

Project Title: Aleutian and Pribilof Island Strategic Energy Policy and Planning

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Partners: AEB, AHA, APICDA, APIA, TAC (“A-Team”)

Funds Requested: \$100,000.00

Project Description:

The A-Team seeks planning funds to assist with finalizing a strategic energy policy and plan for the Aleutian and Pribilof Island region. The A-Team has been working diligently over the last two years to devise a strategy incorporating energy conservation, reduction of bulk fuel costs, integration of renewable energy sources to minimize and eliminate fossil fuel use and the integration of renewable energy powered greenhouses to eliminate food insecurity concerns.

On April 24 and 25, 2010 members representing Aleutian/Pribilof Island communities, Tribes, non-profit and for-profit organizations, business leaders, political representatives and the public convened a meeting to address the critical energy issues of the region. The two-day meeting, entitled Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Regional Energy Summit, covered many issues, solutions and ongoing energy related efforts in the region.

Four primary areas were discussed and subsequent committees were formed to address the following issues:

- Formation of a Bulk Fuel Cooperative – address near and median term cost volatility issues; look to stabilize high fuel costs;
- The Elements of Conservation – near term and ongoing solution; can be done now with little cost;
- Renewable Energy – median to long term solution used to displace diesel fuel use;
- Implementation of Our Policy and Plan – near, median and long term objective to guide the region toward energy self-sufficiency

The A-Team’s objectives adopted in April 2010:

Objective 1 - To develop a comprehensive energy policy and plan for the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region for implementation no later than Spring 2011;

Objective 2 - 85% reduction of fossil fuel use in our communities

In order for the Aleutian and Pribilof region to work toward their goal of displacing fossil fuels by “80%” in the near future, we need an understanding of the rest of the Aleutian and Pribilof region villages. These funds will aid in finishing the comprehensive assessments for the remaining villages. Further, these reports will help the A-Team outline a short, median and long term approach to energy planning and emerging energy integration where it makes sense.

In 2008, the Aleutians East Borough (AEB) was awarded a Renewable Energy grant to conduct an energy assessment for three villages, Cold Bay, False Pass and Nelson Lagoon. Your Clean Energy, led by Andy Baker conducted the work and provided the AEB with a very comprehensive status of existing and proposed energy resources available to each community.

The A-Team has used that report to assist in the development of grant applications for those villages and gotten us to a point where energy related projects are underway in one form or another.

Lastly, Aleutian and Pribilof Island villages endured energy price spikes of 2007 and 2008 and ultimately agonized from the severe effects of food and energy shortages. As energy prices increased rapidly, communities at the far end of the supply chain experienced significantly higher food and energy prices than normal, including shipments delays; and sometimes no shipments at all.

Though no fatalities were reported as a direct result of this experience, people of the region became reacquainted with cold and hunger. As a direct result of these experiences, the A-Team has been instrumental in searching for solutions to eliminate food insecurity concerns in the Aleutian and Pribilof Island region.

The A-Team, recognizing the importance of food security for its villages and significance that low cost energy plays in ensuring communities can thrive at the local level, despite geography, seeks to assist their villages in constructing small, commercial or community scale greenhouses. Locally available renewable energy resources (wind, in ground heat source pumps, hydropower) will be utilized to lengthen the growing season thus providing locally grown, nutritious and affordable food.

We anticipate the following elements or features will be included in this report:

- A complete current energy resource assessment
- Listings of available resources for community infrastructure, operations and maintenance
- Ascertain ways to ensure energy resources are available to all Aleut Region communities.
- Define a process to ensure locally grown food resources are available to all Aleut Region communities through the construction of renewable energy powered greenhouses (REG Concept Paper attached)
- Lower energy costs, improve availability and conserve demand through a regional approach considerate of individual community need and potential
- Explore ways to tap into “stranded renewable energy” through local economic development opportunities, battery storage or transmission infrastructure to deliver power
- Engage local, state, federal and private entities to co-employ resources of revenue, technology, legislation and infrastructure to accomplish the Aleutian/Pribilof’s energy goals
- Provide technical assistance and advocacy for renewable energy development projects
- Strive to increase understanding of renewable energy options available, responsibly develop renewable resources to reduce the need for fossil fuels, increase capacity of local utilities to operate renewable energy systems and to increase energy conservation throughout the Region.
- Provide federal, state and regional representation on renewable energy and energy conservation committees
- Overview of training and education opportunities available to local residents; type and number of employment opportunities that will result from the build out of renewable energy projects in the region

Schedule: Commence January 30th, 2012 – Complete May 15, 2012

Project Team: A-Team member organizations