

- The Bering Strait Region is home to 9,836 people, of which 75% are Alaska Native.
- Kawerak serves 20 Tribes in this region, who live in 16 communities.
- Our 16 communities are powered by 15 islanded microgrids (diesel power plants).
- There are only two communities with an intertie: Stebbins & St. Michael.
- We have some wind and battery integration, and plans for solar & geothermal installations.



- Green = Local Utility
- Orange = AVEC Utility
- Purple = Future utility
- ⚡ Utility wind system
- ⚡ Inter-tied communities



- Power costs range from \$0.46 / kWh to \$0.72 / kWh*
Average cost after Power Cost Equalization subsidy is \$0.25 / kWh
- Fuel costs for diesel (heating fuel) range from \$4.45 - \$8.09 / gallon
Gasoline costs range from \$4.75 - \$7.02 / gallon**
- Fuel purchasing programs in the region help keep costs down for communities, such as the bulk fuel program run by the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, who also offers a residential energy subsidy program for all residents within the Norton Sound Region, which can be applied to utility bills.
- The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, is used widely in the region and is necessary for keeping heating bills affordable for residents.
- The Power Cost Equalization subsidy, or PCE, is essential to keeping electricity costs affordable for residents and community facilities. Without the PCE endowment fund, electricity bills would more than double in rural Alaska.

750 kWh
*PCE residential allowance
per month*

899 kWh
*Average U.S. household usage
per month****

26¢ vs. 72¢ (Elim)

*Alaska Energy Authority, 2023 PCE Report

**Division of Community and Regional Affairs, Alaska 2024

***Energy Information Administration



KAWERAK, INC.



Shaktoolik Wind Turbine, 2019



Nome Battery Energy Storage System, 2025

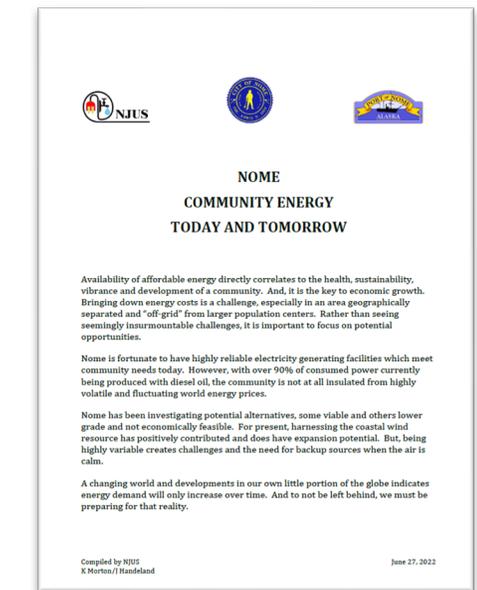
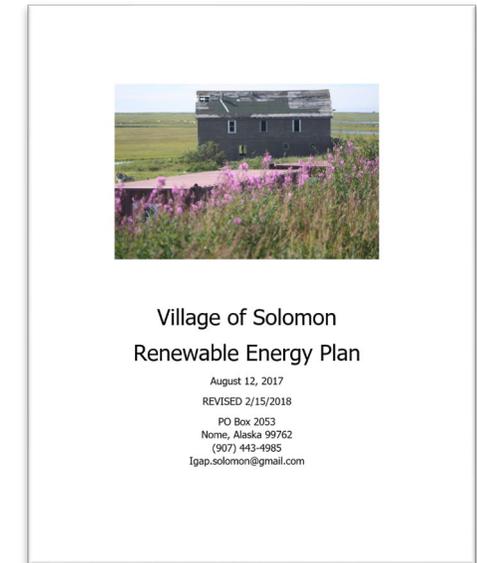
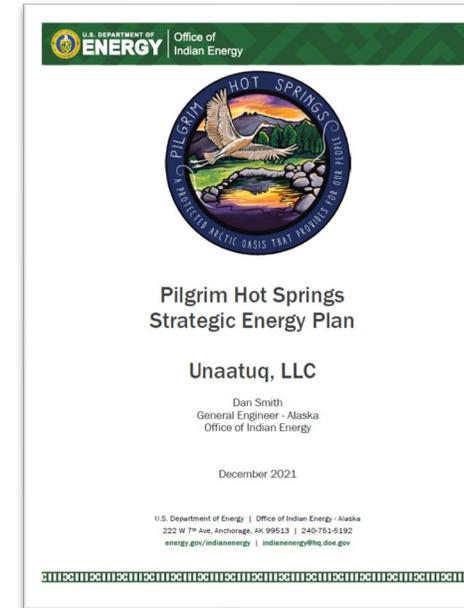
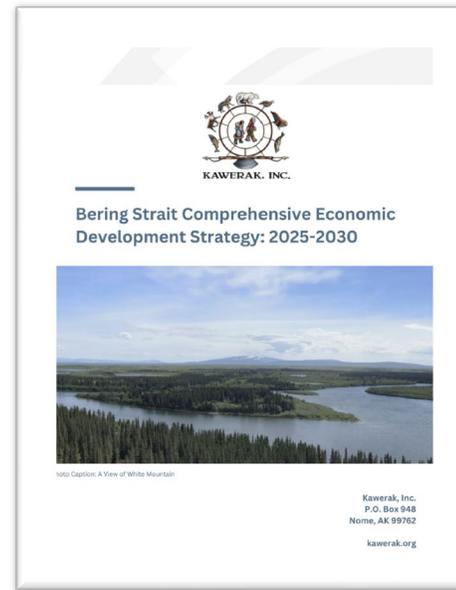
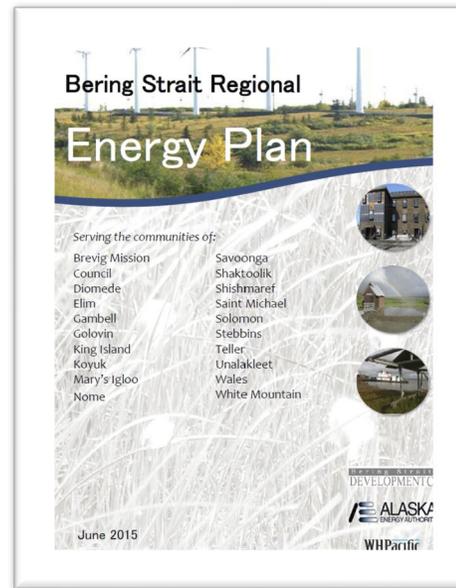
What are our challenges?

- Bulk fuel facilities need improvements, rebuilds or relocations – must meet regulations
- Aging grid infrastructure is prevalent – need new power poles, transformers, communications equipment
- Renewable integration requires energy storage systems for maximum use
- Erosion, flooding, extreme weather, and permafrost thaw threaten energy infrastructure
- Staff turnover & limited workforce = biggest challenges to keeping up with operations & maintenance
- Utility management and financial literacy are essential to keeping the lights on



What are the priorities?

- Bering Strait Regional Energy Plan
June 2015 – Alaska Energy Authority funded this statewide effort.
- The newest regional CEDS, or Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, highlights “lowering the cost of energy” as a top 4 regional goal.
- Many communities, organizations, and utilities in the region have developed their own energy planning documents specific to their goals.



What are the solutions?

- Continue the Arctic Energy Ambassador Program
- Fund Regional Strategic Energy Planning
- Fund Alaska Regional Development Organizations
 - Alaska Administrative Code (3 AAC 57.090)
- Create an Alaska **Rural** Energy Task Force
- Sustain & enhance energy assistance programs
- Promote energy efficiency education (youth-adult)
- Support utility grid resilience projects that prevent outages
- Protect the Power Cost Equalization Endowment Fund



Energy workshop at Kawerak Regional Conference, 2018



Solar power workshop with REAP, 2024



Arctic Energy Ambassador Group, Rural Energy Conference 2024



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Pilgrim Hot Springs, Unaatuq 2023

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