



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**No. 17-137**

**Contact:** Jonathon Taylor, Deputy Press Secretary – (907) 465-3985

**Governor Walker Applauds Great Alaska Energy Challenge Participants**  
*State employees lead by example to save energy*

September 8, 2017 ANCHORAGE — A day after [signing legislation to incentivize energy efficient improvements to commercial buildings](#), Governor Bill Walker today congratulated the winners of the [Great Alaska Energy Challenge](#), a six-month friendly competition to reduce energy consumption in state facilities. Winners were announced in four categories:

- **Greatest reduction in heat consumption:** Yukon-Kuskokwim Correctional Center (Bethel)
- **Lowest heat consumption:** Northern Region Administrative Headquarters, Dept. of Transportation and Public Facilities (Fairbanks)
- **Greatest reduction in electricity consumption:** Yukon-Kuskokwim Correctional Center (Bethel)
- **Lowest electricity consumption:** Alaska Public Health Laboratory (Anchorage)

“I’m proud of our state employees who are going the extra mile to save state resources,” Governor Walker said. “Energy efficiency is good for the environment, and good for our budget.”

The goals of the Great Alaska Energy Challenge are to save state money, demonstrate good stewardship of public resources, empower state employees, and inspire Alaskans to reduce energy consumption. State employees in 36 facilities participated in this “lead-by-example” challenge, and collectively saved enough energy to drive around Earth 52 times in an F-150 truck.

Clifton Reagle, facilities manager for the Department of Corrections, whose Bethel facility won in two categories, said: “The Department of Corrections has prioritized energy-saving measures such as lighting upgrades, mechanical and control upgrades, and even adding solar thermal on Goose Creek Correctional Center. We’re excited to see our efforts pay off.”

The Great Alaska Energy Challenge ran from October 2016 through March 2017 and is a partnership between the Governor’s Office and the nonprofit Renewable Energy Alaska Project. For more information, visit <http://www.akenergyefficiency.org/energychallenge/>.

###