We are already 2 months into 2017, and the opportunities for educators are piling up! Here are some announcements and opportunities for you to check out. If you have anything you would like to see for future newsletters, reply to this email to send me an idea.

**ANEEE position filled!**

Congratulations to Chris McConnell on his new position at REAP as the Alaska Network for Energy Education and Employment (ANEEE) director. He will start this month to start building networks in K-12, university, and vocational education fields. We are excited to have him on board to ensure a clear pathway to employment for Alaskans interested in working in the energy field! Stay tuned next month for more information on Chris and his plan for ANEEE.

**ML&P announces student winners of 2017 calendar art contest**

Municipal Light & Power held an art calendar contest for all fourth- and fifth-grade students in Anchorage last fall and received 136 entries from 27 schools in the Municipality. The contest was designed for students to share what they know about electrical safety and energy conservation.

Though it was a difficult decision for the ML&P team of employee judges, 13 entries were chosen for the 2017 ML&P PowerSMART calendar. Each month's winner received a trophy, special prize and two day-passes to the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center, courtesy of the museum. The grand-prize winner’s artwork, featured on the cover of the calendar and in the artist's birthday month, received a trophy, two day-passes to the Anchorage Museum and an iPod shuffle. All students who participated received a certificate of participation and a calendar. Request the calendar at ML&P’s website. See all the winners here!
MEA Scholarship application due March 17th

In 2006, as a senior at Palmer High School (go Moose!), I received a $500 scholarship from Matanuska Electric Association (MEA). This year, the scholarship amounts range from $2,500 to $7,500, for high school seniors and those planning to attend a college or vocational school – they and/or their parents/legal guardians must be active MEA members. When I was a senior, I didn’t really know that my family, as electric customers, was a member of a co-op until I learned about the scholarship. Perhaps I shouldn’t show my ignorance so much, but it did teach me about how electricity service worked in the Mat-Su, not to mention help me financially when I started at Oregon State University that fall. Here I am 2 degrees later and teaching about energy throughout the state, thanks in part to MEA’s help. If you know of an MEA member, or a member who has a child, who is planning to start a post-secondary education, encourage them to apply here by March 17th.

Continuing Education credit opportunities

Are you an educator in the Mat-Su? Do you need a continuing education (CE) credit? I am once again teaching **ED 593: Energy Literacy in K-12 classrooms**, this time in Mat-Su! The class will be March 3rd and 4th at the Mat-Su UAA campus and will include a tour of the Valley Recycling Center LEED building! See flier for more information. We need a minimum of 10 to hold the class, so forward the information to anyone else interested!

I am partnering with Tom Marsik at UAF for a combined class where teachers earn 1 credit CE with **ED 581: Integrating Sustainable Energy topics in secondary classrooms**. This is limited to secondary teachers, but is completely distance-delivered! You will integrate recordings from the Fall 2016 class ENVI 120: Home Energy Basics into your classroom, and your students will also have the opportunity to earn 1 credit for ENVI 120 as well.

Email me for more information on either opportunity. There is also a new page on the AK EnergySmart website for CE opportunities, so check it out here for the latest information.
Webinars

Get a concise and helpful overview of the AK EnergySmart curriculum, tips for implementing specific lessons, and background information on Energy Literacy with interactive training webinars!

The next webinar is scheduled for March 21st at 3:30 (secondary) or 4:15 (elementary). Email Colleen to sign up or ask for an alternate date and time. The webinar isn’t limited to educators – it can be for an organization interested in energy education opportunities.

Donate while you shop!

There are two ways that you can donate to REAP while you shop! Amazon and Fred Meyer both have programs that will donate a percentage of your purchase to the non-profit of your choice, without you spending any extra money! When you shop on Amazon, simply go to smile.amazon.com before you purchase anything, add a non-profit like REAP (under Your Account> Your Amazon Smile) and shop through Amazon Smile for the donations to start adding up. Fred Meyer has a Community Rewards program that you can link your card to. All you need is your alternate ID (usually your 9 digit phone number) and a valid email address. Click here and log in with your email address or create an account. Then, you can search for REAP by typing in the first few letters (such as “renew”) and select REAP from the results. Once submitted, your selection stays on there unless you want to change to another non-profit.

Thank you for supporting REAP!

Trivia

Q: Which field had the most jobs last year in power generation, according to the Department of Energy: solar, coal, gas, oil, or wind?

A: Solar. “Solar employment now accounts for the largest share of workers in the US power generation field, surpassing coal, gas and oil”

Source: Computer World Article
2017 US Energy and Employment Report

Photo: AK Business Monthly photo of Arctic Solar Ventures installation. Article here.