

OUTLET

Wishing you a

Holiday Season

that is filled with light, and a

New Year

that is happy & bright!

Chugach moving forward with Community Solar Project

Project is first of its kind in Alaska

Responding to member interest and Chugach Electric Association's sustainability business philosophy, the Chugach Board of Directors on Oct. 25 approved authorization to proceed with a community solar project. The installation is estimated to include approximately 2,000 solar panels and generate 550 megawatt hours per year. The energy produced from the project is equivalent to 15 percent of the average electricity use of 500 homes.

In August, Chugach surveyed 700 members about the sustainability philosophy and interest in community solar. Of those surveyed, 63 percent favored development of a community solar project, and 60 percent of those said they'd be willing to pay more for solar power.

The solar project will be offered to retail members as a premium renewable energy product paid for by the member-subscribers who voluntarily purchase shares of the project. Subscribers receive the energy output of their share(s), which will be credited on each monthly electric bill for the 25-year project life.

Chugach has completed initial evaluation of the project and has estimated the total cost at less than \$2 million. Continued development is contingent upon receiving favor-



able financing, pre-subscribing 80 percent of the available shares, and receiving necessary approvals from the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. {1184763}

The community solar project is to be built on Chugach property on the east side of Minnesota Drive, south of International Airport Road. Construction could start as soon as April 2018, once 80 percent of shares are pre-sold. Sales of shares is expected to start in March.

In February of this year, The Chugach Board of Directors adopted sustainability, also called triple bottom line, as a core business philosophy. Under this philosophy, performance is measured by financial, environmental and social measures, rather than strictly financial.

Capital Credits coming to members

Over 25,000 current and former Chugach Electric members are receiving their share of a Capital Credit Retirement in the form of a bill credit or a check. Chugach is returning a percentage of the 1991 credits to current and former members totaling \$1.7 million.

Members of record from 1991 with one account will receive a bill credit on their November or December bill. Members with more than one account, or who are receiving more than \$600, will receive a check. Checks will arrive throughout the month of December. The

average residential customer credit/check is \$24.

One of the benefits of being a member-owner of Chugach is that you are allocated an amount of margins (or profits) that the utility earns. Over time, that allocated amount is returned as "cash back" dollars to the member-owners.

Chugach began making retirements, or returns, in 1985. To date, Chugach has authorized retirement of more than \$83 million of patronage capital.

Annual Meeting and election notes

Nominations open for two board seats

Chugach's annual membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at the Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center.

Two candidates will be elected to the Chugach Board of Directors in the 2018 election. Both are 4-year terms. Members who are interested in being considered by the Nominating Committee, or running by petition, should call (907) 762-4791 to obtain a candidate packet. Candidate applications and resumes for the Nominating Committee's review must be received by 5 p.m. Feb. 6, 2018.

Members may submit proposed bylaw changes until 5 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018.

Bylaw proposals or candidate nominations should be submitted to: Tom Schulman, PO Box 196300, Anchorage, AK 99519-6300 or tom_schulman@chugachelectric.com.

More information and forms may be found at www.chugachelectric.com/media/annualmeeting or by calling (907) 762-4177.

Students conserve energy and win prizes

More than 3,600 students from 131 classrooms in 27 middle and elementary schools around the state participated in the 2017 Power Pledge Challenge, an initiative aimed at helping youth better understand energy use. This year's campaign covered the largest geographic area of the initiative to date with students competing for regional and statewide prizes. An 8th grade science class from Palmer Junior Middle School is this year's statewide winner. The challenge began in 2012.

Utilities and organizations from Anchorage, Mat-Su Valley, Kenai Peninsula and Juneau hosted the challenge as part

of Energy Awareness Month, recognized every year in October. In the Challenge, students completed a hands-on activity from the AK EnergySmart curriculum, learned how to calculate their energy usage and discovered ways to reduce their energy usage at home. Students then conducted an online home energy audit with their families and identified specific actions they would take to use energy more efficiently.

The statewide winner was awarded a pizza party, energy related classroom materials worth \$1,200 and a tour of the Eklutna Generation Station. Four regional winners each earned a pizza party and/or a tour of a local power plant.



The Anchorage area winner was Mitra Shanzharian's 6th period class from Mears Middle School who toured the Southcentral Power Project and received a pizza party attended by Mayor Ethan Berkowitz.

Rate Changes

Chugach submitted a Simplified Rate Filing based on the September 2017 test year to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska for approval. In the filing, Chugach requested approval to increase retail demand and energy rates by 0.4 percent for rates effective February 1, 2018. On a total customer bill basis, including fuel and purchased power costs, the impact of the rate change will result in an increase to the total monthly bill for a residential customer using 600 kWh by about 0.2 percent. The proposed changes in rates were approved by the Chugach Board of Directors at the November 29, 2017 board meeting.



A leaky faucet that fills a coffee cup in 10 minutes will waste an estimated 3,000 gallons of water per year.



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CHUGACH
POWERING ALASKA'S FUTURE

The Outlet

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Member number hide-n-seek

Find your member number (in brackets) in the Outlet and get a \$100 credit on your electric bill. Call Chugach's service center at 563-7366 to claim your prize.