

03/20/13

Overview:

Energy

Wise

Program

<TARGET><BILL></BILL><SUBJECT>03-20-13 Overview Energy  
Wise Program</SUBJECT><COMM>HENE28</COMM></TARGET>

**Alaska Legislature  
House Special Committee on Energy**



**Rep. Charisse Millett**

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# Agenda

**Wednesday, March 20, 2013  
8:00 – 10:00 a.m.  
Barnes Committee Room (#124)**

**OVERVIEW: +Energy Wise Program**

Sarah Scanlan, Deputy Director, RurAL CAP, Ellen Kazary, Development Director, RurAL CAP

Call in testimony:

Kirk Oviok Jr. - Energy Wise crew leader from Selawik  
Tommy Ballot Sr. - Selawik Housing Authority

Bills previously heard/scheduled

- \* First hearing in first committee of referral
- + Teleconferenced
- = Bill previously heard/scheduled

###

**Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.**  
**Energy Programs:**  
**Designed to Meet the Needs of Alaskans**



Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.  
 Sarah Scanlan, Deputy Director  
 Ellen Kazary, Development Director  
 907-865-7366; ekazary@ruralcap.com

**2013-2015 Strategic Directions**

- ▣ Advocacy
- ▣ Education
- ▣ Health
- ▣ Housing
- ▣ Energy & Environment
- ▣ Capacity Building



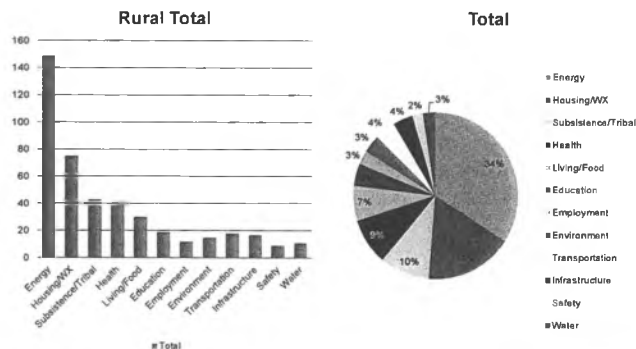
**RurAL CAP**

Employed 1,023 Alaskans in 81 communities last year



**What are the top issues in your community?**  
**2012 AFN Survey**

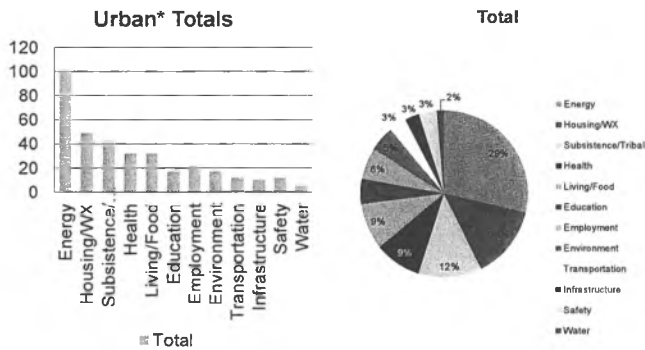
(Rural: n=182 from 171 villages)



## What are the top issues in your community?

2012 AFN Survey:

(n=143)



\*Includes Anchorage, Eagle River, Wasilla, Palmer, Fairbanks, North Pole, Juneau

## RURAL ENERGY CRISIS

AHFC estimates of annual average household fuel and electric costs by region reported in the 2011 "Energy Savers Tips for Alaska:"

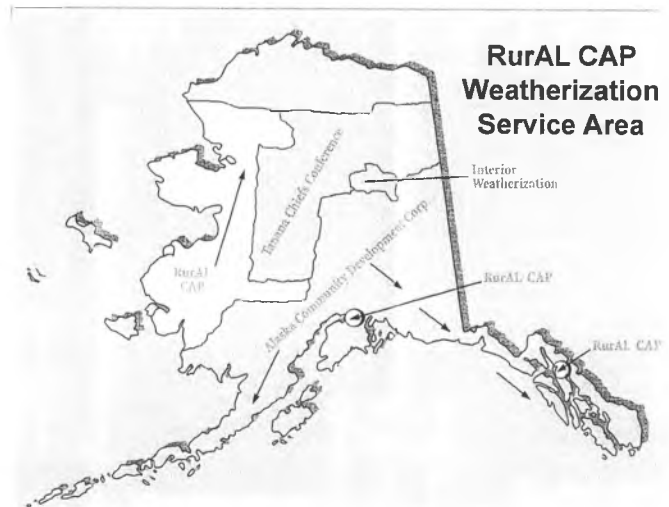
- Northern: \$10,773
- Southwest: \$8,361
- Interior: \$8,317
- Southeast: \$5,947
- Railbelt: \$4,753



## RURAL ENERGY CRISIS

According to the 2012 Commonwealth North report; "Energy for a Sustainable Alaska; The Rural Conundrum;"

*"Remote households with the lowest incomes face the highest cost burden, estimated in some cases to be 47% of their total income."*

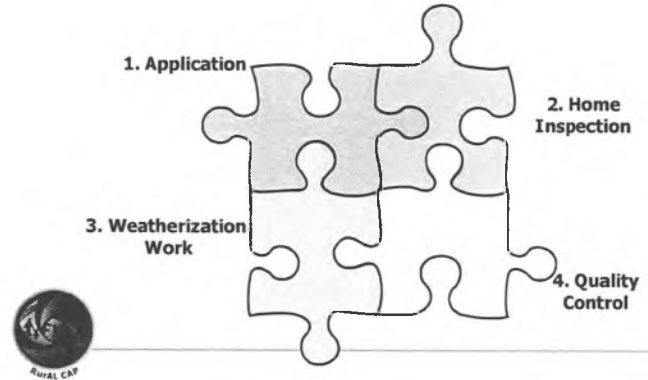


## 2013 RurAL CAP Weatherization Sites

# Homes	Community
500	Anchorage
100	Juneau
40	Kotzebue
13	Shaktoolik
12	Nome
40	Unalakleet
60	Chevak
8	Platinum
33	Toksook Bay
830	Total



## Four Steps to a Weatherized Home



## 1. EZ Application process

- Already getting public assistance, LIHEAP, SSI, Sec 8 Sec 202/811 housing, LIHTC, Senior benefits, or food stamps?
- ☞ Good news: YOU AUTOMATICALLY QUALIFY!
- Application assistance is available for everyone
- New, easier to complete application

*Households with Seniors over 55 and/or children under 6 are a priority*

## 2. Home Assessment



A complete check-up is done. Top to bottom, inside and out, each home is inspected to identify where energy is being wasted and air quality needs improvement.

Each home gets an individual "prescription."

### 3. Weatherization Work



Shaktoolik Wx Crew ready to go out to their job sites for the day

- Local hires, working under the supervision of highly-trained field supervisors and foremen, perform the weatherization work.



### Typical Weatherization Work

Local workers receive on the job training



Ventilation for extreme climates



Sealing prior to installing a new window



Wrapping a home to increase insulation



### Completed homes



Homeowners select the colors to top off the finished weatherization job.



## 4. Quality Control



Weatherization improvements are reviewed with homeowner both before and after the work is done.

Follow-up visit is made after completion to ensure that everything is working properly and to respond to issues or questions.



*Weatherization  
Works*

[www.weatherize.org](http://www.weatherize.org)

907-771-7800



Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.'s  
**Energy Wise**  
Program



Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.'s  
**Energy Wise**  
Program

Energy Wise is a comprehensive residential energy efficiency and conservation education program.

- Rural CAP works in partnership with local communities to reduce the burden of high energy costs.



Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.'s

## Energy Wise Program

- **Reduces** energy consumption, **saves** money (resident) and PCE subsidy (state)
  - Household assessment of energy use
  - Identification of best savings options
  - Low-cost home upgrades
- **Creates jobs** for rural Alaskans
  - Hire and train locally
  - Professional development and certification



## PROVEN PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS



### Since 2010:

- 22 communities served, over 2,000 households benefited (95% participation rate)
- More than 80% report maintaining changes, lower bills, warmer homes
- 240 rural Alaskans trained and employed



## PROVEN PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS

### Articles about Energy Wise:

- Information Insights identified RurAL CAP's Energy Wise program as a best practice, proven tactic and recommended action step to improve the energy crisis in their 2011 report "*Recommendations for Alaska Energy Efficiency and Conservation Public Outreach Education and Outreach*" commissioned by the Alaska Energy Authority
- Highlighted in as a successful program in:
  - Alaska Business Monthly
  - The Hunter
  - Arctic Sounder
  - National Native News - NPR
  - Petroleum News
  - KTVA Channel 11

APRN



## COLLABORATIVE EFFORT WITH STATE ENERGY PARTNERS

Designed and implemented in partnership with:

- Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
  - Alaska Energy Authority
  - Weatherization Service Providers
  - Housing Authorities
  - Department of Energy
  - Denali Commission
  - Department of Labor
  - Regional and community organizations
- Utilities



## COMPLEMENTS WEATHERIZATION

- Prioritizes communities not recently served or scheduled to be served by Weatherization
- Focuses on immediate improvements for energy savings and education
- Residents are involved in assessing energy use and making changes in their homes
- Engages the entire community, all homes eligible



## EFFECTIVE PROGRAM DESIGN

- Community Partnership
- Message Delivered by Local Crews
  - 4- 10 hired per community, 6-12 weeks
  - Professional training and certification



Preparing for future employment in:

Energy Development  
Weatherization  
Construction Fields

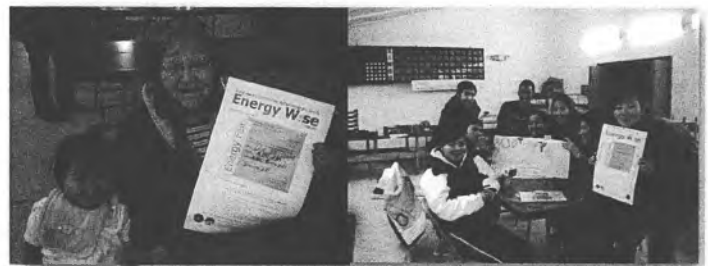
Crews receive certification in:

- Weatherization Tech 1
  - General building science
  - Weatherization basics
  - Hands-on installation experience
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10
  - Construction safety standards
- First Aid



## EFFECTIVE PROGRAM DESIGN

- Energy Fair
  - Engages entire community
  - Residents sign-up for home assessment



## EFFECTIVE PROGRAM DESIGN

- Home Visits - Energy Assessments
  - 2 crew members, 1 full day (8 hours) per home
  - Residents participate in finding where energy is used and how to save
  - Review energy bills and identify potential savings
  - \$300 of energy efficiency supplies installed



## HOME VISIT



Crews Show Residents How to Save Energy and Money

## \$300 IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY SUPPLIES



- Compact fluorescent lights and LEDs
- Jamb-up door kit and door sweep
- Pipe insulation
- Faucet aerators, soap-up valve and low-flow shower heads
- Power strips with surge protectors
- Hygrometers
- Refrigerator thermometer and coil cleaners
- Outlet and light switch insulators, plug protectors
- Water heater blanket
- Fire alarm, extinguisher, and carbon monoxide detector (if needed)



## ENERGY ASSESSMENT HOME VISITS



Insulating outlets and switches

Installing water heater blankets and teaching maintenance



Installing door sweep and weather-stripping



## EFFECTIVE PROGRAM DESIGN

- Follow-Up Education and Survey
  - 3 to 6 months after home assessment
  - Distribute additional educational materials and supplies



## ENERGY WISE BUDGET BREAKDOWN \$2,000/HOME

Energy Wise Budget Breakdown



### Communities Receive:

- Up to 10 locally hired crew members employed for 8-12 weeks, receiving training and professional certification
- On-site 'Launch Week' for hiring and training local crews
- Energy Fair engaging residents, schools and organizations
- Homes receive:
  - Full day home visit from a trained, locally hired crew
  - Household energy/kiowatt consumption and cost assessment conducted with the resident
  - Education on energy cost-saving strategies
  - Home energy efficiency supplies installed (\$300 value)
  - Follow-up visit and survey about project results by crew member 2-3 months after initial home visit



## 2010 ENERGY WISE RESULTS

- 120 rural Alaskans trained and employed
- 90% retention of crews
- 1,000 homes served
- 7,500 educated
- \$\$\$ energy and money saved



## 2010 OUTCOMES – SUSTAINED CHANGE

Based on 700 follow-up home surveys:

- 86% reported they were still practicing energy efficiency and conservation measures
- 82% reported decreased home heating costs
- 80% reported decreased electric bills



## KASIGLUK CASE STUDY 2010 AVERAGE MONTHLY ELECTRICAL SAVINGS

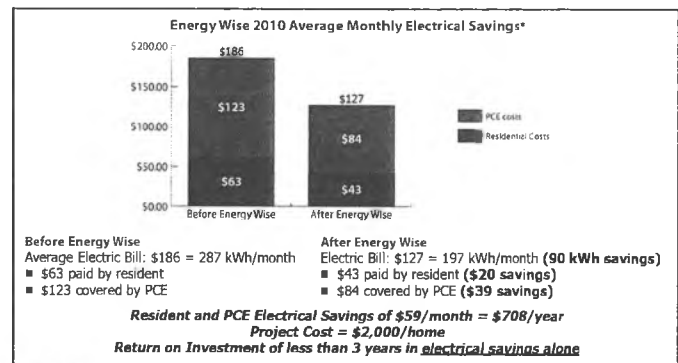
- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| ■ Before Energy Wise:   | ■ After Energy Wise:                     |
| □ \$186 = 287 kWh/month | □ \$127 = 197 kWh/month                  |
| □ \$63 paid by resident | □ \$43 by resident = <b>\$20 savings</b> |
| □ \$123 covered by PCE  | □ \$84 by PCE = <b>\$39 savings</b>      |

### After Energy Wise:

- 90 kWh/month reduction
- \$59 savings in resident and PCE electricity costs



## KASIGLUK



\*Based on an independent evaluation completed in consultation with ISFR using AVEC data for 2010 Rural CAP Energy Wise communities

## RETURN ON INVESTMENT BASED ON KASIGLUK STUDY

- Residents save:
  - \$20/month in electricity = \$240/year
- State saves - PCE reduction:
  - \$39/month = \$468/year
- Project cost is \$2,000/home:
  - Annual savings = \$708/year
- Return on Investment = less than 3 years in electrical savings alone



## NANA - ENERGY WISE

### CORPORATE – NON-PROFIT PARTNERSHIP

According to the Northwest Arctic Strategic Energy Plan:

- 1 in 4 household dollars in the region goes to heating and electric (\$1/20 is typical in lower 48)
- 20% poverty rate
- 20% unemployment rate
- \$788/month average spent on home heating and electric
- Approximately 50% reported some knowledge of energy efficiency or conservation
- About 80% reported reducing subsistence activities because of energy costs

## **NANA - ENERGY WISE CORPORATE – NON-PROFIT PARTNERSHIP**

In 2011, NANA Regional Corporation, through their Village Economic Development Council, decided to contract with Rural CAP to bring the Energy Wise program to every household in their region.



## **NANA - ENERGY WISE 2011-13 PARTNERS**

- NANA Regional Corporation
- Alaska Energy Authority
- Community Partners
- Northwest Arctic Borough
- Northwest Inupiat Housing Authority
- Denali Commission/Department of Labor
- U.S. Department of Energy, NREL
- Alaska Works Partnership



## **NANA - ENERGY WISE 2011-13 Outcomes**

- 11 communities served: Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue (180 homes), Noatak, Noorvik, Selawik, and Shungnak
- 60+ crew members received professional certification
- 120 crew members trained in energy efficiency and conservation techniques and community education
- 1,022 homes visited; 95% participation rate
- Over 4,000 people received energy efficiency and conservation education and resources

Energy bill savings



## **2011-12 OUTCOMES – SUSTAINED CHANGE**

Results in NANA communities based on January 2012 survey:

- Average electric bill the month before Energy Wise was \$312
- Average savings on electrical bill after the Energy Wise visit was \$35
- 82% reported that their homes felt warmer – despite record breaking cold temperatures



## REDUCING THE ENERGY BURDEN

CAPSIS request submitted for \$1.6M to conduct Energy Wise in 12 communities in rural Alaska.

- Energy Wise is a tested and proven initiative with immediate and long-term results
- Energy Wise can provide immediate relief to communities outside the Railbelt with few other options
- RurAL CAP is committed to reducing the energy burden for Alaskans while creating healthy economies and sustainable communities
- Regional and local requests for expansion



## ADDITIONAL FUNDING

\$2M total project budget for FY13

- \$1.6M requested from State of Alaska
- \$100,000 secured through the Denali Commission – for Venetie and Arctic Village
- \$300,000 requested through the Rasmuson Foundation
  - The Rasmuson Foundation has met with RurAL CAP and agreed that they would be interested in funding project supplies, should state funding be secured



## OPERATIONAL PLAN CAPSIS REQUEST

- 12 communities will be served
- 1,000 households will benefit
- 70 rural Alaskans will be employed
- Competitive selection process will evaluate:
  - Energy burden and resources
  - Economic stress
  - Efficiency considerations: population size and geographic dispersion
  - Community and regional organization buy-in, commitment of available resources, and support



Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.'s  
**Energy Wise**  
Program

*Healthy People, Sustainable Communities, Vibrant Cultures*

*For more information, contact:*

Ellen Kazary  
Development Director  
(907) 865-7366  
ekazary@ruralcap.com



Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.'s

# Energy Wise Program



Energy Wise helps rural Alaskans reduce their energy consumption, lower their electric bills, and save money. Energy Wise also creates up to 10 local jobs and training opportunities per community. Residents and the State save approximately \$708/year in home electric bills, in addition to reducing heating costs. The program costs \$2,000 per home.

## How It Works

Locally hired crews are trained to educate community residents and conduct basic energy efficiency upgrades through full-day home visits. Energy Wise crews work with residents to review their actual home energy consumption and teach them how to reduce costs. Energy Wise complements Weatherization by providing community-wide efficiency education and minor energy improvements that help people understand how their actions impact their energy bills.

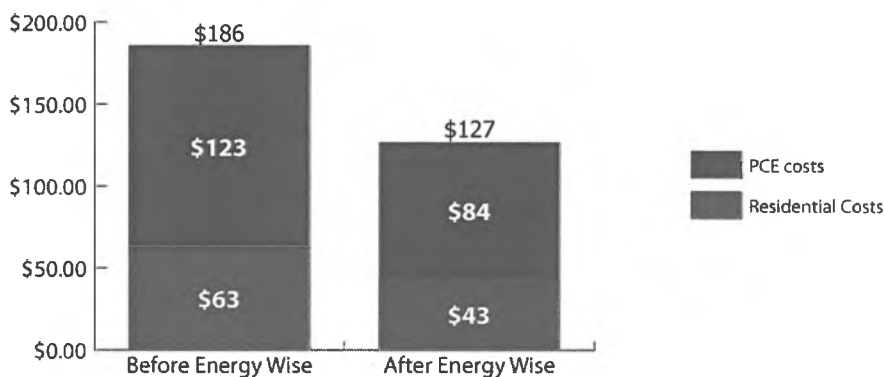
## Benefits of Energy Wise

- Immediate savings in household energy costs
- Meaningful employment and training in rural communities
- Consumer education resulting in sustained energy cost savings
- Serves residents not eligible or able to quickly access the State's Weatherization or Energy Rebate programs



Martin Woods shares ways a resident can reduce her energy consumption, lower her energy bills and save money.  
Photo by Darla Brown

## Energy Wise 2010 Average Monthly Electrical Savings\*



### Before Energy Wise

Average Electric Bill: \$186 = 287 kWh/month

- \$63 paid by resident
- \$123 covered by PCE

### After Energy Wise

Electric Bill: \$127 = 197 kWh/month (**90 kWh savings**)

- \$43 paid by resident (**\$20 savings**)
- \$84 covered by PCE (**\$39 savings**)

**Resident and PCE Electrical Savings of \$59/month = \$708/year**  
**Project Cost = \$2,000/home**  
**Return on Investment of less than 3 years in electrical savings alone**

\*Based on an independent evaluation completed in consultation with ISER using AVEC data for 2010 RurAL CAP Energy Wise communities



**Collaboration With Energy Partners**  
 RurAL CAP's partners include NANA Regional Corporation, Alaska Department of Labor, Alaska Energy Authority, U.S. Department of Energy, and the Denali Commission.

**Energy Wise Highlights to date:**

- 22 communities served
- Over 2,000 homes served
- 200 rural Alaskans employed

An Energy Wise crew member cleans refrigerator coils to increase efficiency

**Energy Wise Budget Breakdown**



**Communities Receive:**

- Up to 10 locally hired crew members employed for 8-12 weeks, receiving training and professional certification
- On-site 'Launch Week' for hiring and training local crews
- Energy Fair engaging residents, schools and organizations
- Homes receive:
  - Full day home visit from a trained, locally hired crew
  - Household energy/kilowatt consumption and cost assessment conducted with the resident
  - Education on energy cost-saving strategies
  - Home energy efficiency supplies installed (\$300 value)
  - Follow-up visit and survey about project results by crew member 2-3 months after initial home visit



Up to 10 locally-hired crew members are employed for 8-12 weeks. Pictured is Shungnak's Energy Wise Crew.

**Energy Wise Communities to Date**

- |           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Akiak     | Kotzebue     |
| Ambler    | New Stuyahok |
| Buckland  | Noatak       |
| Chefornak | Noorvik      |
| Deering   | Nunapitchuk  |
| Gambell   | Quinhagak    |
| Huslia    | Ruby         |
| Kasigluk  | Savoonga     |
| Kiana     | Selawik      |
| Kivalina  | Shungnak     |
| Kobuk     | Tuluksak     |

*"It is warmer and keeps cold air out more than it used to. I am so grateful for this program. It helped me a lot on heat and lights."*

- Freida Kinogak, Tuluksak resident



February 25, 2013

To: The Alaska Legislature

Re: Support for RurAL CAP's Energy Wise Program

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC) has collaborated with RurAL CAP for many years, most recently on their Energy Wise Program.

This program, which is directed at making modest energy efficiency improvements in rural homes while educating homeowners about the complex subject of the efficient use of scarce and expensive energy, dovetails well with the project that AVEC has implemented in the last few years on installing real-time electric consumption monitors in rural homes.

Rural Alaskans consume modest amounts of electricity and heat sources per capita, yet their out-of-pocket expense for energy is staggering – even more so when weighed against their very low household income. RurAL CAP's efforts to create local employment, while helping homeowners reduce those energy expenditures, is timely, comprehensive and greatly needed.

AVEC strongly supports continuation and expansion of RurAL CAP's efforts and we urge the Alaska Legislature to continue to support this vital program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meera Kohler".

Meera Kohler  
President and CEO



March 1, 2013

Jolene John, Community Development Manager  
Energy and Environmental Projects  
Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP)  
731 East 8th Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Regarding: Letter of Support for RurAL CAP Energy Wise Program:

Dear Ms. John:

On behalf of Nuvista Light & Electric Cooperative, Inc, thank you for the work the Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP) is doing in western Alaska. Nuvista writes in support of the funding requests RurAL CAP has submitted to the Alaska State Legislature.

Nuvista fully supports RurAL CAP's requests for the villages within our region. We respectfully request Alaska State Legislature fully fund these important energy conservation projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Elaine Brown'.

Elaine Brown, CEO

Cc:	Senators:	Representatives:
	Lyman Hoffman	Bob Herron
	Donald Olson	Bryce Edgmon
	Gary Stevens	Neal Foster
		Alan Austerman

# NANA Partners with Rural CAP

## Energy Wise Program cultivates energy efficiency



Photo: Kent Banks, Rural CAP

*Rural CAP's Energy Wise program helps Alaskans reduce their energy consumption, lower their home heating and electric bills, and save money. Noorvik Energy Wise crew members include (L-R): back row: Lawrence Wells, George Smith, and Jason Smith; middle row: William Field, Tommy Snyder, Luke Snyder, Marty Smoke and Murphy Patterson; front row: Elmer Melton (crew leader) and Clayton Ballot.*

BY LOUISE FREEMAN

With high energy costs causing financial hardship for rural residents throughout the state, Alaska Native corporations, NGOs and state and federal agencies have been scrambling to find ways to address the problem. Weatherization programs are one answer, but however effective these programs are, they are expensive to fund—up to \$35,000 per home—complex to plan, and often take years to implement. There has been a need for simple and cost-effective solutions that can be put in place immediately.


The cost of energy in rural Alaska “is an issue we are working in partnership with other regional organizations to address, but it is the single largest barrier to regional economic develop-

ment,” said Marie Greene, president and CEO of NANA Regional Corp. Inc. (NANA). In 2010, Rural Alaska Community Action Program (Rural CAP), a statewide, private, nonprofit organization, used approximately \$2.5 million in federal 2009 Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to launch a pilot program to address one aspect of rural energy use that has often been ignored: education. “We can’t overlook the importance of the human factor of what goes into using energy. We help people understand where their energy money is going. And based on that, they can make their own decision on how to use that energy,” said Cathie Clements, community development director at Rural CAP.

### COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Energy Wise focuses on communities with especially high fuel costs and that are low on the wait list for weatherization. These high-need villages are provided with a local crew of trained employees who help educate their neighbors by organizing a community conservation fair and making home visits. Interested residents are visited in their homes by a trained Energy Wise crew. The crew leader works one-on-one with them to assess household energy/kilowatt consumption.

In addition to demystifying the often confusing heating and electric bills, the crew leader helps residents to make the connection between how they use energy and what that looks like on their bills. Crew members then install



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\$300 of efficiency upgrade equipment, including compact fluorescent lights, weather-stripping and water heater blankets. (Energy Wise is designed to complement, or piggy-back on weatherization programs, which make larger-scale upgrades such as adding insulation and new windows.) The crew leader follows up with a visit three to six months later to answer any questions.

In the first year of the Energy Wise program, 7,500 residents in 32 high-need villages from Savoonga to Huslia received energy conservation education, 2,000 homes were given low-cost, efficiency upgrades, and 160 area residents were provided with seasonal employment. The village of Selawik, a community of about 800 residents in the NANA region, was one of the villages in the pilot program. NANA liked the results they saw in Selawik—an effective, low-cost program that used local hire, involved the whole community, and saved the residents an average of 20 percent on their energy bills.

“NANA shareholders in Selawik felt they benefited from the program,” said Greene. “We evaluated the program and our board felt that it would be beneficial to our shareholders to roll out regionally. Board members felt that the Energy Wise program fit with NANA’s mission to improve the lives of our shareholders. More than half of our (12,900) shareholders live within the borders of our region and the high cost of fuel impacts their lives daily.”

With sky-high heating and electrical bills, rural residents have less money to buy groceries and other necessities. In rural Alaska, an average of 47 percent of household income goes to pay energy costs.

#### DIVERSIFIED FUNDING

NANA will be expanding the Energy Wise program to include all eleven communities in the NANA region. The three-phase program started in the fall of 2011 and will be completed in 2013. The NANA board approved an \$860,000 expenditure, which provided the majority of funding for Phase I, covering the villages most in need: Ambler, Buckland, Kivalina, Noatak, Noorvik and Shungnak. A contractual agreement was entered into with Rural CAP to implement the program.

Phase I, now in progress and to be completed in the spring of 2012, is providing efficiency upgrades to more than 500 homes, education to more than 2,000 people, and employment to approximately 50 local residents. "NANA was really interested in doing something right away with the energy burden," said Ellen Kazary, Community Development manager at RurAL CAP.

NANA is the first private organization to fund the program, and once NANA stepped forward with private dollars, other public partners came on board. The Denali Commission/State Department of Labor (\$297,239 to train crews in 2011-12 and 2012-13); U.S. Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory (\$50,319 for planning and evaluation planning); Alaska Works Partnership (in-kind training support); Northwest Inupiat Housing Authority (in-kind support); and Northwest Arctic Borough (tech support and "smart meters" that track energy use). Local partners include tribal and city councils, churches, youth groups, and parks and recreation programs, which provide in-kind support. The result of all these organizations working together is the type of effective public-private partnership the stimulus funds were supposed to generate.

#### LOCAL HIRE

Not content with simply dispersing information and calling it "education," RurAL CAP designed Energy Wise using behavior change theory to positively affect how people use energy in their homes. "It takes not just one but several encounters with the message on a variety of levels, Kazary said. "(With Energy Wise) they hear the crew leaders talking about it, they see their neighbors implementing it, and they themselves have one-on-one discussions with the crew, not just once but several times. That really helps to sustain behavior change."

To convey this information in a friendly, culturally acceptable way, it was important to hire local people. "Local hire is a huge part of why it is a success. It makes it so much more comfortable and easy for crew members to be training friends and relatives," Kazary said. "They take a leadership role that is endorsing change in a socially acceptable and positive way. You

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can't just come in and lecture people as an outsider. Also, crew members live in the villages so they can continue to answer questions. It leaves that knowledge base there."

The local hire component was one of RurAL CAP's goals in designing Energy Wise and was one of the elements of the program that attracted NANA's interest. "The program also addresses some of our Village Economic Development needs by creating local jobs and offering training opportunities," Greene said. The four to 10 crew members and one crew leader hired in each participating community receive training leading to Weatherization Tech I, OSHA and First Aid certification. "Certification will be a big bonus for the crews," said Clements, preparing them for future employment on weatherization crews, or working for the housing authority, or in the construction industry. Training and implementation of the program take place September through January, offering eight to 12 weeks of full-time employment in the off-season when construction and other summer work is not available.



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**CULTIVATING ENERGY CONSERVATION**  
Shungnak is a community of 270 people located 150 air miles east of Kotzebue on a scenic bluff above the Kobuk River. Local resident and Energy Wise crew leader Harry Commack said Shungnak is the kind of place where "you can walk out of the store with one plastic grocery bag and it's \$100." The village has one of the highest energy costs in northwest Alaska. Residents pay \$0.38/kilowatt hour, compared to Chugach Electric customers in Anchorage, who pay less than \$0.14/kilowatt hour. Fuel is normally barged in from Kotzebue, but with area rivers running low in recent years, there are times when the barge cannot make it to upriver villages such as Kobuk and Shungnak. Fuel must then be flown in from Fairbanks. Shungnak suffers from the additional problem of inadequate fuel storage capacity. Even with the tanks topped off in the summer, the village often runs out of fuel by April, requiring fuel be flown in from Fairbanks. Stove oil, which costs an already high \$4 per gallon in Fairbanks, sells for more than \$9 per gallon in Shungnak



Shungnak Energy Wise crew members include (L-R): Harry Commack (crew leader), Brandon Woods, Jarraine Collini, William Sheldon IV and Jamey Gilila.

In late November, Commack led a crew on their first day of training installing energy efficiency equipment in retiree Susie Sun's house. Dressed in blue sweatshirts with the Energy Wise logo on back and the NANA logo on front, crew members William Sheldon IV, 20, and Jarraine Collini, 24, applied window insulation film.

Standing back to admire her work, Collini crowed, "I did it again!" Collini said what she likes about the job is "helping people, making sure they stay warm and helping them save a little bit of money."

Sun stood over a pot of caribou soup bubbling on the stove and spoke with approval about the Energy Wise

program. "I've learned something new this morning—how to use a power strip. It will save energy. Instead of plugging (an appliance) into the wall, the power strip has an on off switch you can just turn it off."

Power strips are used to eliminate what is called "phantom power" use, which is the slow drain of electricity that appliances used when they are plugged in, even if they are not turned on. Sun continued, "It has made me much more aware of what to do to save energy. Everybody in town should really look into this. They're doing a really good job."

Kazary echoed Sun's enthusiasm: "That's what I love about this program. It's contagious—you watch the whole community get involved."

The Energy Wise goal is to include 100 percent of households in each village, rather than restrict services to low-income households. Kazary explained why "low-income" is an almost meaningless designation in Alaska's rural communities. "What is considered a middle-income family elsewhere isn't really if they are spending half their

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Jarraine Collini, along with other Energy Wise crew members, conducts inventory on the supplies in preparation for installing energy saving measures in each home in Shungnak.

holds participating in the Energy Wise program in 2010 saved an average of 90 kWh/month, resulting in savings of \$20 to the resident. An additional \$39 in savings goes to the state's Power Cost Equalization program, which partially subsidizes the cost of electricity for residents of rural Alaska. When the cost of heating is included, residents' savings go up to \$50. Each household upgrade costs less than \$2,000. With an average combined yearly savings of \$1,068 to the resident and the state, the project payback in savings is less than two years. In a follow-up survey of 700 households that participated in Energy Wise in 2010, 86 percent reported they were still practicing energy efficiency and conservation measures; 80 percent reported decreased electric bills and 82 percent reported decreased home heating costs.

RurAL CAP would like to expand Energy Wise to cover other communities throughout the state struggling with high energy costs. Tanana Chiefs Conference and other tribal organizations have expressed interest in the program. □

income on energy bills," Kazary said. "A lot of those that had the highest savings have been among middle-income households that hadn't previously been

eligible for weatherization resources before. It's been a huge eye-opening experience on how much they could save." Preliminary results indicate house-

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# The Hunter



## INSIDE:

### TRESPASS PROGRAM

PAGE 2

### HYDRO POWER

PAGE 3

### NANA SPONSORS WEIO

PAGE 5

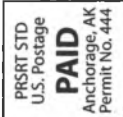
### DORIS ANDERSON

### RETIRES FROM NOSI

PAGE 5

### 2012 GRADUATES

PAGE 6



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## MARIE'S MESSAGE

*Marie Greene with her daughter, Zoe Farnoff.*

struggled with Zoe's passing.

I am so grateful to be Inupiaq. I am so grateful to be part of a corporation, both as a shareholder and as the CEO, which is truly a family. When any of our people are in need, we find a way to be there. We hold each other up and help out. What we have here at NANA and in our region is very special – and at one of the worst moments for my family – your love, support and prayers gave us strength. I am both humbled and so filled with love and gratitude for our shareholders and employees. On behalf of my family, quyaanna and God bless you.

*Marie N. Greene, NANA President / CEO*

Many things in life take time, such as the development of meaningful relationships and the growth of wisdom. Similarly, NANA was not built in a day – it takes years to build a company, to build relationships, and to build a strong foundation for our shareholders. It has taken four decades and the hard work and dedication of many, many people to bring NANA to where it is today, and I take my work with NANA very seriously.

Sometimes though, everything changes in a second, as it did recently for my family. At those times, people pull together, and I've been so honored by the love people have shown. After the passing of my daughter, Zoe Louisa on June 12, I took leave to support my son-in-law, Steve and grandchildren Kelsi, Keoni and Gage in Unalakleet. There we received calls, flowers and visitors. People were incredibly generous with their kindness. Don, Luke, Roland and Helvi's immediate presence supporting me and my family carried us as we



*Marie N. Greene with granddaughters (L to R) Clara Dawn and Kelsi and daughter Zara at the Alaska Run for Women*

## NANA Board of Directors

### Village funding requests approved at July meeting

NANA Regional Corporation's board of directors met on July 19, 2012 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. NANA's Vancouver-based development partners – Teck Resources, Limited, and NovaCopper Resources – both presented at the meeting.

As part of NANA's ongoing commitment to village economic development in NANA region communities, the board approved several funding requests including: additional funding for Kiana's heavy equipment purchase and funding for the purchases of a Caterpillar D4 dozer for the Native Villages of Kobuk and Selawik.

The board also discussed the upcoming August 28, 2012, elections and expressed concerns regarding Ballot Measure 2. If passed, the ballot measure would establish a new Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) in the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. The program would develop new state and local standards to review projects in coastal areas of the State. The prior ACMP sunset (or ended) on July 1, 2011. The measure is on the ballot as the result of a citizen's initiative.

NANA supports the re-establishment of a coastal zone management plan that allows

for local involvement, however, NANA's board of directors has expressed concerns regarding Ballot Measure 2. Because of the ballot measure's language, its impacts to NANA lands, resources and shareholders are unclear.

NANA recognizes and honors that voting is an important right and an individual choice. However, NANA's board of directors felt it necessary to express NANA's concern with Ballot Measure 2 to shareholders. The board encourages all Alaska-based NANA shareholders to learn more about Ballot Measure 2 and to exercise their right to vote on August 28th.

# Energy Wise Update

## Gearing Up for Phase II

By Ellen Kazary, RurAL CAP

For a second year, NANA Regional Corporation has committed \$900,000 in funding and contracted with the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. (RurAL CAP) to deliver the Energy Wise Program. In 2012-13, Energy Wise will be delivered to 525 homes in the communities of Deering, Kiana, Kobuk, Selawik, and a portion of Kotzebue.

Energy Wise helps Alaskans reduce their energy consumption, lower their home heating and electric bills, and save money. Through this program, locally hired crews are trained to educate community residents and conduct basic energy efficiency upgrades through full-day home visits.

Each community will be recruiting for one Crew Leader at the end of August. The Crew Leaders will start work at the end of September with supervisory and energy training in Kotzebue. Depending on community size, between

four and ten Crew Members will also be hired in October and November, trained in Weatherization Tech 1, OSHA 10, and energy efficiency and conservation fundamentals.

From November to mid-February, crews will conduct home visits in all households interested in participating in this project.

Households who participate in Energy Wise will receive a day-long home visit from two Energy Wise Crew Members. Crew Members will conduct a household energy assessment with the resident, provide education on energy cost-saving strategies, and install approximately \$300 in energy efficiency supplies.

Several partners have committed resources to increase the impact of this program starting in 2011. The Denali Commission Training Fund through the Department of Labor is providing funding to train and certify 65 2012-13 Energy Wise crew members to be community energy educators with certification in Weatherization Tech I and OSHA 10 (construction safety



Shown in spring 2011, Shungnak Energy Wise Crew Members include (l-r): Crew leader Harry Commack, Brandon Woods and Jarraina Tickell-Collini. Energy Wise crew members are hired and trained locally and receive certification for Weatherization Tech 1, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10 and first aid.

training). Alaska Works Partnership (AWP) is providing in-kind trainers to conduct the Weatherization Tech 1 and OSHA 10 training at each site.

The Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) has contracted with RurAL CAP to develop and implement a program evaluation method that will track the impact of Energy Wise on residential energy consumption and evaluate the effect of training and employment on Energy Wise crew members.

New this year is a project funded by the Alaska Energy Authority to create and pilot community energy efficiency outreach and education kits. Energy Wise crews will use these kits to provide community energy fairs, household energy education, and engage youth in energy savings.

In August, RurAL CAP's Energy Wise Program Coordinators will travel to all five villages to meet with local representatives, NANA Resource Technicians, and community leaders about the Energy Wise Program, discuss the



Locally hired crew members receive orientation training in Buckland during Energy Wise launch week in November 2011.

project, answer questions, develop a timeline for launching the program in the village, and to visit houses for a better understanding of supplies that would be needed. Throughout the project, communities will be kept up to date on progress purchasing supplies, plans for shipping, and will participate in recruiting and



Tommy Adams, Sr. of Kivalina speaks with 2011 Kivalina Energy Wise crew leader, Andrew Koenig about the materials being used to help make Adams' home more energy efficient.

# Hydro Power

## Using Water To Create Energy

By Jacqueline Qatalina Schaeffer,  
Sustainability Specialist/Designer

Water sustains life. It is the one component necessary for survival of not only mankind, but the planet we live on. This vital natural resource covers more than 70 percent of our planet and is needed for all plants, animals and people to continue to survive.

In the NANA region, studies are being conducted to see if this essential resource can also be used to help offset the high cost of energy. Diesel is the current source of fuel used for electricity in many Northwest Alaska communities and current regional prices range from \$7 to \$10 per gallon.

Current studies in the Kobuk area, being conducted collaboratively by the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC), NANA, WHPacific, Geo-Watersheds Scientific and Brailey Hydrologic show great energy generation potential. The areas of study include the Upper Cosmos Creek, Upper Wesley Creek, Upper Dahl Creek and the Upper Kogoluktuk River. Hydrology stations in place show potential to tap hydroelectric energy. Hydroelectricity is created by water moving from one location to another over

a large drop in elevation and passing through a generator. Gravity causes the water to fall and a turbine propeller is turned by the moving water, generating electricity. This renewable energy source is a very clean, producing no direct waste and very little greenhouse carbon-dioxide.

The type of hydroelectric energy being studied in the Upper Kobuk is called "run-of-river". Run-of-river hydroelectric plants do not require a large dam, and rely on the natural flow volume of the stream or river. Such facilities tend to have far fewer environmental impacts compared to conventional dam-storage hydroelectric plants because of the lack of a large artificial reservoir like a man-made lake. With proper siting, construction techniques, and operation and maintenance, run-of-river hydropower in the region could have minimal impacts on fisheries and other subsistence resources. These hydrologic studies will help determine the water available for hydroelectric generation. Additional studies will be conducted to determine project features, estimated project costs, operating conditions, energy production costs and overall project feasibility.

To learn more about hydroelectric power and how Cosmos Hills Project visit [cosmoshydro.org](http://cosmoshydro.org)



Kobuk students, Angeline Custer on the left and her brother Murphy Custer Jr. on the right, helped scientists collect data for the Cosmos Hydrology Network - learning and contributing to a collaborative effort at the same time.

Exciting project-based learning opportunities for Kobuk students are coordinated with the Cosmos Hills hydrology projects.

The Kobuk students' greenhouse is outfitted with a weather station put together in cooperation with the Cosmos Hydrology Network. The weather station reports air temperatures and information about the solar-powered station itself. Building and operating the greenhouse helps the students and teachers at Kobuk school learn and teach about climate, weather, biology and other topics. Current conditions at the greenhouse are detected with the station and reported year-round on the Cosmos Hills Hydrology Network website. The Kobuk Kids Weather Facebook group is

another outlet for discussion and sharing information and photos.

Students have also assisted the scientific teams with data collection. In spring 2012, teachers and students traveled along the Cosmos Hydrology Project winter trail with Tommy Jones, one of the Cosmos Hydrology GW Scientific Hydrology Interns. The students were shown how to do snow surveys and record various measurements of snow and ice on Lake Kolliokso. This data will be used by the hydrology network and shared with the National Weather Service.

Cooperation between NANA Regional Corporation, Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, WHPacific and others is making these opportunities possible.