

OUTLET

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www.chugachelectric.com



Chugach members support sustainability focus

Survey shows high interest in community solar project

In an effort to gauge member opinions of sustainability and community solar, Chugach Electric Association recently polled more than 700 members via telephone and email. The survey, conducted in August, showed a high level of support for both.

When asked how important it is for Chugach to make decisions with consideration of financial, environmental, and social factors, as opposed to primarily financial factors, 81 percent of members surveyed said it was very important or somewhat important. Of those surveyed, 63 percent said they favor Chugach installing a community solar project. {1095287}

In February, the Chugach Board of Directors passed a resolution establishing sustainability as a business management philosophy for the member-owned cooperative. Sustainability, also known as the Triple Bottom Line, is a business philosophy measuring the performance of an organization based on financial, environmental, and community impacts.

Other highlights of the member survey include:

- 56 percent are willing to pay more per month for electricity from renewable resources;
- 46 percent said energy affordability is the most important sustainability factor for Chugach to consider;
- 48 percent said providing internships for high school

- and college students is important for the cooperative to have a positive impact in the community; and
- 42 percent said providing educational scholarships is a priority

Chugach currently generates about three-fourths of its power from natural gas, with the balance coming from hydroelectric and wind generation. When asked what type of future generation members would like to see more or less of in the future, members responded:

- 85 percent want more energy efficiency and conservation programs;
- 82 percent want the most cost-effective generation source;
- 74 percent want more solar generation;
- 72 percent would like to see more use of wind;
- 70 percent want more use of hydroelectric generation; and
- 69 percent want more natural gas in the mix

Chugach is designing a community solar project that would allow participating members to offset some of their electric usage with solar power. More information will be available in the coming months. In addition to the sustainability survey, Chugach annually surveys its members for their attitudes on reliability, value, and customer service.

Ready for winter?

The first measurable snowfall hit the Anchorage area in late October, reminding all of us of the potential hazards of the season. Winter can mean cold temperatures, major storms, and occasional power outages.

At Chugach Electric, we work hard every day to make sure power outages are infrequent and, when they do occur, we work as safely and quickly as possible to restore your power. To help us, please keep your contact information up-to-date. It's always good to be prepared for any winter hazard and have extra supplies on hand including:

- Emergency food and water
- Candles and flashlights (with extra batteries)
- Extra blankets and sleeping bags
- Plans for your pets
- A first aid kit



The State of Alaska has some excellent emergency plans to keep you and your family safe. Check them out at www.ready.gov/build-a-kit.

Showing member appreciation

Chugach rolled out the bucket trucks and served up 700 hot dogs for Member Appreciation Day on October 6. More than 300 members and their families came out for the event, which coincides each year with National Cooperative/Energy Awareness Month. One of the highlights of the day was the chance to take a tour of the Southcentral Power Project, one of the most efficient power plants in Alaska.

One hundred members took the tours, while nearly 60 members and families went up in a bucket truck ride. Some members also took a drive in an electric vehicle or hopped on an electric bike for a test drive. All in all, the day was a huge success.

Here are a few thoughts from our members:



"Thank you for all of your efforts today. Great way for the community to get to know more about Chugach and the great work you all do."

"All of the employees were knowledgeable and seemed to take great pride."

"Very well done and very much appreciated. The tour team was both fun and very informative."

Merry, bright and efficient holiday lighting

Decking the halls doesn't have to take a toll on your energy bill. Keep your holiday lighting merry, bright and energy efficient with LED light strands.



- Consider replacing older light strands with new ENERGY STAR LED lights. LED strands are 75 percent more efficient and last 10 times longer than the standard bulbs.
- You can get the look of cozy lighting with LEDs. Just look for "warm white" on the label.

- Unlike older light strands, LED lights give off virtually no heat, making them safer for kids and pets (and reindeer).
- Save energy by setting a time for outdoor lighting and decoration. Program the timer so the lights turn on in the evening and turn off later at night when you typically go to sleep.



Rate changes

The Regulatory Commission of Alaska approved Chugach's Simplified Rate Filing based on the June 30, 2017 test year. As a result of the approval, retail demand and energy rates increased 1.9 percent for rates effective November 1, 2017. Because the rate change is only applied to demand and energy components, the impact on a total customer bill will be lower than 1.9 percent. For a residential customer using 600 kWh, the monthly bill will increase from \$118.39 to \$119.75, or about 1.1 percent.

The average US citizen uses 50 pounds of tissue paper per year. Try to buy the highest content of post-consumer recycled content, looking for either 100% recycled or FSC certified tissue or toilet paper.



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CHUGACH
POWERING ALASKA'S FUTURE

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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.