



Alaska State Energy Sector Partnership Training Grant Update October 25, 2011

In January 2010 the U.S. Department of Labor announced that the Alaska State Energy Sector Partnership (ASESP) and Training Grant application was awarded in the amount of \$3,600,000 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) with a starting date of January 29, 2010. The grant proposes to train over 700 workers over the next three years to increase the supply of workers with energy-efficiency skills to support energy efficient end user technology and the hydroelectric, wind turbine, geothermal, and biomass industries. The grant application identifies the ASESP to serve as the steering committee throughout the life of the grant to participate in the planning, support, and implementation of the State's energy sector strategy.

On April 14, 2010 a meeting of the ASESP was held in Anchorage to review the strategic planning process, refine the project implementation timeline, and discuss the resource allocation and grant distribution process. The ASESP formed two committees assigned to meet at least monthly.

In October of 2010 the Grant Process Committee reviewed and approved project operator agreements from AVTEC, Alaska Energy Authority (AEA), and the Alaska Apprenticeship Training Coordinators Association (AATCA). AVTEC will begin training wind technicians by the Spring of 2011 as well as Industrial Electrician, Power Plant Operator (wind), Advanced Power Plant Operator (wind), and Hydro Plant Operator. The Alaska Energy Authority began training participants in Bulk Fuel Operations and Maintenance and will begin a Power Plant Operator class with a new Wind Technician component. The AATCA is training apprentices and journeyman in energy efficiency construction trades skills, including Green Mechanical Systems Awareness Training and Introduction to Alternative Energy Systems for wind and hydroelectric power generation.

On October 25, 2010 the AWIB passed Resolution No. 10-04 to adopt and recommend the Alaska State Energy Sector Renewable Energy Sector Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency (RE/EE) Workforce Development Plan. On October 27, 2010 the ASESP Request for Grant Application (RGA) period was opened seeking grant applications for training in RE/EE industries, including hydroelectric, wind turbine, biomass, geothermal, and weatherization.

In January 2011 a Project Operator Agreement was submitted by Alaska Works Partnership (AWP) in partnership with the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation for weatherization training. On January 18, 2011 four applications were received for competitive grants. Grant applications were received from SAVEC, United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 367, AVTEC, and Rural Cap.

On April 28th and 29th, 2011 Jeff Selvey and I attended The Business of Clean Energy Conference in Anchorage sponsored by Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP). The conference included break-out sessions with an overview of several RE/EE projects throughout Alaska. There is interest from REAP and the Alaska Energy Authority in coordinating a workforce development breakout session at the Alaska Rural Energy Conference scheduled from September 27th through 29th, 2011 in Juneau which we are currently working on.

As of May 13, 2011 the current budget status of the ASESP training grant included \$1,201,353 for project operators to distribute over the next year, and \$848,520 for competitive grants to distribute over the next year. Seven competitive grant applications totaling \$611,880 were submitted as of April 18, 2011 and reviews were conducted in the April 2011.

On June 16, 2011 the ASESP met to review project operator outcomes in FY 11, proposed training plans for FY 12 from project operators, and the most current ASESP RE/EE Implementation Plan. Current competitive grant recipients include the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters, Local 367 who have begun training for the beginning of a five year, 10,000 hour Heating and Ventilation Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC-R) apprenticeship program, Rural CAP who will be conducting a Energy Wise Job Training Program, Sitka Works who will be conducting renewable energy training for the expansion of the Sitka Blue Lake Dam and weatherization training for Home Energy Efficiency Programs, and the University of Alaska Southeast who is conducting Building Energy Retrofit Training for new and incumbent workers in weatherization assessment and implementation.

On June 30, 2011 the ASESP quarterly progress report was submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor (attached) identifying a summary of grant activities and outcomes. The Department expects to recruit 1,000 individuals, train 700 participants, with at least 85% entering occupations directly associated with the training.

On September 27th – 29th, 2011 ASESP members and AWIB staff attended the 2011 Alaska Rural Energy Conference in Juneau which included a wide range of speakers from business/industry, education, training providers and government agencies with presentations on renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, new technologies, and best practices.

On October 12, 2011 the most current deadline for competitive grant request for applications closed. Competitive grant reviews are expected in October 2011. The deadline for the next competitive grant request for grant applications is December 12, 2011.

On October 14, 2011 the ASESP met to review the most current ASESP RE/EE Workforce Development and Implementation Plan, and participated in an Energy Efficiency Roundtable Discussion facilitated by Chris Rose, Executive Director of Renewable Energy Alaska Partnership. Five energy efficiency recommendations were presented including 1) establish a statewide energy code or standard; 2) sustainably fund the Weatherization and Home Energy Rebate (HER) programs; 3) fund statewide energy efficiency educational outreach, workforce training, and development of public school and university courses; 4) empower the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) to work through utilities to develop programs for end users in more efficient use of electrical energy; and legislate efficiency as a priority in the development of energy solutions.

The most current totals for the ASESP training grants through FY 12 are \$2,007,297 with 985 individuals projected to be trained. The ASESP is currently ranked second in job placement and achievement of training goals out of 34 states.

ALASKA STATE ENERGY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

GRANTEE NAME	GRANT AWARD	DESCRIPTION	# TRAINED
Fiscal Year 2011			
Alaska Works Partnership	\$131,220	Curriculum development for commercial construction energy retrofits and updating residential weatherization training	0
Alaska Apprenticeship Training Coordinators Association	\$220,630	Training apprentices and journeymen in energy efficiency construction trades skills.	164
Alaska Energy Authority	\$150,000	Bulk Fuel, Power Plant Operator, Advanced Power Plant Operator and Hydro Power Plant training for rural utility employees	44
AVTEC	\$176,797	Wind Technician curriculum development and wind tower safety training; Industrial Electrician training incorporating wind energy; Power Plant, Hydro Power Plant, and Advanced Power plant instruction	24
United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 367	\$51,480	HVAC Apprenticeship - Energy Efficiency	15
FY 11 Totals	\$730,127		247

GRANTEE NAME	GRANT AWARD	DESCRIPTION	# TO BE TRAINED
Fiscal Year 2012			
Alaska Works Partnership	\$400,000	Commercial Construction Energy Efficiency course instruction and updated Weatherization Technician I training	360
Alaska Apprenticeship Training Coordinators Association	\$300,000	Training apprentices and journeymen in energy efficiency construction trades skills	188
Alaska Energy Authority	\$150,000	Power Plant Operator, Advanced Power Plant Operator and Hydro Power Plant training for rural utility employees	45
AVTEC	\$184,250	Wind Technician curriculum development and wind tower safety training, Industrial Electrician program incorporating wind energy, Power Plant, Hydro Power Plant, and Advanced Power plant instruction	30
Sitka Works	\$98,111	Training individuals for subcontracted work for the Sitka Blue Lake Dam Expansion and residential energy efficiency occupations	40
University of Alaska Southeast	\$99,468	Building Energy Retrofit Technician (BERT) training for new and incumbent workers in weatherization assessment and implementation	45
AVTEC	\$45,341	HVAC Energy Efficiency Curriculum and Training	30
FY 12 Totals	\$1,277,170		738
FY 11 and FY 12 Totals	\$2,007,297		985

Amount currently available for competitive grants is \$620,000. RGA Deadlines: Wednesday, October 12, 2011 and Wednesday, December, 14, 2011

Amounts shown above do not include funds budgeted for operations by DBP, AWIB and reserved for the FY 13 grant awards.