



AK EnergySmart

Increasing Energy Literacy in Alaskans

WHY AK ENERGYSMART?

Energy literacy is critical for all Alaskans, especially our youth. Understanding where our energy comes from allows all citizens to have a greater appreciation of the implications of the energy decisions we all make every day. AK EnergySmart uses STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) lessons to teach K-12 students how energy is produced and helps develop real-world skills that can be used in future careers.

WHAT IS AK ENERGYSMART?

AK EnergySmart (AKES) is a free K-12 curriculum designed by Alaskans for Alaskan students to raise energy literacy. Through interdisciplinary units of study that investigate how energy is all around them, why we need energy and how energy can be conserved, this curriculum gives students valuable insights they can pass along to their families. The lessons guide Alaskan youth to a better awareness of how they use energy, and the importance of taking measures to use energy wisely both at home and school. The AKES curriculum was developed for the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) by the Alaska Center for Energy and Power and Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP). The lessons are aligned with the Alaska Grade Level Expectations and the Next Generation Science Standards for ease of use by teachers.

WHO IS USING AK ENERGYSMART?

Four school districts in the state have adopted AKES as a supplemental curriculum: Anchorage, Juneau, Kenai Peninsula and Fairbanks. Teacher trainings have also been provided by REAP to 400 educators since 2012 in Anchorage, Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Kokhanok, Kodiak, Nome, Sand Point, Sitka, Soldotna and Utqiagvik. A lesson from AKES is also used to teach about energy efficiency and conservation in the annual Power Pledge Challenge, which reached over 3,600 students in 2017. REAP uses AKES lessons in many of its K-12 outreach activities.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

REAP offers classroom visits to teach hands-on AKES lessons as well as workshops on energy literacy for educators at no cost. If you or someone you know are interested in including clean energy lessons at your school, organization, or event, please contact REAP's Energy Education Director Colleen Fisk at education@realaska.org. Learn more and download the free lessons from the AKES website at www.AKEnergySmart.org.

Educator Endorsements

"Very practical, useful. I can jump right into lessons and discussions with this resource." – Fairbanks educator

"This is a very worthwhile curriculum and a message kids keep needing to hear." – Fairbanks educator

"It is necessary if we expect our youth to become energy conscious. I love this!" – Utqiagvik educator

"Emphasis on energy literacy and systems thinking is great! Need a society that thinks longer term, this curriculum is an important step in that direction." – Utqiagvik Educator

"We have all learned a lot by doing this curriculum (myself, included!), and I truly appreciate that it was offered for free! My entire family has become more mindful about our energy usage and how our actions affect the environment." – Home school parent

REAP Focus Areas



EDUCATION



ADVOCACY



TRAINING



COLLABORATION