

SmartPower update

Residential consumers using power more efficiently

Statistics indicate the average Chugach residential customer is finding ways to use energy wisely. Sales information shows that the monthly per-customer usage fell about 3 percent from 685 kilowatt-hours in 2006 to 662 kwh in 2009.

Total 2009 residential kwh sales were down just under 1 percent from 2008.

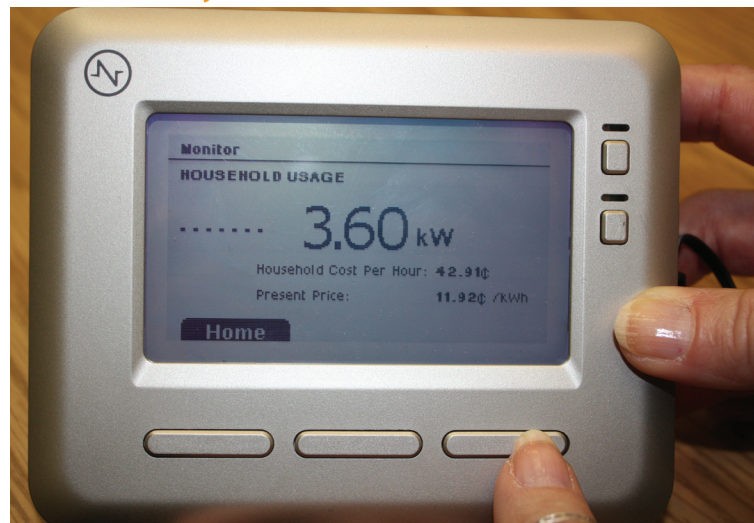
In a January 2009 survey, 89 percent of Chugach members reported they had taken steps to "conserve or otherwise lower" their use of electricity, with lighting being the most

commonly targeted area for reductions.

Several factors likely have contributed to the trend. Efficiency and conservation is now the norm; more and better information is available from myriad sources. New technology is making it easier to be energy efficient, with appliances and lights that use less power along with more opportunities to improve heating efficiency.

While Chugach can't take all the credit for changes in customer habits, its SmartPower initiative

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The Watt Buster monitor shows easy to read information on a variety of screens

Legislative update

The second half of the 26th Legislature is well underway. As predicted, energy issues are getting a great deal of attention this year. As of late February, more than 50 of the approximately 700 bills introduced this Legislature had something to do with energy.

GRET

The effort to create an organization to develop generation and

transmission projects for Railbelt utilities took another step forward when draft language for a committee substitute bill was sent to Gov. Parnell's staff.

Last year Gov. Palin sponsored legislation to create the Greater Railbelt Energy & Transmission Corporation, or GRETC. The legislature adjourned with the bills (HB 182 and SB 143) before the energy committees of both the House and Senate.

The governing bodies of the six Railbelt electric utilities have been working with the Administration for months to modify the original bills to create a committee substitute that all could support.

By mid-February the substitute language had been endorsed by five of the six utilities, with Anchorage Municipal Light & Power agreeing to continue to work with the other utilities on the bill. The new draft was sent to the Administration,

with the expectation it would be forwarded to the House and Senate energy committee chairs for consideration.

Electronic voting

There has been significant legislative progress in the effort to make it possible for cooperative members to vote via the Internet or other electronic means in utility elections. Sen. Linda Menard and Rep. Bob Lynn, chairs of the Senate and House State Affairs committees, both agreed to sponsor enabling legislation (SB 260 and HB 336) as committee bills. The legislation would amend existing state law (AS 10.25) to provide electric and telephone cooperatives the option of allowing members to vote by "... electronic transmission, as specified by the cooperative" as an alternative to voting in-person or by mail. As with mail-voting, co-op members would need to vote to amend the bylaws to allow electronic voting before it could be offered. Chugach members already voted

to change the bylaws in 2001 to allow electronic voting if state law permits it.

SB 260 passed out of Senate State Affairs after its first hearing. The packet contained letters of support from the Alaska Power Association, Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Golden Valley Electric Association, Matanuska Electric Association, Matanuska Telephone Association and Chugach.

As the Outlet went to press there were as yet no other hearings calendared for either bill, although it was hoped both could be heard in early March.

How to follow a bill

The legislature's Web site provides tools to allow the public to search for bills, follow their progress and contact legislators. To get started, go to <http://w3/legis.state.ak.us/index.php> and type a bill number or key word(s) into the search box.



Alaska State capital building, Juneau

is clearly part of the movement. Chugach began offering monthly energy tips in 2006 and formally launched SmartPower (www.SmartPowerAk.com), the member efficiency program, in 2008.

SmartPower is now pushing even further, with Watt Buster, a research project now underway to test the impact of building energy monitors on customers' energy consumption. Watt Buster is funded in part by a grant from the Alaska Energy Authority.

The commercial component is monitoring electric, gas and air quality systems at 30 commercial buildings.

The residential component of Watt Buster uses the Tendril platform. Each home receives a monitor that records use and displays near real-time feedback on energy consumption.

With the Tendril residential system installed, Watt Buster participants can see how much power they are using and how much it costs, and compare their current energy use with previous years. The system also enables customers to compare their own energy use (12966) with others in similar households. The devices will be in place through June.

The Watt Buster research project is designed to determine how building energy monitors impact customers' energy use, their per-

ceptions of energy use, and their knowledge and understanding of electric usage and energy efficiency. The basic question being tested is whether greater knowledge of energy use leads people to use less energy. Chugach will look at how and to what extent members respond to real-time information about electricity consumption.

At the end of the trial period, data about residents' energy use will be compiled and compared to the same months in previous years.

The demand-side conservation and efficiency steps taken by customers and promoted by SmartPower, coupled with supply-side improvements – like the new, efficient Southcentral Power Project – will lead to wiser use of the natural gas in the Cook Inlet Basin.

More information about Watt Buster and the Tendril system is available on www.smartpowerak.com



Member number hide-n-seek

Find your member number in the Outlet and get a \$100 credit on your electric bill.

Call Chugach's service center at 563-7366 to claim your prize.

Contact us

Main number 563-7494
 Toll free (800) 478-7494
 Member Services 563-7366
 Member Services fax 762-4678
 24-hour payment line 762-7803
 Credit 563-5060
 Power theft hotline 762-4731
 Danger tree hotline 762-7227
 Street light hotline 762-7676
 Underground locates 278-3121
 Regulatory Commission of AK (800) 390-2782
 or 276-6222
 To report a power outage
 In Anchorage 762-7888
 Outside Anchorage (800) 478-7494

Hours

Main office:
 Monday - Friday
 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Member Services lobby: 5601 Electron Drive
 Monday - Friday
 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Member Services phone:
 Monday - Friday
 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The Chugach Outlet

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 5601 Electron Drive
 P.O. Box 196300
 Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6300

Corporate Mission: Through superior service, safely provide reliable and competitively priced energy.

Corporate vision: Powering Alaska's future

Electronic annual report

Chugach is using the Internet as the primary means to distribute annual reports to its members in 2010. It is expected to be available and posted by early April. Members will be able to request a printed copy over the phone or at the Web site. Printed cop-

ies will also be available in the member services lobby and at the April 29 annual meeting.

A printed copy of the 2009 audited financial statements will be included this year with the election materials.

Work safe around electrical facilities

If you're not sure, about the rules of working safely around electrical equipment, call Chugach at 762-4545. Ask for a free briefing on electrical safety before starting projects.



And if you're going to be digging, don't forget to call 811 to get underground utility lines marked. Callers will be routed to their local one call center that will arrange to mark all underground utility lines for free. Remember to call two business days prior to digging.

Fuel adjustment increases

Chugach filed a request with the Regulatory Commission of Alaska to increase its fuel and purchased power rates for the second quarter of 2010. If approved, the total monthly bill for a Chugach residential customer using 700 kilowatt-hours of electricity will increase about 3.6 percent, from \$91.43 to \$94.74, excluding the 2 percent Municipality of Anchorage underground charge. Commercial customers will see similar increases.

Election and annual meeting notes

Two director seats that are up for election and proposed bylaw amendments will be on the ballot in the cooperative's spring election. Mail-voting packets will be mailed to Chugach members of record the week of March 29. Mail ballots must be in the election post office box by noon, Monday, April 26. Members may also vote in person at the meeting April 29.

be in the election booklet and April issue of the Outlet.

A candidate forum will be held from 6 - 8 p.m., March 18, at Chugach headquarters.

Call 762-4736 for more information.

Meeting date: Thursday, April 29
 Place: Egan Civic & Convention Center
 Record date: March 17

Information about the candidates and proposed bylaw changes will

Monthly residential service costs
 (based on 700 kwh)

Customer charge/month	\$ 8.00
Energy charge \$0.07181 x kwh =	\$50.27
Fuel \$0.04231 x kwh =	\$29.62
Purchased power \$0.00463 x kwh =	\$ 3.24
(Fuel & purchased power adjustments effective 1/1/10 - 3/31/10)	
Subtotal	\$ 91.13
2% MOA Underground Charge =	\$ 1.82
RCC charge \$0.000432 x kwh =	\$ 0.30
Total bill	\$93.25

Personnel policy

"It is a policy of Chugach Electric Association, Inc., to recruit, hire, train, compensate and promote persons without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, disability, veterans status, age or any other classification protected by applicable federal, state, or local law." Chugach is also an affirmative action employer."

