

## A new option to warm your home: Electric heat pumps

Electric heat pumps have historically been limited by their diminished performance in cold climates. But recent advancements are transforming electric heat pumps into a viable option for heating homes in Southcentral Alaska. Heat pumps are being used in similar climates across northern Europe and the northern U.S.

Electric heat pumps can provide both heating and cooling. Unlike traditional electric resistance heaters that convert electricity into heat, heat pumps gather heat from the air or ground, concentrate it with electric compressors, and transfer it indoors. There are different kinds of heat pumps with



Modern heat pumps can maintain performance in below zero temps, increase efficiency, reduce carbon emissions up to 40%, and lower home heating costs.

the most common being air-source and ground-source, both of which can be more than 400% energy efficient.

Ground-source heat pumps exchange heat through a series of buried coolant loops, or

deep wells. This type of system is less affected by ambient air temperature but requires planning and is best paired with new construction. Air-source heat pumps can be retrofitted into existing structures either independently or as part of a “hybrid” heating system alongside an existing natural gas or fuel oil furnace. A hybrid system primarily operates the heat pump but adds supplemental heat from the natural gas or fuel oil furnace during the coldest days of the year. A hybrid heat pump system can reduce the consumption of heating fuels by 80% or more.

As technology and availability continue to improve, consider if a heat pump could benefit you.

## Powerful lessons for Alaska students

Thanks to partnerships with organizations and utilities across Alaska, the Power Pledge Challenge has promoted energy efficiency and conservation to nearly 20,000 kindergarten through 12th grade students since 2013. Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP) STEM educators and utility partners provide presentations using hands-on activities and curriculum. Classrooms can

complete monthly challenges to earn points to win regional and state prizes. Regional winners receive a pizza party and, if possible, power plant tours. The classroom earning the most points also receives about \$1,200 worth of supplies. Teachers or program leaders who are interested in the Power Pledge Challenge, please contact Chantelle Lewis-Boutte at [save\\_energy@chugachelectric.com](mailto:save_energy@chugachelectric.com).



# EFFICIENT FRIDAYS

10:30 AM-1:30 PM IN OCTOBER

Join us any Friday in October to learn energy saving tips including simple ways to prepare your home for winter.

**Where:** Member Services lobby (5601 Electron Drive)  
**When:** 10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m., any Friday in October.

## Get involved with your utility

Chugach is looking for members interested in serving on its 2023 Bylaws, Election, and Nominating Committees. These committees are an excellent opportunity to get involved with your electric cooperative. Applications are available at [chugachelectric.com/media/annual-meeting](http://chugachelectric.com/media/annual-meeting) and must be received by 5 p.m., Friday, Nov. 4. For questions, call (907) 762-4489.

## In the community | Putting down roots at Ocean View Elementary



Mrs. Patzke's 3rd grade class at Ocean View Elementary School helped plant an apple tree in September as part of Chugach's Tree Line USA commitment. The students talked about the importance of trees and an urban forest with representatives from Arthur Campbell Nursery, Carlos Tree

Service, and the Asplundh Tree Expert company. Chugach has been a Tree Line USA utility since 1999, planting a tree at a different school each year as part of our commitment to give back to the community and educate members about the benefits of trees. { 191346025 }

## CHUGACH EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

From Engineering to Operations to Member Services, all of Chugach's roughly 460 employees live and work in Alaska.

Each month we will introduce you to one of our employees who work every day to provide safe, reliable power to our members.



**Name:** Bill Murray  
**Position:** Manager, Telecommunications  
**Time at Chugach:** 11 years

Leading Telecom, Bill aims to provide the best service and support possible for Chugach employees through problem solving and developing the best solution. When coupled with technologies and equipment that are always changing, no two days are alike.

## Green Corner Reducing our carbon footprint



## CLEAN YOUR LINT FILTER

Clothes dryers make up a large portion of your appliance energy consumption. Clean the lint filter after each cycle and gently scrub the filter with a toothbrush once a month to remove film and increase air circulation.

Source: [Energy.gov](http://Energy.gov)



### The Outlet

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### Member number hide-n-seek

Find your member number in (brackets) in the Outlet and get a \$100 credit on your electric bill. Call Chugach at 907- 563-7366 to claim your prize.