

People In Power (PIP) : Spotlighting The People that Keep Alaska's Communities Running

Alaska Energy Training Group

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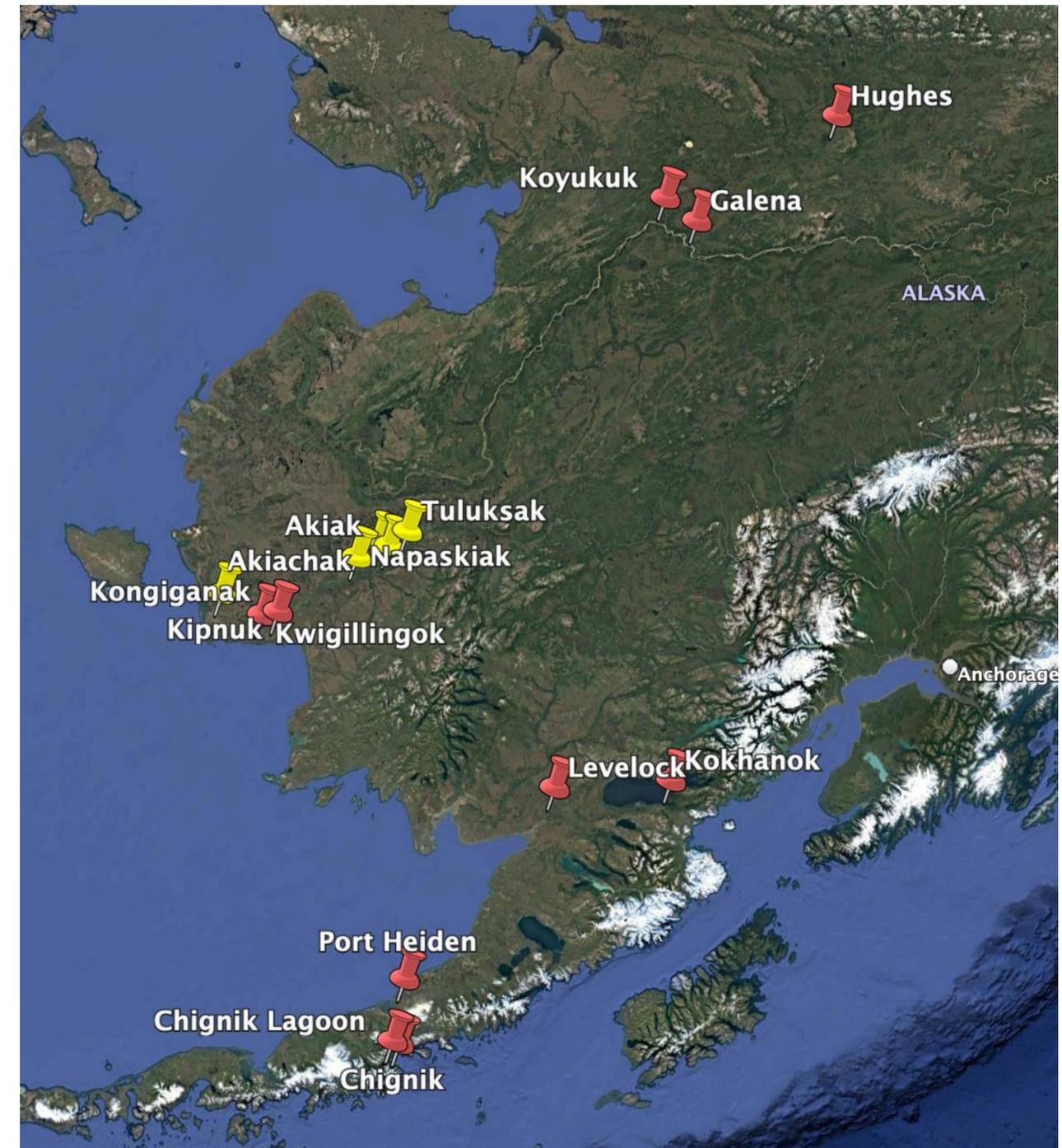


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 **REAP** Renewable Energy
Alaska Project

People In Power (PIP) Program

- Independent, standalone utilities (i.e. not members of multi-community co-ops)
- Community-directed training topics; relationship-based and flexible
- 15 communities across two cohorts (C1: Red on Map)
- Roughly 70 electric utility staff, typically 3 to 5 people per community
- Range of geography, staff, economic resources, infrastructure condition, energy sources, engagement with outside partners
- Training focused in four occupational categories:
 1. Governance
 2. Management
 3. Operations (including bulk fuel and renewables)
 4. Clerical



What does a typical utility staff look like?

- Larger Utility:
 - General manager/Administrator
 - Utility Manager
 - 1-2 Clerks
 - 2-6 powerhouse, fuel, and renewable operators
 - Engaged governance support, 1-2 members closely involved with utility budgeting, long term planning, etc.
- Smaller Utility
 - 1 Manager/Clerk (who is sometimes also the City/Tribal Admin, and/or responsible for other systems such as water/sewer)
 - 1 Primary Operator
 - 1 Sub operator and/or sub-clerk who can fill in if primary staff members are out of town for medical/etc.



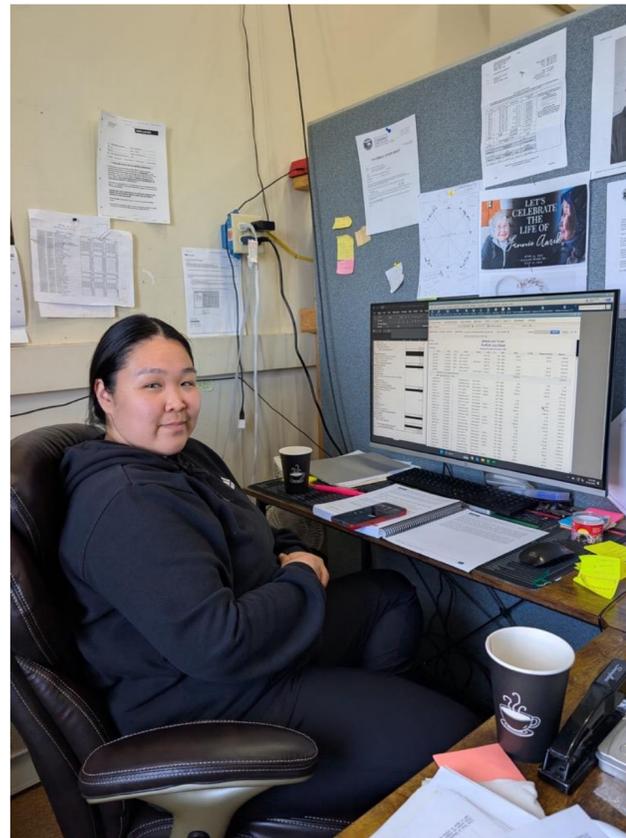
What does nearly every utility have in common?

- Keeping the light and heat on for their community
 - Freezers full of subsistence food
 - Lights for the runway
 - Contact with outside world
 - In many communities: schools, water plants, essential businesses
 - Storage and sales of heating oil, gasoline, etc. for -40° winters
- Several million dollars in assets with rigorous maintenance
 - 3-4 generators requiring tens of thousands of contracted work per year on average for regular rebuilds, oil changes every 250 hours, (1-2x/wk) with at least one running continuously (8760 hr/s a year at minimum) and plant checks 3-4x/day
 - Hundreds of thousands of gallons of fuel storage and large purchases in 1-2 orders per year
 - Community-wide distribution systems with transformers, poles, meters, etc.
- Complex administrative responsibilities
 - Customer billing, fuel management, accounting, payroll, inventory management, staff management, multiple monthly reports to boards and state agencies, annual reports to RCA, regulatory requirements for fuel facilities



Training Examples from Cohort 1

- Group Training: PV101, Electric Utility PCE and Accounting, Community Leadership Trainings
- Individualized Training: Powerhouse OTJ, Office OTJ, Managerial Train the Trainer
- Remote Training: Grant writing, Hourly Accounting Consulting
- Leveraging other REAP programs to support PIP Communities: Galena, Chignik Bay, Port Heiden, Akiachak



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Lake and Pen Inter-community Support

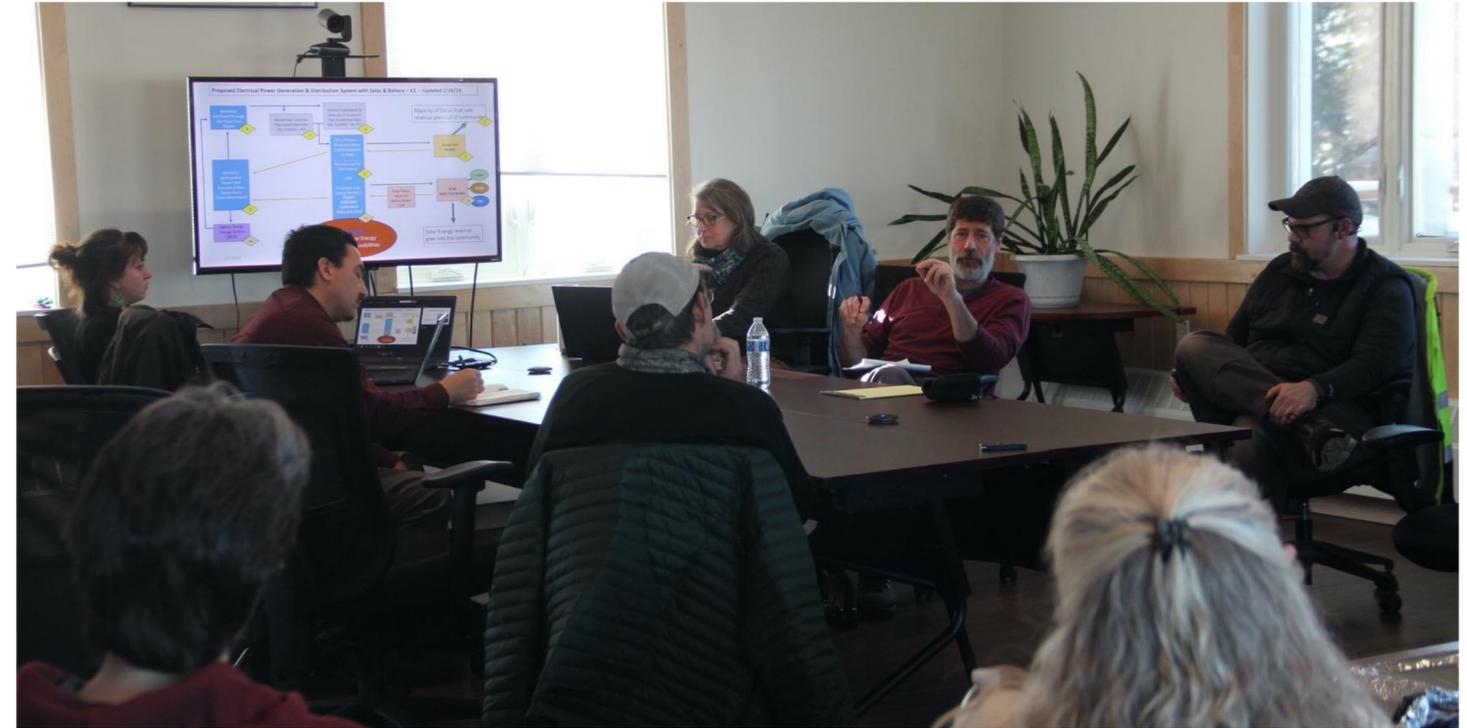


PIP Photos: Galena



Operator OTJ Training in Galena

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Community IPP Meeting in Galena



Discussion with lead operator in Galena

PIP Photos: PV101 Solar Training



Students from: Akiachak, Bethel, Galena, Kongiganak, Kwigillingok, and Levelock



Training Opportunities and Resources

- Elected Officials Management for Rural Utilities Online training, Feb 02-10
- Financial Management for Rural Utilities in Anchorage Feb 23-27

More information on both of those trainings, and additional resources are available at:

<https://alaskarenewableenergy.org/ppf/people-in-power-pip-training-inventory/>

Which is in development and looking for suggestions on additional content! Please email jpowell@realaska.org



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