

Introduced by: Dan Leinberger, Council Member
Date: February 26, 2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Resolution # 08-04

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE INCREASED DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA REGION THROUGH A STATE-SPONSORED RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND

WHEREAS, an adequate, reliable, reasonably priced, safe supply of electrical energy is necessary for the prosperity and positive development of any community;

WHEREAS, nearly every community in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region relies exclusively on diesel fuel to generate electricity;

WHEREAS, the price of diesel fuel has risen dramatically in the last several years and is likely to continue to rise because of growing world demand for oil;

WHEREAS, the rising cost of electricity in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region is causing significant economic hardship to the 26,000+ citizens of the region;

WHEREAS, according to data compiled by the Alaska Energy Authority and other government agencies, many communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region have excellent wind and other renewable resources;

WHEREAS, several rural Alaska communities have installed wind energy projects that work together with existing diesel systems, including communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region;

WHEREAS, the wind-diesel systems in Toksook Bay and Kasigluk have saved a significant amount of diesel fuel;

WHEREAS, projects involving renewable energy technologies such as solar photovoltaics, geothermal and micro-hydro have been used in rural communities to reduce the use of diesel fuel;

WHEREAS, as a hub community for the YK Delta region, Bethel is ideally situated to provide training in renewable energy development, operation, and maintenance;

WHEREAS, increased renewable energy development and energy efficiency measures in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region will significantly displace the amount of diesel fuel the region must purchase and import each year;

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WHEREAS, technical assistance exists at the state and federal level for communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region to develop renewable energy and implement energy efficiency measures using the latest state-of-the-art technology;

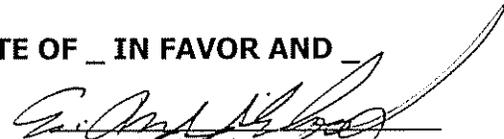
WHEREAS, Alaska House Bill 152 would create loan and grant funds to support renewable energy development in Alaska;

WHEREAS, increased development of renewable energy is consistent with the recommendation of the Alaska Energy Policy Task Force established by the Legislature in 2003, as well as subsequent reports on the state of rural energy in Alaska;

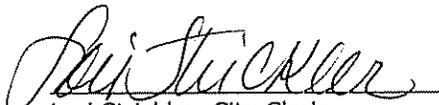
WHEREAS, the citizens of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region believe that renewable energy and energy efficiency measures will help the people of this region through reduced costs for energy for heating and electricity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council supports the increased development of renewable energy in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region through a state-sponsored Renewable Energy Fund that will immediately make available \$250 million to support the development of renewable energy in rural Alaska;

ENACTED THIS 26th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2008 BY A VOTE OF _ IN FAVOR AND _ OPPOSED.


Eric Middlebrook, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lori Strickler, City Clerk