

Extension Program

APPROVED as of 04/02/2021

[University of Alaska Fairbanks](#)

Funding Source

Extension Capacity Fund (Smith-Lever 3(b) and 3(c))

Primary Critical Issue

[Natural Resources, Ecosystems & Sustainable Energy](#)

Title

Partnering to promote sustainable energies and responsible natural resources stewardship

Start Date

10/01/2020

Project Initiator

Alda Norris

Non-Technical Summary

Issue: Sustainable energy is an increasingly popular issue in Alaska where transportation and heating costs are prohibitive. In the face of declining oil prices and production, there is a need to invest in alternative energies. A fundamental shift in investment requires constituent support to gain momentum. Community-level change begins with improving knowledge and awareness at the individual level, and IANRE has the research capabilities, content experts and networking potential to raise awareness of the potential for biomass use in Alaska; engage the public in natural resource issues like responsible forest stewardship and safe harvesting of forest products; and form partnerships to further community capacity for sustainable energy use.

Statewide Goals

- **Goal 1:** Increase public involvement in natural resource issues.
- **Goal 2:** Increase adoption of best practices for forest management.
- **Goal 3:** Increase interest in sustainable energies and intent to use biomass.
- **Goal 4:** Develop and leverage partnerships to achieve the first three outcomes.

Target Audiences: Audiences include local, state and federal partners working in natural resource management; public and private landowners; and anyone interested in the promotion and adoption of sustainable energies.

Expected Outcomes: Information disseminated through presentations will increase awareness and knowledge of best practices. Hands-on workshops will increase skills and enable changes in practice. Combining resources with partners will lead to larger-scale changes. Extension will use feedback tools like post-workshop surveys, community site visits and partner feedback to evaluate changes in awareness, knowledge and behavior related to outreach education.

Integrated Activities

Extension and research work together on biomass and forestry projects and education.

Multistate Activities

Extension works with partners from other states to identify best practices and disseminate information related to natural resources.

Edit