

BERING STRAIT REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK



THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ON ENERGY IN OUR REGION

THE BERING STRAIT REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK IS MAINTAINED BY KAWERAK INC.'S ENERGY PROGRAM.
PART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM, NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

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CLEANING UP DIRTY DIESELS - This 1994 Mack dump truck in White Mountain, Alaska is one of the eligible vehicles in the region planned to be replaced by the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Settlement. *Photo by Amanda Toerdal, Kawerak Energy Program.*

ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION

Money from Volkswagen Settlement brings new equipment to communities

What do Volkswagen cars have to do with old dump trucks? Well... in 2015, the car maker Volkswagen was charged with cheating on diesel emissions tests, and had to pay up. That money was set aside to clean up dirty diesels around the nation, including large trucks and heavy equipment in Alaska Native villages.

The Native Villages of White Mountain, Brevig Mission, Savoonga and Koyuk have all submitted paperwork and project plans to get four brand new dump trucks delivered to their communities. How can your community get on the list to receive funds? Read more inside.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

FEATURED STORY:

Dump trucks to be replaced with VW Settlement Funds.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS:

St. Michael, Brevig Mission, Shishmaref, White Mountain, Elim, Nome participate in energy planning workshop.

QUARTERLY CONTEST:

Enter to win a holiday gift package with LED lights and a programmable timer!



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FEATURED STORY: FOUR BERING STRAIT TRIBES TO RECEIVE FUNDING FOR REPLACEMENT OF DIESEL VEHICLES

This year marks the second funding cycle for the Volkswagen Diesel Emissions Environmental Mitigation Trust, also known as the "Tribal Trust" or the "VW Settlement." Four communities in the Bering Strait Region are in the process of submitting projects, awaiting to hear if their paperwork was completed correctly and if their project budgets are approved. All four tribes were awarded approximately \$160,000 to be used for an eligible mitigation item. Coincidentally, all of the communities are applying to replace dump trucks.

The communities of Brevig Mission, Koyuk, Savoonga and White Mountain have large, Class 8 diesel dump trucks that fall between the model years of 1992-2009, making them eligible for replacement. Their project budgets vary, but include the cost of a new dump truck (model 2018 or newer), shipping, barge service, scrapping, backhaul, and other administrative or labor costs associated with the project.

All federally-recognized tribes are eligible for this funding. To get on the list for next year, please contact the Kawerak Energy Program at energy@kawerak.org or 443-4253

WHAT IS THE VOLKSWAGEN SETTLEMENT, OR TRIBAL TRUST?

Background information: "In 2015 Volkswagen was cited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Air Resources Board for violating emissions standards by selling diesel vehicles equipped with 'defeat devices.' These devices allowed the cars to pass federal emissions tests, but during actual driving conditions they emitted significantly more air pollutants than allowed by the Clean Air Act. The federal government sued the company, and in 2016 VW settled the cases for \$14.7 billion.

"As part of the settlement, \$2.8 billion was set aside for states and Tribes to fund diesel emission mitigation projects. \$55 million of this money is earmarked for Tribes, in a trust called the 'Volkswagen Diesel Emissions Environmental Mitigation Trust for Indian Tribe Beneficiaries,' or just the 'Tribal Trust.' Any federally recognized Tribe can apply for funding from the Tribal Trust, which they can use to replace old, polluting diesel vehicles or equipment with new, cleaner models, or even install electric vehicle charging stations." - From Northern Arizona University, Tribal Technical Assistance nau.edu/itep/main/volkswagensettlement/



WHITE MOUNTAIN
Heavy equipment is parked outside of the city garage and power plant in White Mountain.

The tribe is working to replace their aged dump truck with a newer, cleaner diesel version using their VW Settlement funds.

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Community Spotlights: St. Michael, Shishmaref, Brevig Mission, Elim, Nome, and White Mountain participate in "Community Energy Action Plan" workshop

Six participants from six communities in the Bering Strait Region gathered together August 12-13, 2019 to start drafting their "Community Energy Action Plans."

On Monday, August 12 the workshop took place at the Village of Solomon Bed & Breakfast, located thirty miles east of Nome on the Nome-Council highway. On Tuesday, August 13 the workshop continued in Kawerak's Talialuk Boardroom in Nome.

Village of Solomon's Environmental Coordinator Deilah Johnson was the main facilitator for the workshop, along with Kawerak's Energy Development Specialist Amanda Toerdal. Johnson led the group through discussion of where to begin with energy planning, how to get community support, and how to structure a typical energy plan using a custom template. Toerdal explained funding resources, technical assistance available through Kawerak and other organizations, and how to get started on project development once the plan is in place.

Each of the participants had different goals for their energy plan, and were given the tools they need to go back to their community to gather input and to develop a unique, actionable plan



Community Energy Action Plan Workshop Participants: Frank Myomick, City of St. Michael, Twyla Thurmond, Native Village of Shishmaref, Rebecca Jones, Brevig Mission City Council, Deilah Johnson, Village of Solomon, Matthew Murray, Native Village of Elim, Ken Morton, Nome Joint Utility Systems, Amos W. Brown, Sr., Native Village of White Mountain. *Photo by Amanda Toerdal, Kawerak Energy Program.*

that works. During the workshop, it was emphasized that the only way a plan can work is to have the whole community be a part of it, and to hold everyone involved accountable to an agreed-upon timeline.

Some communities have renewable energy systems in place, with goals to further expand their capacity for renewables in the future. Other communities have projects in progress, and are putting together their plan to better help residents understand those systems.

Workforce development, training, operations, and maintenance were also highly discussed in the workshop – as these components are a huge part of making any energy development project successful in rural Alaska. Without the right maintenance, systems fail, especially in rapidly changing, Arctic environments.

Besides energy planning, the workshop was also a great networking opportunity for six different communities to connect and discuss energy challenges, solutions, and future goals. The more in-region networking that takes place, the more our communities will be informed, get involved, and collaborate on regional projects.

Are you interested in learning about energy planning for your community?

Contact Energy Development Specialist Amanda Toerdal at energy@kawerak.org





FUELING POWER - A Crowley barge delivers fuel to the community of Golovin in late June, 2019.



QUARTERLY CONTEST!

This quarter, we are giving away a holiday gift package, complete with energy-saving LED string lights and a programmable indoor timer. Decorate, celebrate, and save electricity!



To enter for a chance to win this prize, go to the link Kawerak.org/energy and sign up for our "Energy News Email List." If you're already on our email list, you'll be automatically entered in the drawing!



Connect with us!
energy@kawerak.org

Learn more about our program:
kawerak.org/energy

DID YOU KNOW?

Heating water can account for 14 to 25 percent of the energy consumed in your home. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F) and save energy!

Find more energy-saving tips online at:

energy.gov/energysaver



OCTOBER IS ENERGY AWARENESS MONTH!

Learn more.
Save energy.
Save money.
Save the planet.