

Katy Koon
Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP)
Interim Report

Over the past six weeks at Renewable Energy Alaska Project in Anchorage, Alaska, I have been compiling a document with the working title *Rural Alaska Renewable Energy Directory*. The purpose of this publication is to facilitate communication and information sharing between rural Alaskan communities, where internet connections are not always reliable and oftentimes communication is restricted. I, along with two other interns, have been researching and compiling all of the data that could be useful in this directory: we have included contact information for relevant entities and organizations in each community, like the city council, native village, village corporation, ANCSA regional nonprofit, school, housing authority, water plant, health clinic, and electric utility. In addition to these contact details, we've compiled the most up-to-date electricity generation data, as well as the costs of energy in each rural community. In Alaska, the cost of electricity can be exorbitantly expensive due to islanded electric grids. The power cost equalization program, a government-subsidized program which seeks to mitigate these high costs, collects data on generation and costs, which we've included in the directory.

Another purpose for the directory is to describe and provide updates on the Renewable Energy Funded projects in Alaska. At this point in the project, I have researched each of these projects, collected relevant data on their performance, and established preliminary contact with the people in the communities who have the most knowledge about the construction and operation of these projects. Specifically, the rural Alaskan communities that I have been responsible for are Cordova, Eyak, Gustavus, Haines, Hoonah, Pelican, Seldovia, and Thorne Bay. The renewable energy projects in these communities that I've been researching and writing about are hydroelectric, biomass, and heat recovery projects.

The future directions for this project include phone conversations with contacts in each of the communities, verifying all of the data in the directory draft pages, and continuing to work with the Alaska Energy Authority to obtain the most up-to-date information on power generation, usage, and costs. Future summer interns at REAP will be responsible for updating the data in the *Rural Alaska Renewable Energy Directory*, and in this way to continue making the directory as helpful and relevant as it can be.

My day-to-day experience as an intern at REAP has consisted of research broken up with meetings with the people who work on renewable energy and lower energy costs for Alaskans. The meetings and talks that I've had the opportunity to sit in on and participate in have been an invaluable part of my experience. I think that talking to people who have worked on these issues in Alaska for a while has deepened my understanding of Alaska's unique challenges. This internship has encouraged me to take an extremely local approach to addressing the global problem of climate change.