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Communities Served

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Alakanuk | New Stuyahok |
| Ambler | Nightmute |
| Andreafsky | Noatak |
| Anvik | Noorvik |
| Brevig Mission | Nulato |
| Chevak | Nunapitchuk |
| Eek | Old Harbor |
| Ekwok | Pilot Station |
| Elim | Pitkas Point |
| Emmonak | Quinhagak |
| Gambell | Russian Mission |
| Goodnews Bay | St. Mary's |
| Grayling | St. Michael |
| Holy Cross | Savoonga |
| Hooper Bay | Scammon Bay |
| Huslia | Selawik |
| Kaltag | Shageluk |
| Kasigluk | Shaktoolik |
| Kiana | Shishmaref |
| Kivalina | Shungnak |
| Kotlik | Stebbins |
| Koyuk | Teller |
| Lower Kalskag | Togiak |
| Marshall | Toksook Bay |
| Mekoryuk | Tununak |
| Minto | Upper Kalskag |
| Mt. Village | Wales |



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Energy for a Sustainable Alaska: The Rural Conundrum

A Commonwealth North Study Report co-chaired by Meera Kohler and Ethan Schutt

Excerpts from the Executive Summary and Recommendations

In Alaska today, nearly 80 percent of rural communities depend on diesel fuel for their primary energy needs. The poorest Alaskan households spend up to 47 percent of their disposable income on energy, more than five times their urban neighbors.

Energy infrastructure is an essential element of public infrastructure and, absent a viable energy system, all other public infrastructure fails. Schools, public health, water and wastewater systems, airports, public buildings and all other major attributes of civilized society cannot exist for long without reliable, affordable energy.

Commonwealth North recommends that the State of Alaska:

- Create a statewide energy vision, plan, and implementation strategy by adopting a holistic view of statewide energy sustainability which serves all Alaskans similarly.
- Prioritize the interconnection of rural communities into regional electrical transmission grids to develop economies of scale, create efficiencies, reduce redundant infrastructure costs, and develop a greater potential for alternative energy projects.
- Mitigate the high cost of energy in rural Alaska by reducing diesel consumption through increased efficiencies and utilization of economically viable alternatives.
- Empower a statewide entity to coordinate energy generation and transmission project selection and advocate for all regions of the state in a balanced fashion.
- Ensure high value and effective investments in energy projects through the creation of an investment structure that can serve as

an aggregator of financing for energy projects, require equal competition among funding opportunities across all energy sectors and technologies to reduce the cost of energy, design and audit programs to ensure that experienced teams are making accountable procurement decisions, secure long-term sustainability of funding by transitioning away from grants and toward other financing options, and providing a “one-stop shop” to deal with all permitting regarding energy projects and to assist with information and assistance in working with federal regulators.

- Strive to eliminate the need for the Power Cost Equalization Program by reducing the electric rates paid by rural consumers to levels comparable to those paid by consumers on the Railbelt through energy conservation measures and the implementation of feasible energy alternatives.

An energy future for Alaska can be achieved:

- That is energy self-sufficient, supplying all of our own energy needs
- With the most energy efficient people in the nation
- That is a global leader in creating and exporting energy expertise and technology, both in the clean use of hydrocarbons as well as renewable energies
- That utilizes an efficient, smart, statewide energy delivery system serving all Alaskans where every community has access to reliable and affordable energy.

Meera Kohler
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