Goals: The Alaska Solar Energy Workshop is a venue to facilitate an exchange of information and ideas regarding appropriate solar PV development in Alaska with emphasis on project performance, economics, best practices, and alternatives.

8:30 am: Welcome and Introductions - Gwen Holdmann (ACEP), Sonny Adams (NANA), and Sean Skaling (AEA)

9:00 am: PANEL DISCUSSION: SOLAR TECHNOLOGY NUTS AND BOLTS
There are many technical aspects of solar project development, particularly in the unique environments of Alaska, that are critical to success. Come learn from experienced project developers how to avoid common pitfalls and optimize project outcomes by appropriate site choice, design, equipment specification, and construction methods.
(Moderator – Erin Whitney, ACEP)
Panelists:
- Greg Egan (Remote Power Inc.)
- Rob Bensin (Bering Straits Development Company)
- Daisy Huang (ACEP / College of Engineering and Mines ME Department)

10:15 am: Break - Sponsored by Capstone Solutions, Inc.

10:30 am: PANEL DISCUSSION: CASE STUDIES FROM AROUND THE STATE
The number of solar PV installations in Alaska is unknown, but is likely to be in the hundreds. The speakers in this session will describe a few recent projects, the challenges encountered, and lessons learned.
(Moderator – David Lockard, AEA)
Presenters:
- Solar PV on community buildings in NW Arctic Borough (Ingemar Mathiasson, Northwest Arctic Borough)
- Lessons from developing solar in rural AK (Jason McEvers, Capstone Solutions)
- Overview of projects installed in Interior communities and lessons learned (David Pelunius-Messier, TCC)

11:45 am: PANEL DISCUSSION: PLANNING FOR SUCCESS
Solar energy is somewhat unique in that systems are modular, and can be installed with minimal...
equipment. Nonetheless, careful thought and planning is necessary to ensure successful implementation of grid connected solar PV systems. This panel will review some of those strategies, focusing on project design, planning, and permitting.
(Moderator – Givey Kochanowski, US DOE Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs)

Presenters:
- Rooftop versus community scale solar (Brian Hirsch, NREL)
- Proper sizing a solar PV project (Marc Mueller-Stoffels, ACEP)

1:00 pm: Lunch (provided by NANA) and networking opportunity

1:30 pm: PANEL DISCUSSION: SOLAR ENERGY FROM THE UTILITY PERSPECTIVE
Utilities may have a different perspective on solar PV development than developers and even customers do. This session will describe the regulatory requirements related to interconnection and the limits on distributed generation penetration.
(Moderator – Clay Koplin, Cordova Electric Cooperative)
Panelists:
- Paul Carroll (US DOE/NRECA)
- Steve Gilbert (AVEC)
- Kord Christianson (TDX Power)

2:45 pm: Break - Sponsored by the Alaksa Energy Authority

3:00 pm: PANEL DISCUSSION: SOLAR PV PROJECT ECONOMICS AND FINANCING
Some solar PV economics are obvious (capital cost, fuel savings) and others may not be (maintenance, shading impacts on performance, inverter replacement, etc.) This session will dive into the details of solar PV economics in Alaska, as well as strategies and opportunities for financing projects through grants, loans, and public-private partnerships.
(Moderator – Antony Scott, ACEP)
Presenters:
- Financing energy projects in rural Alaska (Hugh Short, PT Capital, LLC)
- Native Corporations – Investing in your communities (Sonny Adams, NANA)
- Federal landscape for solar energy projects, including financing and tax incentives (Paul Schwabe, NREL)

4:15 pm: WRAP UP DISCUSSION: PEOPLE, PROCESS, TECHNOLOGY.
Our wrap-up session will focus on establishing the key components necessary for establishing a roadmap for solar PV development in Alaska, including identifying barriers to appropriate solar adoption in the Arctic and strategies to overcome them.
(Facilitated discussion led by Chris Rose, REAP)

5:00 pm: Adjourn

For more information contact us at mefrey@alaska.edu

Event Organized by:

Lunch and Venue Provided by:

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