

Vision

To be the best Alaskan utility.

Our Values

- Honesty and integrity will govern our activities.
- All individuals will be treated with dignity and respect.
- Commitments made will be fulfilled.

ALASKA

Village Electric Cooperative

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative

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This automated, fuel-efficient power plant in Chevak has a total diesel-engine generating capacity of 1,800 kW, powered by three engine-generator sets: a Cummins QSK23, a Caterpillar 3456, and a Cummins QSK15. Four 100-kW wind turbines provide additional generating capacity using renewable energy.

Providing reliable power to rural communities since 1968

AVEC

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AVEC) is a non-profit electric utility serving residents in 56 locations throughout rural Alaska. AVEC is owned by those it serves.

Who We Serve

AVEC began providing electric service to rural Alaska in 1968. The residents of Nulato, Hooper Bay and Old Harbor were among the first to become members.

AVEC covers the largest area of any retail electric cooperative in the world. AVEC's member villages span from as far north as Kivalina, to as far south as Old Harbor on Kodiak Island, and as far west as Gambell on St. Lawrence Island (within sight of Siberia), to as far east as Minto, located about 80 miles west of Fairbanks. Minto is the only AVEC community accessible by road. All the other communities are only accessible by airplane or marine vessel.



The members of AVEC are from diverse cultures including Athabascan, Aleut, Inupiat, Yupik, Siberian Yupik and Caucasian. Although the majority of the members have command of two languages, there are still many who speak only in their Native dialect.

The means of survival for the members of the cooperative are equally distinct: whaling, fishing (from nets to fish wheels), hunting, trapping, subsistence, and private enterprise. All of these cultural, social, and economic factors combine to create village life.

How We Operate

Because of the many rural locations extending throughout western Alaska, each of AVEC's 56 communities conducts an annual community meeting for the express purpose of electing delegates to represent their community at the Annual Cooperative Meeting held in Anchorage each April. At the Annual Meeting, the delegates conduct AVEC business and elect members to serve on the seven-member board of directors.

AVEC and most local governments operate as a partnership. Under operating agreements with member communities, local control is exercised. The village governments hire the plant operators and oversee the day-to-day operation of the power generation and distribution systems.

Due to active permafrost that breaks buried cables, the majority of AVEC's distribution systems are overhead, which ensures reliable, year-round service.

AVEC has more power plants than all other electric cooperatives in the State of Alaska combined. More than 150 diesel generators run a cumulative total of over 400,000 hours a year. That is equal to nearly 950 trips by diesel truck around the world each year, nearly 23,000,000 road miles. AVEC purchases more than five million gallons of fuel annually, which is stored in bulk fuel tank farm facilities, many of which have been upgraded or completely rebuilt with money received primarily through the Denali Commission. AVEC is also continually upgrading and increasing the efficiency of our power plant facilities and distribution lines.

AVEC started out with loans from the Rural Utilities Service, United States Department of Agriculture. In addition to borrowing from the RUS, AVEC finances its construction through a fellow cooperative – the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation.

Benefits Through Electricity

Although expensive, at an average cost of 58¢ a kWh, the introduction of stable electricity has brought about many changes to rural Alaska, including better health care, improved housing, schools, and water and sewer systems to over 75% of the rural communities. Other benefits include improved communications and increased economic opportunities through development of new or improved businesses. For rural Alaska, the very basics of modern life have become reality!

Renewable Energy

As technology progresses, AVEC actively works with the State of Alaska and other agencies to explore alternative energy sources. Thirty-four wind turbines are installed in 11 communities with interties to four other communities. Wind provided 6% of all electricity generated in 2012.

AVEC's 2012 Statistics

Number of consumers: 7,954
Full time employees: 70
Largest community: Hooper Bay: 1,114
Smallest community: Shageluk: 69
Average village population: 449
Total assets: \$114.9 million
Total debt: \$56.2 million
Annual kWh sales: 74 million
Annual revenues: \$42.8 million
Annual fuel cost: \$22.9 million
Fuel - gallons used per year: 5.5 million
Distance from Kivalina to Old Harbor: 806 miles
Distance from Gambell to Minto: 688 miles

Comparison with Anchorage

(Alaska's largest city – 2012 DCCED figures)

	Anchorage	Average AVEC Village
Population	298,000	449
Native American	7.3%	94.0%
Median Age	33	24
Median Household Income	\$75,485	\$31,429
Income Per Capita	\$35,580	\$10,140
Below Poverty Level	7.84%	35.36%
Average Family Size	3.2	4.6
Average Res. kWh/month	750	390
Res. Rate cents/kWh	13¢	57.8¢