

CASES PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNITY APPROPRIATE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SECURITY

CASES Webinar Series: Sustainable Biomass Heating in Galena, Alaska

March 15th, 2022 12-1pm CST



Due to increasingly expensive energy prices, the City of Galena, Alaska, a remote northern indigenous community, realized the operability of their boarding school, the Galena Interior Learning Academy (GILA), was significantly threatened. The school system serves as the main economic driver and central point for many community services and functions. After analyzing a variety of options, leadership pursued the installation of a wood-fired boiler that replaced the antiquated diesel-fired heat system. Collectively, several community entities formed a nonprofit organization, Sustainable Energy for Galena, Alaska, Inc. (SEGA), which became tasked with providing the required biomass material. SEGA has implemented a unique resource management strategy, specifically tailored to the needs and opportunities within the community.

The purpose of this presentation is to highlight social and ecological circumstances within the Galena context and share management strategies that have attempted to balance a wide range of local values with the limitations imposed by geography, resource availability, and the economy. Compared to the status quo, use of the wood-boiler system in Galena has significantly reduced the school's dependence on imported diesel fuel, while introducing a range of external benefits dispersed throughout the community.

Join us on March 15th to hear more about this topic!

CASES PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNITY APPROPRIATE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SECURITY

PRESENTED BY: Tim Kalke

CASES PhD Candidate

Tim is a student in the PhD Environment and Sustainability program at the University of Saskatchewan. Born and raised in Wyoming, U.S.A, Tim received an undergraduate degree in History; Secondary Education at the neighboring University of Northern Colorado and was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army. After military service, he and his wife settled in Galena, Alaska, a remote Native Athabascan village located on the banks of the Yukon River in the interior region of the state. While employed as a public educator at the local Galena high school, Tim obtained a Master of Natural Resources degree with an emphasis in Sustainable Development. He now has transitioned to a career in the sustainable energy field and manages a locally owned non-profit organization, Sustainable Energy for Galena, Alaska (SEGA). Tim's research interests are in collaborative energy planning and sustainable development with the goal of bringing a wider range of benefits to his community and region.

The presentation will be live through Zoom

March 15th 12-1pm CST (Saskatchewan)

Meeting link: <https://usask-ca.zoom.us/j/92400936089?pwd=K29DUncwMXZJa2dCYXZ3cmIqR0t5QT09>

Meeting number: 924 0093 6089

Password: 86354362

A recording will be made available on the CASES website:

<https://renewableenergy.usask.ca/events/cases-webinar-series.php>