



Cluster Information

Cluster:	Renewable Energy
Goal:	Create the conditions to allow a SE AK renewable energy industry to meet needs of the local energy demand market, as a foundation for growth and development of a renewable energy industry that may eventually export knowledge, product or service.
Chair:	Bill Leighty

Meetings Held Since Last Update

Date:	Purpose:	Attendees:
12/19/12	Full CWG Meeting	Bill Leighty, Angel Drobnica, Bob Deering, Brian Holst, Zach Wilkinson, Nathan Soboleff, Merrill Sanford, Wendy Zirngible, Kirk Hardcastle, Alec Mesdag, Pierre Khalil, Bob Loescher, Larry Miles, Duff Mitchel, (telecom) Dan Parrent, Clarence Clark, Dave Harris, Deveny Plentovich, Al Roskam, Shaina Kilcoyne, Al Brackly, Renne Claggett

Initiative Activity Update

Initiative 1:	Propose Net Metering Legislation
Champion:	Ben Haight
<p>Ben Haight did not attend the meeting however we did have a brief discussion regarding Net metering law specifically in our region. This topic was raised by Bill Leighty. Alec Mesdag from AEL&P was present and provided some information on the topic.</p>	
Initiative 2:	Establish a Renewable Energy Revolving Loan Fund for Residences and Small Businesses to Promote Local Installation and Fueling Industries
Champion:	Bart Watson
<p>Bart Watson was not present.</p>	
Initiative 3:	Market-driven Renewable Energy Economic Modeling for Southeast Alaska, including Multiple Transmission and Energy Storage Strategies

Champion: Bill Leighty

Bill gave an update on the status of the initiative, referencing the recent work that Brad Ewing has been performing and the over-all project Brad is working on. Brad is working to develop a comprehensive documentation of the regions complete energy demand profile (all energy types). This data will be broken down by energy type and by community. The expectation is that this will be a useful tool, and easily consumable. This project is to be completed prior to the summit and will hopefully be available at the summit. This is an effort that originated as a pro-bono research/data gathering project by Brad. Due to the cross-cutting value of this information, JEDC contracted Brad to complete the project. Brad Ewing was not present for the meeting.

Initiative 4: Support Biomass Energy Demand Development in Southeast Alaska

Champion: Bob Deering and Dan Parrent

Bob Deering and Dan Parrent Co-Champion this effort. Bob was present in person and Dan called in from Anchorage. Bob gave an extensive update on the progress of the new Wood 2 Energy Demand Development Initiative, beginning with his temporary position at the Forest Service, the most recent Wood 2 Energy kick-off meeting that was held in November 2012, and the vision of the initiative group (30% thermal energy conversion from oil to wood energy over the next ten years). Bob also described the implementation “roadmap” project, and the process that is being employed to develop the roadmap, including a series of upcoming focus group meetings for various critical business and policy sectors. In addition Bob gave updates on recent and near term wood energy conversion projects around the region in areas such as Ketchikan and Haines. Feel free to contact JEDC, or Bob Deering, or Dan Parrent for more information about this initiative.

Initiative 5: Develop Renewable Energy Education for SE Alaska Residents, Students and Businesses

Champion: Angel Drobnica

Angel Drobnica has volunteered as a stand in as Champion for this effort, and was present at the meeting. Due to time constraints in the meeting we were not able to discuss this topic so it was moved to the January meeting Agenda. Angel Drobnica and Zach Wilkinson will coordinate this effort before the January meeting.

Other Informational items

Proposed meetings for day three of the Innovation Summit

The group discussed meeting ideas for the third day of the innovation summit (Wednesday February 13th 2013). Three ideas were discussed.

1. Alec Mesdag of AEL&P presented an idea to invite a colleague of his, Bill Connor, to discuss a potential business model to assist in the financing of new wood pellet boilers for public or private facilities called third party ownership. Third-party ownership of energy systems allows

investors to install, own, and maintain an energy system for a host, who purchases energy generated by the installed equipment through some type of energy sales agreement. The third-party owner typically earns a return by utilizing incentives the host cannot. The host receives the benefit of having new equipment installed at no upfront cost, and the energy sales agreement may include other benefits including low escalation rates and a purchase option for the equipment after a period of time. This is a model they have used in other states that might work for our region. The group generally agreed that this would be a good meeting to proceed with.

2. Wood 2 Energy Focus group meeting. The Wood 2 Energy initiative would like to take advantage of this time to hold one of their sector focus group meetings.
3. A session with Brad Ewing to discuss the energy demand project he is currently working on, and expects to complete by that time, would be valuable.

Willoughby District-district heat plan

A brief group discussion was led by Bob Deering about pursuing a district heating project for the Willoughby district. From the perspective of the Wood 2 Energy Initiative, the project would involve a central biomass boiler creating thermal energy that would be distributed throughout the district via hot water. The group views this as a cross-cutting opportunity due to the fact that a system such as this could be somewhat heating technology agnostic. In the long term, future technologies could be employed by connecting to this system without the expense of replacing the entire infrastructure. Bob gave an overview of the many benefits to this kind of system as well as examples of existing systems Juneau could model after in other states. Brian Holst also gave some input from a recent energy tour he attended. The RE CWG is generally in support of this project.

Electro Pulse Hard Rock Drilling

Bill Leighty gave a presentation to the group about a new electro-pulse hard rock drilling method he learned about during a recent trip to China. This method allows for a very deep hard rock well to be drilled that can allow access to geothermal heat at a reasonably low cost.

Next steps

The following items were noted as agenda items for January's meeting.

1. State and federal legislative questions for the summit
2. Planning agenda for the RE CWG meeting that will take place during the summit
3. Volunteer for RE CWG co-chair seat
4. Action Initiative #5: Develop Renewable Energy Education for SE Alaska Residents, Students and Businesses
 - a. Industry Champion?
 - b. Re-define purpose and implementation plan
 - c. Implementation team
5. Day three Innovation summit meetings



Resources