ALASKA ENERGY AUTHORITY

AEA PROGRESS

Curtis W. Thayer Executive Director

Senate Finance Committee March 26, 2025





AEA Board of Directors





Clay KoplinChair
Utility – Not Interconnected



Duff MitchellVice Chair
Financial Expertise in Large Power
Generation



Adam CrumCommissioner, Alaska Department of Revenue



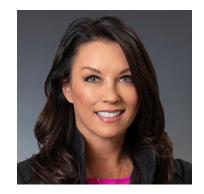
Tony IzzoBoard Member
Utility – Interconnected



Ingemar MathiassonBoard Member
Rural Energy Development



Jenn Miller
Board Member
Expertise in Engineering



Julie Sande
Commissioner, Alaska Department of
Commerce, Community, and
Economic Development



Robert SiedmanBoard Member
Municipal Utility – Off Road System

About AEA



AEA's mission is to reduce the cost of energy in Alaska. To achieve this mission, **AEA** strives to diversify Alaska's energy portfolio enhancing reliability, resiliency, and redundancy.

Railbelt Energy (Owned Assets)

- Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project
- Alaska Intertie
- Sterling to Quartz Creek Transmission Line
- High-Voltage Direct Current Transmission Line

Power Cost Equalization

- \$48 Million Program
- 192 Rural Communities
- 91 Electric Utilities
- 80,000+ Alaskans

Rural Energy

- Bulk Fuel Upgrades
- Rural Power System Upgrades
- Circuit Rider Program
- Electrical Emergency Assistance

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

- Renewable projects: biomass, electric vehicles, hydroelectric, solar, and wind
- Federal programs: NEVI, Solar for All, and Home Energy and High Efficiency Rebate Allocations

Grants and Loans

- Renewable Energy Fund
- Power Project Fund

Energy Planning

- Alaska Energy Security Task Force
- State Energy Security Profile
- Electronic Library
- Energy Data Resources
- 40101(d) Grid Resilience Program

Railbelt Transmission Organization



From 1995 through 2020, the project averaged 392,000 MWh of energy production annually at \$0.04 per kWh.

120MW

Bradley Lake generators are rated to produce up to 120 MW of power.

10%

Bradley Lake generates about 10 percent of the total annual electrical energy used by Railbelt electric utilities.

Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project

- Energized in 1991, the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project is **Alaska's largest renewable energy source**. It is located 27 air miles northeast of Homer.
- The 120 MW facility provides **low-cost energy to 550,000+** people on the Railbelt.
- Bradley Lake's annual energy production is ~10 percent of Railbelt electricity at 4.5 cents/kWh (or ~54,400 homes/year) and over \$20 million in savings per year for Railbelt utilities from Bradley Lake versus natural gas.
- The AEA, in partnership with Railbelt utilities, **is studying the Dixon Diversion Project**, which would increase the annual energy production of Bradley Lake by 50 percent (the equivalent of up to 30,000 homes).







Dixon Diversion Project

The AEA is studying the Dixon Diversion Project to optimize the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project's energy potential. Like the West Fork Upper Battle Creek Diversion Project, the Dixon Diversion Project would divert water from Dixon Glacier to increase Bradley Lake's annual energy production by 50 percent.

- Located five miles from Bradley Lake and would utilize existing powerhouse at Bradley Lake.
- Estimated annual energy 100,000-200,000 MWh (the equivalent of up to 30,000 homes).
- Estimated to offset 1.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas per year in Railbelt power generation (equal to 7.5 percent of Alaska's unmet natural gas demand projected for 2030).
- Estimated completion is 2030.



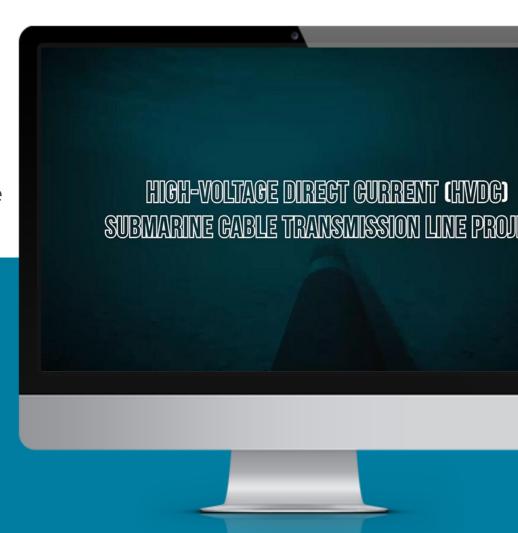


Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP): HVDC Line

The AEA secured \$206.5 million for GRIP Topic Area 3: Grid Innovation through the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office. A cost share of 100 percent, or \$206.5 million, is required for a total project amount of \$413 million. The project includes constructing high-voltage direct current (HVDC) submarine cables as a parallel transmission route from the Kenai Peninsula to Anchorage.

The project addresses several challenges facing Alaska's Railbelt regions:

- Provides a redundant pathway between the Southern (Kenai Peninsula) and Central (Anchorage and Mat-Su) Regions
- Eliminates the single-point-offailure inherent in the previous system (the system will still be subject to single point of failure between Willow and Healy)
- Allows for more renewable power to be added to the grid and distributed across the Railbelt
- Increases the ability to share power between the Southern, Central, and Northern Regions of the Railbelt, allowing the most economical power to be used at all times



\$90 Million (Under Construction; AEA Bonds Existing)

Sterling to Quartz Creek (SQ) Transmission Lines

In 2020, AEA acquired the SQ Transmission Lines, as part of the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project.

- **Location** 39.4 miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission and out of use 69 kV transmission from Sterling to Quartz substation (Kenai Lake).
- Benefits The AEA ownership ensures better cost alignment, reduce line losses, increased reliability, and more timely repairs and upgrades.
- **Status** 69 kV line decommissioned and removed; engineers are designing and are procuring equipment for the upgrade of the existing 115 kV line to 230 kV. Construction has started on the first section.
- Cost Estimated cost to upgrade line is \$90 million for the SQ transmission line and Sterling to Soldotna transmission line.





\$28 Million to Utilities

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) for Grid Stabilization

- **Scope** The BESS projects consist of an upgrade to the existing BESS system in the North, and new BESS in the Southern, and Central regions of the grid. The Northern BESS is located at Fairbanks, the Southern BESS is located at Kenai, the Central Region BESS will be located at Anchorage. The BESS will be needed to fully realize the benefits of a 230 kV bulk power supply system, regulate energy from various generation, and increase resilience.
- Benefits Increase system resilience, transfer capability, more efficient use of system, and lowers impediments to additional renewable generation development.

Schedule

- Southern (Kenai) In service
- Central (Anchorage) In service
- Northern (Fairbanks) Engineering and design
- Budget \$28 million in services to dampen oscillation





Power Cost Equalization (PCE)

The PCE program was established in 1985 as one of the components of a statewide energy plan.

The cost of electricity for Alaska's rural residents is notably higher than for urban residents. The PCE lowers the cost of electric service paid by rural residents. Ultimately ensuring the viability of rural utilities and the availability of reliable, centralized power.



192

RURAL COMMUNITIES



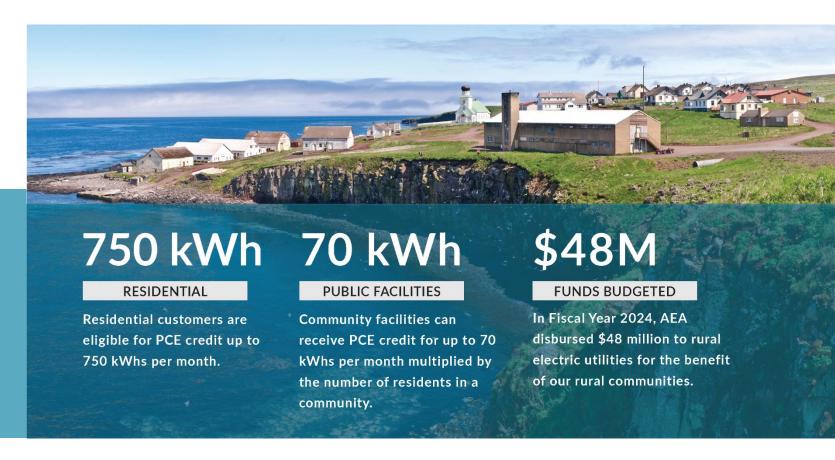
91

ELECTRIC UTILITIES



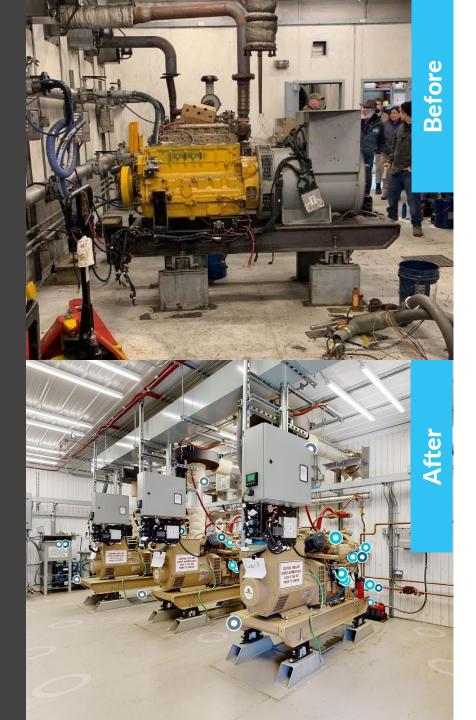
81,700

ALASKANS



Capital Request - \$2.5 Million Federal Receipt Authority - \$2.5 Million

Rural Power System Upgrades



- The AEA's Rural Power Systems Upgrade program improves power generation in Alaska villages with less than 2,000 people.
- Approximately 170 communities are eligible for the program, which replaces outdated, inefficient mechanical systems with new electronically controlled generator sets.
- Due to declining funds, rural power systems are not upgraded timely, and communities are left with aging systems at risk of failure.
- The AEA evaluates several factors when prioritizing projects for funding — at this time, deferred maintenance is estimated at \$300 million.

- The AEA designs and builds modern, code-compliant bulk fuel facilities through our **Bulk Fuel Upgrade program**.
- In Alaska, there are over 400 bulk fuel facilities — each sized to support the village.
- Most of the facilities are older than 40 years, with many exceeding 50 years, and they average 100,000 gallons in size.
- However, aging infrastructure poses several safety risks for rural communities, e.g., corrosion, erosion, and environmental.
- The AEA maintains an inventory and assessment priority needbased list — so far, deferred maintenance is estimated at \$1 billion.



Capital Request – \$2 Million Federal Receipt Authority – \$2 Million

Bulk Fuel Upgrades

Circuit Rider Program

PCE Endowment Fund - \$710.0



Electrical Emergency Assistance

- Akiak
- Chignik

Circuit Rider and Bulk Fuel Itinerant Onsite

Number after entity indicates more than one occurrence. 45 Total Onsite Visits

- Akhiok
- Akiak (2)
- Beaver (2)
- AVTEC Seward (5)
- Chalkyitsik
- Chiqnik Bay (2)

- Chignik Lagoon
- Chignik Lake (2)
- Chitna (2)
- Circle (2)
- Cold Bay
- False Pass

- Galena
- Golovin (2)
- Hughes
- Igiugig
- Kipnuk (4)
- Levelock

- Manokotak
- Mertarvik
- Napaskiak (4)
- New Stuvahok
- Nikolai
- Nunam Igua

- Pedro Bay (2)
- Perryville (2)
- Pilot Point (2)
- Pilot Station
- Port Heiden
- Rampart (2)

- Russian Mission
- Scammon Bay (2)
- Teller
- Tenakee Springs

Venetie (9)

Wainwright

Circuit Rider Real-Time Remote Assistance

Number after entity indicates more than one occurrence. 311 Total Responses

- Akhiok (5)
- Akiachak (8)
- Akiak (8)
- Aniak
- Arctic Village (3)
- Atka
- Atmautluak
- Beaver (2)
- Buckland (2)
- Central
- Chalkyitsik (2)

- Chignik Bay (6)
- Chiqnik Lagoon (3)
- Chignik Lake (2)
- Chitina (7)
- Chuathbaluk
- Circle (7)
- Clarks Point
- Cold Bay
- Crooked Creek
- Diomede (5)
- Egegik (4)

- Elfin Cove (8)
 - False Pass (2)
 - Fort Yukon
 - Galena
 - Hoonah (2)
 - Hughes (3)
 - Igiugia
 - Karluk (4)
 - Kipnuk (11)
 - Kokhanok (3) Koliganek

- Kongiganak (2)
- Kovuk (2)
- Koyukuk (5)
- Kwethluk (9)
- Kwigillingok (4)
- Levelock (8)
- Manokotak
- McGrath
- Mertarvik (6)
- Napakiak Napaskiak (6)

- Nelson Lagoon (3)
- Newhalen
- Nikolai (7)
- Nikolski
- Nunam Iqua (14)
- Ouzinkie (4)
- Pedro Bay (3)
- Pelican
- Perryville (2)
- Pilot Point (4)
- Port Heiden (14)

- Red Devil
- Ruby (2)
- Saint George
- Sleetmute (2)
- Stevens Village
- Stony River
- Takotna
- Tatitlek (5)
- Tenakee Springs (4)
- Tuluksak (5)
- Unalakleet

- Tuluksak (2)
- Venetie (2)



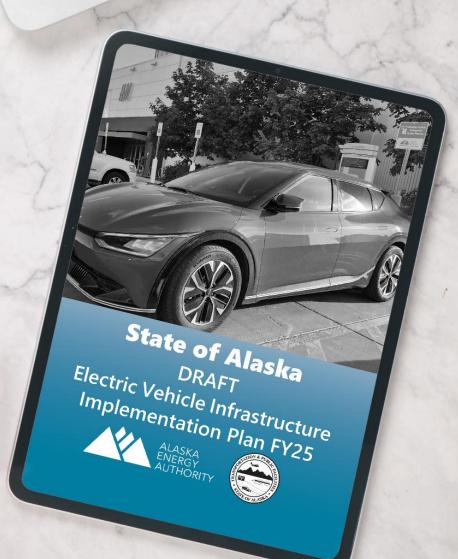
Capital Request - \$1.8 Million Federal Receipt Authority - \$14.9 Million Grid Resilience Formula Grant Program IIJA 40101(d)

- Under 40101(d), AEA anticipates receiving \$60 million in federal formula grants to catalyze grid resilience projects. In August 2023, the first two years of allocations, \$22.2 million, were awarded to AEA.
- The AEA's competitively solicited applications for the initial federal formula allocation in February 2024. The AEA selected three projects for sub-awards, totaling \$20.9 million. In December 2024, DOE issued final approvals for the subaward projects. Due to pauses on funding for IIJA programs, the issuance of sub-award agreements have been delayed but are anticipated to be finalized in Q2 2025.
- In August 2024, AEA received \$17,627,018 in federal program formula funds for fiscal year 2025, requiring \$2.6 million in state matching funds. The AEA is working with DOE to determine next steps.
- Resilience measures include but are not limited to:
 - Relocating or reconductoring powerlines
 - Improvements to make the grid resistant to extreme weather
 - Increasing fire resistant components
 - Integrating distributed energy resources like microgrids and energy storage
- Formula-based funding requires a 15 percent state match and a 33 percent small utility match.

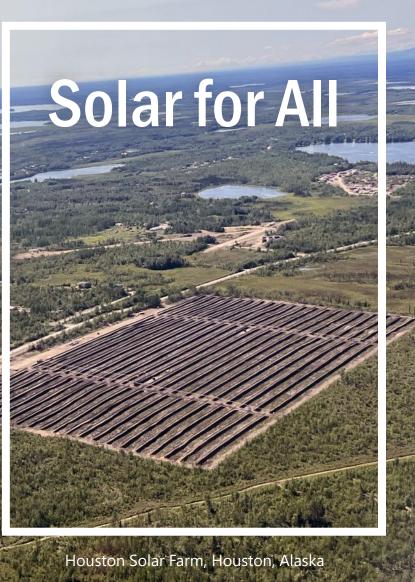
ALASKA ENERGY AUTHORITY

National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program

- The AEA and the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) continue to deploy the State of Alaska NEVI Plan.
- On November 25, 2024, AEA and DOT&PF received approval of the fiscal year 2025 plan. This unlocked \$11 million in addition to \$30 million available from previous fiscal years.
- In fall 2023, the first round of Alaska NEVI awards were announced. The AEA and DOT&PF selected projects in nine communities for a total investment of \$8 million. Private entities will own and operate the new charging stations.
- Phase 2 will develop charging infrastructure in more than 30 communities along Alaska's Highway System and the Marine Highway System.



PROCEEDING











\$62.5 Million (Shared with AHFC)

- In April 2024, AEA and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) were selected for a \$62.5 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency's Solar for All program.
 - The AEA is developing <u>community</u> <u>solar</u> in disadvantaged communities.
 - The AHFC is developing <u>residential</u> <u>rooftop solar</u> for low-income households.

Program benefits:

- Energy cost savings,
- Increased resiliency,
- Distributed solar energy for lowincome and disadvantaged households,
- Workforce development, and
- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- No match required for this competitive grant.



Home Energy and High Efficiency Rebate Allocations

The AEA is collaborating with AHFC to distribute Alaska's allocation of \$74 Million

Home Efficiency Rebates

- Rebates for energy efficiency retrofits range from \$2,000-\$4,000 for individual households and up to \$400,000 for multi-family buildings.
- Grants to states to provide rebates for home retrofits.
- Up to \$2,000 for retrofits reducing energy use by 20 percent or more, and up to \$4,000 for retrofits saving 35 percent or more.
- Maximum rebates amounts are doubled for retrofits of low-and moderate-income homes.
- Alaska's allocation: \$37.4 million; no State match required.
- Funding is estimated to be available between fall/winter 2025.

Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates

- Rebates for low- and moderate-income households to save energy and money toward energy upgrades made to their primary residence.
- Includes means testing and will provide 50 percent of the project cost to residents with incomes between 80 to 150 percent. Rebates of 100 percent for incomes below 80 percent of area medium income, with similar tiers for multi-family buildings.
- Includes a \$14,000 cap per household, with an \$8,000 cap for heat pump costs, \$1,750 for a heat pump water heater, and \$4,000 for electrical panel/service upgrade.
- Other eligible rebates include electric stoves, clothes dryers, and insulation/air sealing measures.
- Alaska's allocation: \$37.1 million; no State match required.
- Funding is estimated to be available between fall/winter 2025.

Black Rapids Training Site (BRTS) Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program

The AEA partnered with Golden Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEA) and was awarded this grant from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation under the Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program. Federal Receipt authority of \$15.7 million received in fiscal year 2024. No State match is required.

The GVEA will use the funds to extend a transmission line 34 miles along the Richardson Highway to BRTS. Currently, BRTS is powered by three diesel generators that are nearing the end of their useful lives. This extension will improve long-term sustainability and reliability for BRTS by tying them into GVEA's power grid.



Federal Funding — Awards and Pending Applications



#	Awarded and Conditional Awards	Alaska Grant \$	Match \$
1	Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Capitalization – Proceeding	\$4,782.0	\$ -
2	State Energy Program Funding - Proceeding	\$3,662.0	\$ -
3	High Energy Cost Grants (Manokatok) – USDA Rural Utilities Service – Proceeding	\$2,000.0	\$ -
4	Vehicle Technology Office Competition Federal Fiscal Year 2022 (ARED) – Proceeding	\$1,670.0	\$418.0
5	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant - Proceeding	\$1,627.0	\$ -
6	Training for Residential Energy Contractors (TREC) – Proceeding	\$1,294.0	\$ -
7	Energy Future Grant <mark>– Unknown</mark>	\$497.0	\$ -
	Total Awards = \$15,950.0	\$15,532.0	\$418.0





Renewable Energy Fund (REF) Grant Program

Established in 2008, REF provides grant funding (subject to Legislative approval) incentivizing the development of qualifying and competitively selected renewable energy projects. The program is designed to produce cost-effective renewable energy for heat and power to benefit Alaskans statewide.

ROUND 17: 18 REFAC-Recommended Projects Totaling \$21.2 Million









REF Round 17 Recommended Projects to Legislature



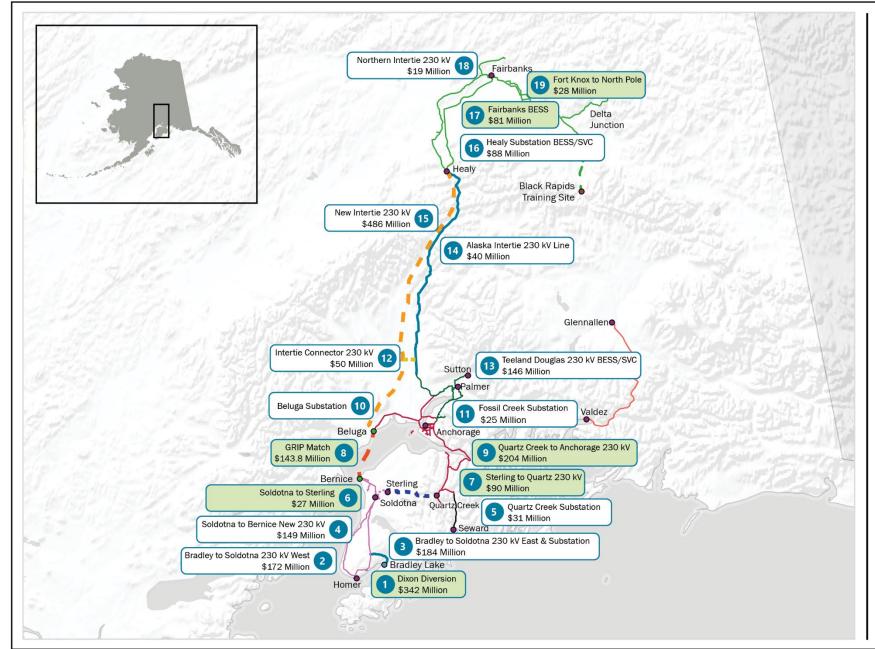
AEA Rank	Community	Project Name	Applicant Name	Technology	Recommended Funding	Energy Region	Senate District	House District
1	Pelican	Pelican Hydro Relicensing Project, Restoration, Repair	City of Pelican, Pelican Utilities	Hydroelectric	\$ 650,474	Southeast	Α	2
2	Naknek	Naknek Solar PV on Cape Suwarof	Naknek Electric Association, Inc.	Solar	\$ 3,137,848	Bristol Bay	S	37
3	Skagway	Goat Lake Hydro Storage Expansion Study	Goat Lake Hydro, Inc.	Hydroelectric	\$ 121,250	Southeast	В	3
4	Kwethluk	Nuvista Kwethluk Wind and Battery Project Completion	Nuvista Light and Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Wind	\$ 738,979	Lower Yukon Kuskokwim	S	38
5	Quinhagak	Quinhagak Battery Energy Storage System Project	Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Storage	\$ 443,956	Lower Yukon Kuskokwim	S	38
6	Nenana	Nenana Biomass District Heat System, Final Phase	City of Nenana	Biomass	\$ 1,223,000	Railbelt	R	36
7	Kongiganak	Kongiganak 100 kW Solar Energy Project	Puvurnaq Power Company	Solar	\$ 720,453	Lower Yukon Kuskokwim	S	38
8	Railbelt	Railbelt Wind Diversification Alaska Renewables	Alaska Renewables LLC	Wind	\$ 2,000,000	Railbelt	Various	Various
9	Homer	Homer Energy Recovery Project	City of Homer	Hydroelectric	\$ 280,000	Railbelt	С	6
10	Atmautluak	Atmautluak ETS Installation, Integration and Commissioning	Atmautluak Tribal Utilities	Storage	\$ 286,227	Lower Yukon Kuskokwim	S	38
11	Ketchikan, Petersburg, Wrangell	Southeast Alaska Grid Resiliency (SEAGR)	Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA)	Hydroelectric	\$ 4,000,000	Southeast	Α	1 & 2
12	Chevak	Chevak Battery Energy Storage System Project	Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Storage	\$ 968,644	Lower Yukon Kuskokwim	S	38
13	Pedro Bay	Knutson Creek Hydro Project Construction	Pedro Bay Village Council	Hydroelectric	\$ 400,000	Bristol Bay	S	37
14	Akiachak	Akiachak Native Community 200 kW Solar Energy Project	Akiachak, Ltd	Solar	\$ 67,833	Lower Yukon Kuskokwim	S	38
15	Nome	NJUS Solar Nome Banner Ridge Solar Farm	Nome Joint Utility System	Solar	\$ 4,000,000	Bering Straits	Т	39
16	MEA Service Area	Hunter Creek Hydroelectric Feasibility Study Project	Matanuska Electric Association	Hydroelectric	\$ 1,280,500	Railbelt	М	25
17	Chignik	Chignik Hydroelectric Power System	City of Chignik	Hydroelectric	\$ 883,012	Bristol Bay	S	37
18	Sterling	Sterling Solar Project	Utopian Power LLC	Solar	\$ 12,500	Railbelt	D	8
Total					\$ 21,214,676			

[&]quot;*If appropriated by the Legislature and approved by the Governor, this funding would become effective July 1, 2025, for inclusion in the budget for fiscal year 2026.

^{**}Projects highlighted in blue are those projects to be funded under the REF allocation in the Governor's fiscal year 2026 proposed capital budget"







Railbelt Projects

- 1. Dixon Diversion: AEA-unfunded (studies underway)*
- Bradley-Soldotna West: HEA-unfunded*
- 3. Bradley-Soldotna East & Substation: AEA-HEA-unfunded*
- 4. Soldotna-Bernice: AEA-unfunded**
- Quartz Creek Substation XMFR: CEA-unfunded*
- Soldotna-Sterling: AEA-partially funded*
- 7. Sterling-Quartz Creek: AEA-funded, target 2028*
- GRIP Match: AEA-partially funded, target 2032 **
- Quartz Creek-Anchorage: CEA-ongoing, target 2032*
- 10. Beluga Substation XMFR (2nd line): AEA-unfunded**
- 11. Fossil Creek Substation XMFR: CEA-MEA-unfunded*
- 12. Intertie Connector: AEA-unfunded**
- 13. Teeland-Douglas: MEA-unfunded*
- 14. Alaska Intertie: AEA-unfunded*
- 15. New Intertie Beluga-Healy: AEA-unfunded**
- 16. Healy Substation: AEA-unfunded*
- 17. Fairbanks BESS: GVEA-partially funded, target 2027**
- 18. Northern Intertie: GVEA-unfunded*
- 19. Fort Knox-North Pole Loop: GVEA-funded, target 2031*

<u>Acronyms</u>

BESS: Battery Energy Storage System

SVC: Static Var Compensator

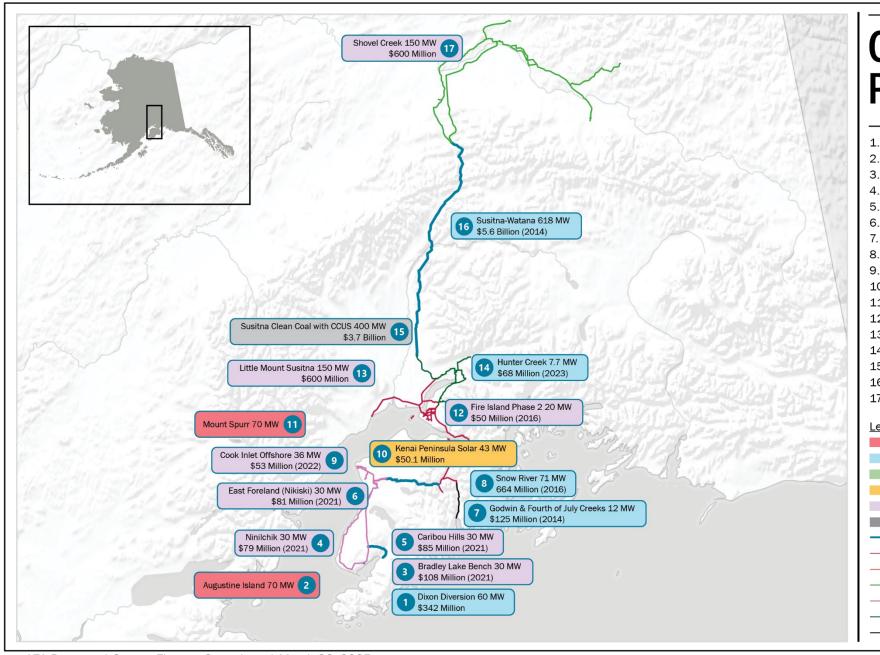
XMFR: Transformer

Legend

- Alaska Energy Authority
- Chugach Electric Association
- Copper Valley Electric Association
- Golden Valley Electric Association
- Homer Electric Association
- Matanuska Electric Association
- Seward Electric System
- In Progress

^{*}Expansion or upgrade

^{**}New project



Clean Energy Projects

- 1. Dixon Diversion Hydroelectric
- 2. Augustine Island Geothermal
- 3. Bradley Lake Bench Wind Farm
- 4. Ninilchik Wind Farm
- 5. Caribou Hills Wind Farm
- 6. East Foreland (Nikiski) Wind Farm
- 7. Godwin & Fourth of July Creeks Hydroelectric
- 8. Snow River Hydroelectric
- 9. Cook Inlet Offshore Wind
- 10. Kenai Peninsula Solar
- 11. Mount Spurr Geothermal
- 12. Fire Island Wind Phase 2
- 13. Little Mount Susitna Wind
- 14. Hunter Creek Hydroelectric
- 15. Susitna Clean Coal with Carbon Capture, Utilization & Storage
- 16. Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric
- 17. Shovel Creek Wind

Legend

- Geothermal
- Hydroelectric
- Storage
- Solar
- Julai
- Wind
- Clean Coal
- Alaska Energy Authority
- Chugach Electric Association
- Copper Valley Electric Association
- Golden Valley Electric Association
- Homer Electric Association
- Matanuska Electric Association
- Seward Electric System

Rural Power System Upgrade Prioritization List



Of the more than **170 communities** eligible for the power system program, AEA has upgraded more than **one-third of** them over the years. The list of communities below is **limited to 25**, as AEA only has the financial and technical resources to manage a half dozen new projects each year. AEA estimates each power system upgrade to cost between **\$5-7 million**. To complete all 25 on the list below, the total is estimated to be **\$175 million**.

- Red Devil
- 2. Nelson Lagoon
- 3. Chalkyitsik
- 4. False Pass
- 5. Manokotak
- 6. Tuluksak
- 7. Atka
- 8. Birch Creek
- 9. Hughes

- 10. Kokhanok
- 11. Newtok
- 12. Saint Paul
- 13. Chignik Bay
- 14. Levelock
- 15. Galena
- 16. Saint George
- 17. Chignik Lagoon
- 18. Chuathbaluk

- 19. Elfin Cove
- 20. Karluk
- 21. Pedro Bay
- 22. Diomede
- 23. Mertarvik
- 24. Ruby
- 25. Stony River

Bulk Fuel Upgrade Prioritization List



Of the state's **400 bulk fuel facilities**, **60%** have been assessed by AEA. Initial data collection to establish a baseline will completed by December 2024. This active list can be re-ranked according to specific area of concern, e.g. **environmental**, **dispenser**, **tank health**. As AEA gathers additional data, the list is re-ranked accordingly. AEA estimates each bulk fuel upgrade to cost between **\$10-12 million**. To complete all 25 on the list below, the total is estimated to be **\$300 million**.

- Shageluk*
- 2. Newtok
- 3. Eek*
- 4. Kivalina
- 5. Kobuk
- 6. Chefornak*
- 7. Metlakatla
- 8. Whale Pass
- 9. Noatak

- 10. Wales*
- 11. Allakaket*
- 12. Kasaan*
- 13. Coffman Cove
- 14. Naukati Bay
- 15. Nulato
- 16. Huslia
- 17. Ambler*
- 18. Manokotak

- 19. Goodnews Bay
- 20. Shungnak*
- 21. Kwigillingok*
- 22. Tuluksak*
- 23. Teller
- 24. Galena
- 25. Kongiganak

^{*}AEA active projects or projects in development. Several of these projects were identified in previous inventories and assessments.

REF Evaluation Process: Four Stage Review



Stage 1 – Evaluation of the Applicant

Evaluation of the applicant project eligibility and completeness of the application.

Stage 2 – Evaluation of the Project

Evaluation of the project's technical and economic feasibility. This stage includes independent reviews by the Department of Natural Resources and contracted third-party economists.

Stage 3 – Initial Project Ranking

Projects are ranked in consideration of multiple criteria, including, but not limited to, community cost of energy, applicant matching funds, project readiness, project sustainability, and public benefit.

Stage 4 – Final Project Ranking

In conjunction with the Renewable Energy Fund Advisory Committee, this stage balances / re-ranks projects, based on factors including the number and type of projects within each region and their Stage 3 regional and state rankings.



REF Program Eligibility

Eligible Projects Must:

- ☑ Be a new project <u>not</u> in operation in 2008, and
 - be a hydroelectric facility;
 - direct use of renewable energy resources;
 - a facility that generates electricity from fuel cells that use hydrogen from renewable energy sources or natural gas (subject to additional conditions); or
 - be a facility that generates electricity using renewable energy.
 - Natural gas applications must also benefit a community that:
 - o has a population of 10,000 or less, and
 - does not have economically viable renewable energy resources it can develop.

Eligible Applicants Include:

- electric utility holding a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN);
- ☑ independent power producer;
- ✓ local government; or
- other governmental utility, including a tribal council and housing authority.



Whittier Cruise Ship Terminal Port Electrification



- Port electrification is a vital project for Alaska's cruise ship docks, which will receive this funding.
- The purpose of port electrification projects is to support Alaska's clean energy economy and drive the transition towards sustainable and eco-friendly practices within the cruise ship industry while also yielding numerous economic, environmental, and social benefits for Alaska and its communities.
- The state cruise ship head tax and private sector matching contributions will be used to fund this request. In fiscal year 2024 AEA received \$5 million for Whittier.