Colleen --

Happy May! It is starting to feel like summer here in Southcentral Alaska with the leaves appearing to grow exponentially by the day. School is out for the university crowd and will be soon for the rest, so there won’t be newsletters for a couple months – I will resume them in August. To keep up to date with our news, you can always follow REAP (@REAlaska) on Facebook – Wednesdays are usually education focused! If you have a story or lesson you’d like to share with others interested in energy education, please email me.

Anchorage School District Summer Academy

Calling all Anchorage educators! I am teaching a class on energy literacy for the ASDA Summer Academy (ASDSA) on June 5th and 6th. It will be a fun class for K-12 teachers with hands-on activities from AK EnergySmart and NEED (National Energy Education Development), including some that are in the 6th grade middle school science kits. We will also be doing a tour of the Anchorage Recycling Center and the AK Waste Biodiesel plant. You get 1 credit of continuing education for 2 days of fun learning! The only cost of the class is the UAA fee for the credit - around $75.

Some feedback from teachers who have taken the class in the past year in other districts:

"This course was very interesting to me. I have taught many years in kindergarten and just recently started teaching 3rd grade. (The change has been a little anxiety-ridden). It excited me with all the ideas and lessons that I was introduced to, either in class or on the AK EnergySmart site. I can’t wait to do more with my class... Third grade is becoming more fun to teach for me than I thought it would be!" -Susie Brainard, Joy Elementary School
"The ED 581 class was very informative and I learned a lot about energy that I will be able to use in my classroom. My favorite part of the class was the tour of the power plant." - Patrick Dwyer, Skyview Middle School

SIGN UP TODAY on My Learning Plan - look in the ASDSA catalog and search for "energy" to find "Energy Literacy and Applications in K-12 Classrooms." Non-ASD educators can also enroll in ASDSA courses. Go to www.ASDSA.org and click on "I do not have a MyLearningPlan.com account" in the lower right hand corner. This will direct you to the catalog, where you can search for energy or scroll down to course number 55. Click on the title of the course, and at the next page you can click "enroll" towards the bottom.

**Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference**

At the end of April, I attended the Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference (WAISC) in Unalaska. I learned a lot in this trip, my first, to Unalaska, including the importance of international transport through or past Dutch Harbor. Often my focus is on efficiency and renewables in residential or commercial buildings, but the transportation sector is more than 25% of Alaska’s energy use. My presentation to the WAISC was about AK EnergySmart and it’s usefulness in teaching energy literacy. Read our post [here](#) about energy literacy and the importance of teaching it to youth.

**Earth Discovery Day**

Alaska Energy Authority brought their bike generator that’s hooked to a panel of lights to the Wrangell Institute for Science Education (WISE) Earth Discovery Day on May 2nd. We had fun teaching about energy efficiency and letting the kids get a real FEEL for the difference in energy use between incandescent, LED, and fluorescent light bulbs. The parent chaperones also appreciated the energy expenditure of the students during our activity. Would you like to have this activity at a summer camp or STEAM event with your group or school? [Contact me](#) for scheduling!
Distance Education

In April, I partnered with AK TEACH (based in Kodiak) to deliver two distance lessons from AK EnergySmart, “Be an Energy Star.” In one day, we reached five communities and 194 students! Distance education is an important part of Alaska and is a growing part of teaching in both rural and urban classrooms and homes. Remember, AK EnergySmart lessons can be downloaded for free anytime from AKEnergySmart.org.

Screen shot of the classes participating in the presentation.

STEM workshop for Teachers

Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges are hosting a workshop in Fairbanks July 20th – 22nd entitled “Engaging Alaska Youth in STEM and Community Resilience.” Cost is $30 and availability is on a first come, first serve basis for up to 50 educators. Learn more and register here.

Learning and Leadership Grants

The NEA (National Education Association) Foundation has grants available for NEA members to participate in professional development experiences or collegial study, such as summer institutes, conferences, action research or lesson plan development. They are offering $2000 for individuals or $5000 for groups engaged in collegial study. They review applications three times a year, and the next application deadline is June 1st. Learn more and apply here.
Trivia

Q: What percentage of Alaskans’ energy consumption is used in transportation?
A: 27.1%, second only to our industrial energy use. Most of this energy is from jet fuel due to the high amount of international cargo transportation that goes through Anchorage airport (the 6th largest in the world).

Sources:  
https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=AK#tabs-2  
http://cargofacts.com/top-20-cargo-airports-for-2016/

Have a great summer,

Colleen Fisk  
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Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP)

Sign up for Energy Education emails || AK EnergySmart

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