18 Statewide Projects

Funding supports Alaska's continued diversification of its energy portfolio

(Anchorage) — The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) announces that \$17 million has been appropriated to the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) program for 18 REF grants, which marks the program's largest capitalization in a decade. The funding is part of its Round 15 application cycle, in which AEA received applications for a variety of renewable technologies. This funding is effective July 1, 2023, for inclusion in Fiscal Year 2024 budget.

"This funding decision is the result of a collaborative effort between the Alaska State Legislature and the Governor who are unified in their support for advancing energy security for Alaskans," **said AEA Executive Director Curtis W. Thayer.** "Since its inception, the REF has proven to be a powerful catalyst for renewable energy deployment in Alaska and diversifying the state's energy portfolio."

The REF is a competitive grant program established by the Alaska State Legislature in 2008 to provide critical financial assistance for renewable energy projects in Alaska. Fifteen years later, the REF grant fund program has secured over \$317 million in state funds, leveraging over \$300 million in federal and local funds benefiting rural and urban communities alike. The program funds cost-effective renewable energy projects that help communities reduce their dependence on fossil fuels to stabilize their costs of both heat and electricity. The REF also creates jobs, utilizes local energy resources, promotes statewide technology transfer, keeps money in local economies, and fosters economic development.

AEA administers the REF program in consultation with a nine-member REF Advisory Committee. Five members are appointed by the Governor and four members are appointed by the Speaker of the House and the Senate President. REF Advisory Committee members offer valuable guidance and policy suggestions regarding the application and evaluation process and final funding recommendations for submission to the Legislature.

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About the Alaska Energy Authority

The Alaska Energy Authority is a public corporation of the state. Its mission is to reduce the cost of energy in Alaska. To achieve this mission, AEA strives to diversify Alaska's energy portfolio increasing resiliency, reliability, and redundancy. To learn more, visit akenergyauthority.org.

AEA REF Round 15 Approved Projects

Community	Applicant	Project Name	Approved Funding
Adak	TDX Adak Generating, LLC	Hydroelectric Power Adak - Feasibility and Conceptual Design	\$ 497,650
Beluga	Cook Inlet Region Inc. (CIRI) Energy, LLC	Beluga Renewable Resource Assessment	\$ 298,000
Chefornak	Naterkaq Light Plant	Chefornak Battery Installation, Integration, and Commissioning	\$ 437,000
Healy	Cook Inlet Region Inc. (CIRI) Energy, LLC	Healy Renewable Resource Assessment	\$ 298,000
Hoonah	Inside Passage Electric Cooperative	Water Supply Creek Hydro Construction	\$ 3,538,526
Huslia	Tanana Chiefs Conference	Huslia Community-Scale Solar PV and Battery Project	\$ 2,082,00
Kalskag	Alaska Village Electric Cooperative	Kalskag Wind Feasibility and Conceptual Design	\$ 267,300
Kipnuk	Kipnuk Light Plant	Kipnuk Battery Installation, Integration and Commissioning	\$ 434,000
Naknek, South Naknek, and King Salmon	Naknek Electric Association Inc	Naknek Electric Battery Energy Storage System	\$ 2,172,984
Native Village of Kluti-Kaah (Copper Center)	Native Village of Kluti-Kaah	Woodchip Heating Project	\$ 500,000
Railbelt	Alaska Renewables LLC	Utility-Scale Railbelt Wind – Alaska Renewables	\$ 2,000,000
Railbelt / GVEA Serving Area	Golden Valley Electric Association	LIDAR Improvement to Interior Wind Energy Assessments	\$ 250,000
Railbelt / HEA Serving Area	Alaska Electric & Energy Cooperative, Inc.	Cook Inlet Oil Platform Wind Project	\$ 214,400
Railbelt / HEA Serving Area	Alaska Electric & Energy Cooperative, Inc.	Augustine Island Geothermal	\$ 68,000
Railbelt / HEA Serving Area	Alaska Electric & Energy Cooperative, Inc.	Mount Spurr Geothermal	\$ 45,500
Railbelt / MEA Serving Area	Matanuska Electric Association	Railbelt Wind Feasibility Study and Conceptual Design	\$ 1,833,333
Selawik	Northwest Arctic Borough	Selawik Solar PV	\$ 1,134,500
Yakutat	Yakutat Community Health Center	Yakutat Community Health Center Heat Recovery Project	\$ 1,000,000
Total (18 Projects)			\$ 17,071,193