Colleen --

Happy Spring! Perhaps you were one of many who had a spring break last week; if so, I hope it was a fun and/or productive one! With all the sunshine we've been getting, it sure has started to feel like spring, even if the temperatures haven't followed yet. Please enjoy this month's newsletter, and as always, feel free to email me with ideas/suggestions for future issues.

**Girl Scouts Leadership Journeys**

I recently had a lot of fun working with a Junior Girl Scout troop on energy use as part of a badge earning program in one of their “Leadership Journeys,” or themes, for their meetings. Junior and Cadette Girl Scouts connect to clean energy through the “It's Your Planet – Love it” Leadership Journeys. Juniors on the “Get Moving” Leadership Journey go for nature walks, interview power-use experts, or conduct energy audits of local buildings.

Cadettes on a “Breathe” Journey can learn about the air we breathe from wind farms, an environmental scientist, or experiments using wind.

Do you know of a Junior or Cadette Girl Scout troop wanting some assistance with a Leadership Journey? I can come to a meeting and help them do a classroom or home energy assessment, teach about wind energy, or other energy-related activity. Email me to start a discussion.

**REcharge Labs Academy & scholarship**

REcharge Labs, a Wind for Schools partner, is holding a weeklong (July 17-21) teacher training in Fort Collins, Colorado! **At least one $1000 tuition scholarship will be granted to a teacher from each Wind for Schools State (including Alaska).** Or, you can look for funding elsewhere - one possibility is the Alaska Community Foundation’s Strengthening Organization Grant Fund, which could cover all or part of the cost or supplement the scholarship. Learn more about the grant [here](#).

According to Michael Arquin, the academy organizer, “The REcharge Academy is a week-long educator training workshop centered around renewable energy. The intensive training blends lectures from experts and tours of energy facilities with replicable hands-on K-12 lessons to give educators content as well as context. In 2017 we are adding training around programming and renewables, small grid projects, solar artistic projects and lots of wind focused tours for a power packed adventure!”
"The program will be held at the Powerhouse Energy Institute at CSU. The Institute is a nucleus of research, education, and outreach about energy for the faculty, staff, and students of Colorado State University."

To get an idea of the programming check out:

- REcharge Academy Website
- 2017 Flyer
- 2016 Report
- 2016 Detailed Agenda

APPLY NOW! Have questions? Email michael@kidwind.org.

Arkose Ridge Leadership Academy (ARLA) will launch this August as a school-within-a-school based at Palmer High. ARLA uses a new approach in secondary education and takes elements from programs like internships, charter schools, and other education alternatives to create a holistic learning environment. Their focus will be on experiential, place-based learning and community stewardship. The ARLA curriculum meets all district and state requirements for graduation, while completing courses such as Human Relations, Character Education, Freshman Transition, Personal Finance, Career Mentorship, and a senior capstone project. Juniors and seniors will select a concentration area and take courses preparing them for emerging careers in renewable energy, Northern food production, community planning, and boreal ecology. REAP is particularly excited about ARLA’s option for students to study renewable energy!

ARLA will operate within the MSBSD school calendar incorporating three 3-week intensives and two 60-day semesters. During intensives, students will spend considerable time outdoors engaged in hands-on projects for two integrated courses. Examples of place-based learning themes include trail design and construction, food production, GIS mapping, soil science, and archeology. During semesters, students apply and integrate academics with physical activity, community connections, and training for workplace professional settings. Learn more by visiting ARLA’s website here, on the MSBSD website here, and enroll your student by April 7th!

Earth Day is April 22

Earth day is right around the corner! April 22nd falls on a Saturday this year, so look for community events such as planting a tree in a local arboretum or a recycling center celebration that weekend. In the classroom before and after Earth Day, you can try out the top 10 Earth Day activities, Geothermal energy activities from Energy.gov, NEA’s list of resources for K-5 classes, or send a letter to the White House. Kids 4 Planet Earth is calling for students to send a letter or postcard to the White House to show support for Mother Earth and the need to address climate change. The goal is to have 1,000,000 letters/postcards sent by kids prior to Earth Day! Learn more here.
Brewing up Net Zero Homes on March 24th

6:30-8:30PM, March 24 • 49th State Street Brewing • Anchorage, AK

Karl Kassel and Bruno Grunau live in one of the coldest cities in the country where the cost of heating and lighting a home can run more than a monthly mortgage payment. Yet the Fairbanks residents pay just a fraction of the energy bills of their neighbors. Last year, Kassel paid just $250 to heat and light his 1,800 square-foot home. The two are part of a growing number of Alaskans coupling smart energy efficient building techniques with renewable energy systems to create Zero Energy or near Zero Energy homes that are not only light on energy bills but more comfortable and healthy to live in. Come enjoy a night out and hear them discuss the costs and building techniques and how more Alaskans can enjoy the benefits of these spacious, energy-friendly homes.

Presented by Alaska Center for Appropriate Technology (ACAT) and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC).

FREE for ACAT members, $10 for non-members

*2 Residential CEUs available (additional fee of $20/CEU)

More details at www.acat.org, RSVP to: info@acat.org, 907.229.1982

Trivia

Q: What percent of total energy is used in residential home in the Railbelt and Southeast Alaska for heat?

A: 80% of total energy is used for heat, and 60% of electricity is used by appliances in homes.

Source: Alaska Energy End Use Study Overview

Happy Spring,
Colleen R. Fisk
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Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP)

http://realaska.nationbuilder.com/