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Middle School Students Awarded for Taking Energy Efficiency Pledge

- Alaska First Lady Donna Walker to recognize grand prize-winning class in Anchorage -
ANCHORAGE, AK – (Dec. 9, 2015) – Chugach Electric Association, Matanuska Electric

Association, Municipal Light & Power, and Renewable Energy Alaska Project held the 2015 Power Pledge Challenge for middle school students in the Anchorage School District and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District. The grand prize-winning class is from Romig Middle School and will be presented with an award by Alaska First Lady Donna Walker at 10 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 11, 2015.

More than 2,000 local middle school students, from 74 classrooms in ten middle schools, participated in the 2015 Power Pledge Challenge. This two-week challenge, held in cooperation with the Alaska Energy Authority, aimed to help youth better understand how they use energy, how to calculate the cost of their usage and the importance of taking measures to use energy efficiently at home and school.

Representatives from Chugach, MEA, ML&P and REAP visited participating classes and presented on how to calculate energy usage, the importance of using energy efficiently, and specific and realistic ways in which students can reduce their usage. Students completed a hands-on activity from the AK EnergySmart curriculum, a resource developed in Alaska to teach kids about energy. To qualify for the challenge, students then conducted an online home energy audit with their families and identified specific actions they would take to use energy more efficiently.

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“Today’s Alaskan students are the key to our energy future and educating them about energy efficiency is one piece in creating scientifically literate citizens,” said Ben Walker, science teacher for the grand prize-winning class. “Considering the big issues they will face as adults, such as climate change, students need to understand there is no one solution to Alaska’s energy challenges and energy efficiency is one piece of a bigger puzzle.”

Each student who completed the online energy pledge earned a single entry for their class into a drawing to win a field trip to a local power plant and a pizza party. One student winner was drawn from the Anchorage School District and another from the area served by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough plus the ASD area from Eagle River to the Knik River. For the grand prize, each classroom that had 75 percent or greater student participation in the pledge was entered to win an ice cream party with Alaska First Lady Donna Walker.

The winning classes are:

- **Anchorage School District Winner:** Hanshew Middle School – Lauren O’Connor (teacher), 4th period science class.
- **Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District and Eagle River Winner:** Palmer Jr. Middle School – Robin Mullican (teacher), 4th period science class.
- **Grand Prize Winner:** Romig Middle School – Ben Walker (teacher), 3rd period science class.

The grand prize-winning class will be awarded the ice cream party with Alaska First Lady Donna Walker at 10 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 11, 2015 at Romig Middle School.

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