

Sustaining Our Nation's Northernmost Communities and Cultures

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Our community is over 10,000 Alaska Natives living across 235,000 square miles in remote Interior Alaska, and Fairbanks. Alaska Native peoples in the arctic and subarctic endure some of the nation's most challenging climate, compounded by: high energy costs, overcrowding, and an extreme lack of affordable, healthy, and efficient housing. **These forces are driving people from their homes, threatening the very existence of traditional, northern communities and cultures.** We plan to prove the potential for "first-of-a-kind" ZERO Code multi-family residential buildings to meet energy and housing needs beginning with a prototype for Fairbanks census tracts identified as "disadvantaged communities".

- Approximately 35% of households in the region are cost-burdened, spending more than 30% of total household income on housing costs, including rent, utilities and energy.
- Extreme temperatures from -50F to sweltering summers, short days, shifting permafrost, and poor air quality.
- Occupied units are estimated to be overcrowded or severely overcrowded at nearly twice the national average.
- Conditions challenge some existing energy efficiency technologies.
- Heavily reliant on coal and heating oil for energy and heat.



Bank thermometer at 56F below, Fairbanks, AK



Solving energy and housing challenges is critical to ensuring that communities that have lived and thrived in the country's coldest climates for millenia can create their own vision for continuing that tradition.