

Happy weekend! Thanks so much for being here, at our very first Kenai Peninsula Ratepayers Alliance newsletter! You received this email because you asked to be looped in with what we're doing - if you want to be removed from this email list for any reason, please reply and let us know.

[Kenai Peninsula Ratepayers Alliance](#) is a group of volunteers who live, work, and recreate on the Kenai Peninsula. We were inspired to start the Kenai Peninsula Ratepayers Alliance after our book club read '[All We Can Save](#).'

Our goal is to increase energy literacy within our community, and to educate and empower our community to engage with our electric cooperative utility, [Homer Electric Association](#).

We're doing this because [human-caused climate change is a threat to our community](#). As residents of the Kenai Peninsula, one of [our biggest opportunities to make an impact](#) is through our collective consumption of natural gas to generate our electricity. As owner-members of a [democratically elected utility cooperative](#), it is our responsibility to hold our cooperative accountable to *meaningfully* reduce carbon emissions.

This bi-monthly newsletter is meant to be short, easy to understand, and (hopefully) get you excited about being a ratepayer!

What's going on with Homer Electric Association (HEA):

Applications for the [Board of Directors](#) are currently open until **MARCH 1st, 2024**. As members, one of the biggest tools we have in our toolbox is who we vote for to represent us on the Board of Directors. We are looking forward to seeing candidates who care about climate change, value democracy, and strive to make a positive impact in our community. If that sounds like you or anyone you know, we encourage you to consider applying!

Homer Electric Association recently released their [2024-2026 Strategic Plan](#). There isn't a lot of detail but we are encouraged to see some renewables generation, diversification away from natural gas, and a little bit of co-op creativity.

What's going on in Alaska:

[Chugach Electric Association](#) and [Golden Valley Electric Association](#) both passed resolutions in support of a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for Alaska. The RPS is a legislative tool that requires electric utilities to generate more electricity from renewables, with benchmarks spread out over several years (such as 25% by 2027 and 80% by 2024). [Thirty-eight other states](#) have some version of an RPS, and this legislation was first introduced in Alaska in 2022 by [Governor Mike Dunleavy](#) and this legislative season, the proposed RPS exists as companion bills [HB 121](#) and [SB 101](#).

This past week, Southcentral Alaska has experienced a [cold snap](#) that has brought attention to our almost total dependence on a single fuel source - Cook Inlet natural gas - which has an uncertain future, with [the Alaska Department of Natural Resources warning of shortfalls starting in 2027](#). This alarming news, in conjunction with [Hilcorp's contract to supply natural gas to Homer Electric Association expiring in March 2024](#), strongly indicates a need for diversification away from natural gas in our electricity generation.

What we can do:

Advocate for the Renewable Portfolio Standard! SB 101 looks to be stuck in limbo due to [State Senator Jesse Bjorkman's refusal to hear the bill in the labor and commerce committee that he chairs](#). **Different ways you can advocate for the Renewable Portfolio Standard might be:**

- Reach out to [your local Homer Electric Association Board Member](#) and encourage HEA to join Chugach Electric Association & Golden Valley Electric Association in supporting the Alaska RPS. The next HEA Board meeting is **February 13th**.
- Send an [email or letter](#) to State Senator Jesse Bjorkman, encouraging him to hear the proposed SB 101.
- Send an email or letter to the [State Representative Justin Ruffridge](#) or [State Representative Ben Carpenter](#), encouraging them to support HB 121.

Thanks for reading! If you enjoyed this newsletter, please share. If you have any suggestions, we'd love to hear from you.

We'd like to end with some food for thought....



For more memes, follow our journey on social media at [@kpratepayers](#) !