

**WORK SESSION NOTES – Preliminary Priority Actions by Focus Area and Proposed Next Steps**

To guide your review:

- Action item numbers correspond with how each action was presented in the work session program.
- A complete list of potential actions by focus area is also presented in the work session program.
- Where two strategies are “stacked” (one on top of the other), work session participants recommended these actions would more effectively and efficiently achieve shared goals by consolidating or packaging the actions.
- Priority actions were defined by work session participants as actions that:
  - Are most important to the people of the region.
  - Can begin within the next 1 to 3 years.
  - Can make a difference.
  - Do not duplicate work that is already in progress.
  - Have commitment from 1 or more partners to lead implementation.
- Work session participants worked in small groups and used the criteria above to identify approximately **THREE PRIORITY ACTIONS** for each of the following focus areas: infrastructure, housing, subsistence and surface travel, and energy. For the economic development focus area, a full group conversation was facilitated to identify priority actions. For every focus area priority action, the following core questions were addressed and summarized for full group consideration/discussion:
  - **WHO** will lead implementation – who is best positioned to successfully lead/coordinate implementation?
  - **HOW** to get started – what is the immediate next step, or first few steps?
  - **WHEN** should we complete the first step(s) – what deadline do we want to set for ourselves? By setting a deadline we will hold ourselves accountable, but also have a set time for reconvening to discuss what needs to happen next. *Note: As summarized below, with few exceptions, session participants did not provide additional specificity on the timing of priority actions. That next level of specificity will be a critical component of future implementation plans.*



**INFRASTRUCTURE – Priority Actions, Who, How, When**

<b>Action #1</b>	<b>Integrate local knowledge and work by out-of-region researchers to expand base data on environmental change.</b>
<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community/local: Tribes, village corporations, city governments, local environmental coordinators/departments (“need a local champion”)</li> <li>• Regional: Calista, Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC), Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)</li> <li>• Out-of-Region: state and federal research agencies, for example, Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED)/Federal Emergency Management Authority (FEMA) “Risk MAP” program, consultants, Western Alaska Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC), Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), UAF Alaska Climate Research Center, USGS Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center</li> </ul>

<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with in- and out-of-region partners to assemble baseline environmental data; use this to produce community-specific hazard/risk forecasts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Communities need to take lead to identify priority environmental information needs.</li> <li>○ Identify and/or develop community leaders; “train-the-trainers” so more communities have internal capacity to guide local planning.</li> <li>○ Recruit at an upcoming Yukon Delta Regional Advisory Council (RAC) and have a list of community members to work on data collection by Thanksgiving 2019.</li> <li>○ Use Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Tribal Resilience Program for internal discussion within and across communities, with elders and community leaders.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>When</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By Thanksgiving 2019; identify community members that can work on data collection.</li> </ul>
<b>Action #3</b>	<p><b>Expand local capacity to complete and carry out community-level plans; plans that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify risks to community infrastructure from environmental change;</li> <li>• provide a local, culturally-effective process to identify priority infrastructure needs;</li> <li>• increase community eligibility to receive out-of-region funding to implement plans.</li> </ul>
<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community/local: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Start with support of all community organizations (tribes, corporations, city governments); structure this with a joint resolution/memorandum of agreement.</li> <li>○ Community-identified leader (tribe, city, corporation, etc.); a single point of contact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Regional partners: Calista, YKHC, AVCP</li> <li>• Potential out-of-region partners Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED); Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Village Safe Water (ADEC VSW), Lower Kuskokwim School District (LKSD), Alaska Department of Transportation &amp; Public Facilities (ADOT&amp;PF), US Army Corp of Engineers “Silverjackets” Program, US Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA NRCS).</li> </ul>
<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and secure funding for a strategic plan; set schedules and deadlines. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Invite state and federal partners to help identify and fill information gaps, to provide technical support, and funding.</li> <li>○ Identify most promising funding streams (e.g., VSW, LKSD, ADOT&amp;PF, DCCED, USDA NRCS)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provide tribal administrators with the support they need for community planning. Tribal Administrators do not have chief operating officers or human resources departments, etc., yet they provide comparable services to communities of hundreds.</li> <li>• Build from local knowledge; use community meetings to set goals and actions to reach goals.</li> <li>• Provide clear basis for action through environmental change risk assessments.</li> <li>• Improve local understanding of process to produce quality community plans; consider holding a statewide summit on steps for community planning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Education, empowerment, training our people...”</li> <li>○ Is there a state/federal agency that can provide support and training for improved management of the complex problems that communities face?</li> <li>○ Communicate that rural Alaska needs better access to grant opportunities, and a streamlined, better planning process.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Embrace ancestral knowledge; guide younger generations to develop skills for action.</li> <li>• Other innovative ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use eminent domain as a tool for community relocation.</li> <li>○ Create regional heavy equipment hub communities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use planning to test practical new forms of infrastructure, including mobile infrastructure.</li> <li>○ Improve communication and utilize existing infrastructure to connect communities.</li> </ul>
<b>Action #5</b>	<b>Set priorities and work to carry out regional infrastructure projects, such as the YK freight corridor, regional airport in Emmonak, airport upgrades, access to natural gas, fiber option connections, Bethel Port facilities upgrades, Pilcher Mountain gravel.</b>
<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Regional organizations and communities: “need regional resident support to make it happen”.</li> <li>● DCCED, US Army Corps of Engineers “Silverjackets” Program, and other state and federal agencies.</li> </ul>
<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Focus on a subset of infrastructure projects, specifically natural gas, fiber optic connections and a mitigation plan.</li> <li>● Incorporate Pilcher Mountain gravel, and YK Freight Corridor as supporting actions on all infrastructure projects.</li> <li>● Make plans with community involvement.</li> <li>● Get started on permitting.</li> </ul>

### Additional Discussion on Infrastructure:

- The Denali Commission 2020 Workplan and a link to submit formal comments until 9/2/19 is located here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/08/07/2019-16914/denali-commission-fiscal-year-2020-draft-work-plan>. The Denali Commission Threatened Villages Protection Fund focuses on threatened villages as identified by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The fund has \$5 million now and there is a proposal to drop the level to \$1 million. Public comment on this change will be requested later in August.



### HOUSING – Priority Actions, Who, How, When

<b>Action #3</b>	<b>Construct and/or rehabilitate 1,800 homes toward the region’s goal of 3,000 affordable, quality additional homes by 2022.</b>
<b>Action #4</b>	<b>Pilot new funding approaches that better leverage existing housing (and other) funding sources for housing projects.</b>
<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Community/local: Tribes, village corporations, local housing authorities</li> <li>● Regional: AVCP Regional Housing Authority (AVCP RHA), Coast Villages Region Fund (CVRF), Calista, Yuut Elitnaurviat, Western Alaska LCC</li> <li>● Out-of-Region: US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and related programs/funding such as Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Action (NAHASDA), BIA Housing Improvement Program (HOP), USDA Arctic Research Commission, ANTHC, Indian Health Service (IHS), Office of Native American Programs (ONAP), Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC), ADEC VSW</li> </ul>
<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Authorize, encourage continued coordinated lobbying for increased housing funding.</li> <li>● Improve design, construction, maintenance to increase sustainability, reduce costs.</li> <li>● Provide more construction equipment and materials from within the region, and workforce trainings in villages (<i>more below</i>).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with ADEC VSW and USDA so the AVCP Housing Authority can be eligible for water and sewer infrastructure funds to help offset the cost of housing development.</li> <li>• Include cultural/local knowledge and values. How did our ancestors live (e.g., homes for extended families)? What type of home would support our livelihood and wellbeing? What size of homes is right? What about “tiny homes”?</li> <li>• <i>See Housing Action 9 below</i> – Encourage private funding for those with the means, and assistance from agencies for those that need help.</li> <li>• Account for other issues related to high costs including lack of available land and challenges and incentives for ongoing homeowner maintenance.</li> </ul>
<b>When</b>	“Yesterday!” More work is needed to identify other steps and timing for this priority action, but all are intended to occur over the next one to three years.
<b>Action #5</b>	<b>Improve the energy efficiency of homes.</b>
<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community/local: Tribes, village corporations, “community is responsible”</li> <li>• Regional: AVCP Regional Housing Authority, Nuvista Light and Electric Cooperative</li> <li>• Out-of-Region: State of Alaska</li> </ul>
<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up systems so homeowners can borrow funds to create more energy efficient homes, and then pay off the loan with savings in energy costs. One example: loan for improvements is repaid using “on-bill” financing.</li> <li>• Set up a regional or statewide “green bank” where home improvement loans/investments are aggregated on community level and then on regional level.</li> </ul>
<b>Action #6</b>	<b>Use building design and construction methods that allow homes to adjust to climate change, such as adjustable foundations and movable homes.</b>
<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AVCP with CCHRC partnership, HUD</li> </ul>
<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set regional building standards for next generation design/construction of homes.</li> <li>• Need to work on better communication between stakeholders, including communities, AVCP RHA and land department and HUD NAHASDA.</li> <li>• Develop new models for design and construction of resilient property foundations that readily respond to permafrost thaw; identify options for movable homes, such as homes on tracks or sleds.</li> </ul>
<b>Action #7</b>	<b>Support local lumber, sawmill, and home manufacturing efforts such as a truss manufacturing plant to reduce the cost of building materials and increase local employment opportunities.</b>
<b>Action #8</b>	<b>Develop a trained local workforce to construct and/or rehabilitate homes.</b>
<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community/Local: local leaders (tribe, village corporation, city)</li> <li>• Regional: AVCP Tribal Workforce Development, AVCP Regional Housing Authority, Yuut Elitnaurviat, Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, YK Community Development Quota groups (CVRF and Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association), Workforce Innovation Program</li> <li>• Out-of-Region: ANTHC, Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) for design, CCHRC, Job Corps, USDA Rural Development, Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP, USDA Small Business Development Center, EXCEL Alaska, King Tech High School, LKSD</li> <li>• Other: EXCEL, King Career + LKSD partnership</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop community and regional action plans that identify specific projects.</li> <li>• Take advantage of existing programs.</li> <li>• Attend training on creating a clearinghouse for talent banks.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share the word about success stories like the Napaimute sawmill; encourage new businesses that use locally produced raw materials.</li> <li>• Educate local leaders and interested individuals about small business funding options.</li> </ul>
<b>Action #9</b>	<b>Offer culturally effective education on how to finance a new home to residents and local agencies.</b>
<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community/local: Tribes, village corporations, cities</li> <li>• Calista, AVCP Housing, BIA, USDA, CVRF, YDFDA, YKHC, ANTHC, IHS, ONAP</li> </ul>
<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect those who want homes with resources to make that happen.</li> <li>• Secure assistance from agencies like BIA, USDA and CRVF to fill gap between housing costs and what private homeowner can afford.</li> </ul>

## Additional discussion on Housing:

Questions of presenters for discussion and clarification in next steps and action plan refinement:

- How are/can different partners working/work together to facilitate home construction and/or improvements? Many residents are unaware of funding options and how different partners can work together to meet individual/community/regional housing needs (e.g., recent partnership between AVCP, BIA, CVRF and USDA).
- Does the \$100,000 per household income figure include all incomes in a family? How is that calculated? Do they falsely represent opportunities and challenges in Bethel?
  - Per the US Census, **household income** is defined as: “Based on the 12 months, includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not.” The figures used in the housing presentation on potential strategies for meeting Bethel’s housing needs, showed “median household income” for the City of Bethel, and indicated that 41 percent of households in Bethel make more than \$100,000 per year and could potentially afford \$2,000 per month in rent. **Median household income** divides the income distribution into two equal parts, with one half of houses falling below the median income, and one half above the median. Again, the core question and concern of work session participants – is this a false picture of household ability to pay \$2,000/month in rent, especially when 11 percent of households are defined by the US Census as “severely overcrowded”?
  - How can regional residents and organizations work with agencies to collect/report data to more accurately tell the YK story?
- How can homeowners improve the quality of homes constructed by AVCP Housing Authority?
  - BIA Provided houses, now 30-40 years old. People do not understand that owners were then responsible for all the subsequent repairs and maintenance.
  - Many homes now are deteriorating (mold, leaks, settlement).
  - Housing Authority has made this clear since 1995 that it is the homeowner’s responsibility.
  - Housing Authority can help owners finance needed repairs and maintenance.



## SUBSISTENCE and SURFACE TRAVEL– Priority Actions, Who, How, When

<b>Action #1</b>	<b>Increase opportunities for youth to develop subsistence (<i>sustenance</i>) skills.</b>
<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community/local: residents, leaders, tribes, elders</li> <li>“Personal responsibility: word of mouth – we can all communicate.”</li> <li>Regional: Cooperative partnerships with AVCP, Calista, village corporations, CDQs, school districts</li> <li>Out-of-Region: BIA, universities, USFWS, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&amp;G), National Science Foundation (NSF)</li> </ul>
<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a regional subsistence education program/organization – steps include determining funding, curriculum (4-seasons TEK), partners (teachers, scientists, elders, parents, communities).</li> <li>Create, communicate and advertise a subsistence knowledge network; for example, using the Alaska Gateway School District and the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (IGAP).</li> <li>Expand relationships and communications between elders and youth, including harvesting, gathering, sustaining, collaborating practices.</li> <li>Re-introduce traditional methods and practices (e.g., snow nets, fish traps, etc.)</li> <li>Support families to practice/teach subsistence with youth – requires freeing up time.</li> <li>Emphasize holistic practices. Contrast rural vs. urban “subsistence” (e.g., using the whole fish vs. fillet). Textbook education will not convey the holistic thinking and experience of subsistence traditions.</li> <li>Develop new ways to share traditional knowledge (“Google it”). Students are attached to their phones – incorporate modern technologies into their learning, such as building an electronic application, or making a video on how to prepare a seal skin.</li> <li>How can every school in the region promote traditional experience, create a curriculum around subsistence learning? Students need to learn the science, math, etc., behind the tools and harvest as well as doing it.</li> <li>Reinstitute cultural heritage week during school. Elders shared traditional tools (e.g., harpoons, ulus, fish traps), taught how to travel and dress, and use a winter compass.</li> </ul>
<b>Action #2</b>	<b>Develop new approaches and new partnerships to better understand future environmental change.</b>
<b>Action #3</b>	<b>Develop a network of climate monitors in Yukon Kuskokwim communities.</b>
<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community/local/regional: AVCP, Calista, YKHC, CVRF, regional residents, community leaders, tribes, elders, IGAP workers</li> <li>Out-of-region: US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), USGS, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration; North Pacific Research Board (NPRB), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), NSF, US Army Corps of Engineers “Silverjackets” Program, ADF&amp;G, DCCED, AK Ocean Observing System (AOOS), University of Alaska, Western LCC</li> </ul>
<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a regional team to coordinate in and out-of-region environmental research needs and define an environmental change research agenda.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve methods for community monitoring, to contribute to full understanding of anticipated regional/community environmental change. For example, monitoring by community volunteers, schools, tribal IGAP staff, in collaboration with Alaska DGGs.</li> <li>• Work with village IGAP representatives; build a research department.</li> </ul>
<b>Action #4</b>	<b>Better incorporate local knowledge and concerns in fish and wildlife management as habitats, seasons and species shift, recognizing that conditions vary in different areas.</b>
<b>Action #5</b>	<b>Include subsistence and food security strategies in community plans.</b>
<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Same as actions 2 and 3, with focus on ADF&amp;G, USFWS, YK RAC, Bering Sea Elders</i></li> </ul>
<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start locally; work with agencies to better involve residents, elders and regional organizations in management policy, for example, a change in barter law.</li> <li>• Clarify the value of subsistence/elder understanding; provide elders a key role in identifying regulation issues, and more broadly, ensure local voice and perspective before/during regulation processes.</li> <li>• Adjust regulations to respond to climate change effects on seasons, habitats.</li> <li>• Use community planning process to track and share how changes are forcing adaptation – document local traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and incorporate into regulations.</li> <li>• Develop better relationships between subsistence regulation agencies and tribes. Keep communication consistent. Appoint designated Tribal member.</li> <li>• “Education + mapping + technology = better preservation of traditions”</li> <li>• Recognize connection between energy savings and subsistence: reduced spending on home heating frees up dollars for gas for four-wheelers, boats, snowmachines used for subsistence.</li> <li>• Share information on subsistence management issues regionally and at statewide meetings, e.g., at AFN, AVCP meetings, in local media (“trading our soul foods”).</li> </ul>
<b>Action #6</b>	<b>Use the results of the YK fish preservation project to improve options for preserving fish, meeting community needs and avoiding waste.</b>
<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Same as actions 2 and 3, USFWS current lead</i></li> </ul>
<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document and share information about how recent hot weather is impacting options for preserving fish.</li> <li>• Continue process of practical experimentation with new approaches to fish preservation in response to continuing climate change.</li> <li>• Use diverse media: Facebook, radio shows, meetings, newspapers, schools to collect new ideas, share results of different options.</li> </ul>
<b>Action #7</b>	<b>Continue the mapped inventory of existing trails corridors/routes.</b>
<b>Action #8</b>	<b>Identify trails/routes to improve, harden or relocate; work with landowners to secure these routes.</b>
<b>Action #9</b>	<b>Improve trail marking and better systems for real-time data on ice conditions on rivers and lakes.</b>
<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community/local/regional knowledge and programs: elders, tribes and cities; Bethel Search and Rescue, AVCP and each tribe’s Tribal Transportation Program (TTP), landowners – Calista and village corporations</li> <li>• Out-of-Region: State of Alaska, BLM, USFWS, Coast Guard, AK DOT&amp;PF, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), ADF&amp;G</li> </ul>

<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appoint regional contact (already existing: Clarence Daniel, AVCP Transportation Director). Improve collaboration between organizations, agencies for land status research, traditional and new trails.</li> <li>• Start with existing plans; organize teams, equip with GPS tools and GIS software. Present to local schools. Add together maps of different subregions. Input upgrades data into TTP.</li> <li>• Add resource/subsistence mapping to trail mapping including locations, traditional names (Yup'ik and other languages).</li> <li>• Need education to preserve knowledge of traditional travel for youth; engage youth in mapping by utilizing technology.</li> <li>• Plan routes to respond to known, anticipated climate change.</li> </ul>
<b>Action #10</b>	<b>Train residents on trails-related businesses and job skills.</b>
<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as actions 2 and 3; plus Yuut</li> </ul>
<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hire residents to work on trail projects.</li> <li>• Apply for grants to State of Alaska, BIA, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Action #11</b>	<b>Increase surface travel safety throughout the year. (added)</b>
<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as actions 7, 8 and 9; plus YK Health Corporation (YKHC) Injury Prevention</li> </ul>
<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and safety go hand in hand. Cover winter summer travel. Young people travel in tennis shoes in winter – should be educated on using winter survival gear.</li> <li>• Upgrade infrastructure: “shelters”, cellphone towers strategically placed, proper marked trails “summer/winter”.</li> <li>• Need better trail maintenance partnerships: tribes, corporations, agencies, etc.</li> <li>• Do we need to create an agency that can take on the task of doing this? Such as branch of Tribal DOT?</li> </ul>



## ENERGY – Priority Actions, Who, How, When

<b>Action #1</b>	<b>Use energy audits, building codes and demonstration projects to make community buildings as energy efficient as possible.</b>
<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuvista is lead advocate; Nuvista’s board includes a diverse set of in and out of region partners, including AVCP, Calista, Yuut, YKHC</li> <li>• Other regional and out-of-region partners include: AVCP RHA, CCHRC, Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Indian Energy, Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP), RurAL CAP, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC), Alaska Energy Authority (AEA), USDA, investors, AVEC, ANTHC, ADEC, Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), tribes, University of Alaska, Northern Arctic Homes Research Center</li> </ul>
<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create community-based strategic energy plans in each community, reflecting unique local energy needs and options for renewable sources. CEMAI/ DOE programs can support this action.</li> <li>• Expand skilled local workforce to perform audits, install energy efficiency measures.</li> <li>• Develop Yuut partnership with LKSD to create more energy efficient teacher housing.</li> <li>• “We need educated building owners”; provide region-wide energy literacy education; educate buyers at point of sale.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage energy efficiency living, for example through in-home meters, energy efficiency contests. Where possible, switch to wood.</li> <li>• Utilize local resources for future energy solutions; e.g., retrofits of Conex containers.</li> <li>• Expand access to funding; improve understanding of state and federal grant cycles. Learn from successful funding partnerships, e.g., Chaninik Wind Group.</li> <li>• Use cost effective local materials for development purposes but respect need for resource sustainability. Local timber harvest is not sustainable or cost effective in much of YK but may be possible at Chuathbaluk and other upriver communities.</li> <li>• Help prospective business owners better understand start-up opportunities and challenges, for example required initial investments.</li> <li>• Develop new ways to finance energy efficiency investments, particularly for those without assets (e.g., renters vs. owners).</li> <li>• Expand regional partnerships to pursue new funding sources.</li> </ul>
<b>Action #2</b>	<b>Create a legacy document explaining why the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) Program exists; clarify that PCE is not a subsidy, but an agreement between urban and rural areas.</b>
<b>Action #5</b>	<b>Initiate a coordinated campaign to educate state legislators and federal agencies about needed energy investments, with specific requests to invest in the YK Delta.</b>
<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Same as Action 1</i></li> </ul>
<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form steering committee or action plan working group linking the list of “who” above.</li> <li>• Use statewide gatherings, such as AFN; BIA Providers, to approve a resolution to be submitted to the State and US Congress.</li> <li>• Emphasize the need to safeguard PCE for equity purposes (urban vs. rural).</li> <li>• Make the messaging simple and clear re: the economic and quality of life impacts of decreased energy costs:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ More savings on heating fuel costs.</li> <li>○ More dollars available for gasoline for subsistence vehicles.</li> <li>○ More subsistence foods on the table.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>When</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In time for leadership/policy maker gatherings including AFN, state legislature and congress sessions.</li> </ul>
<b>Action #4</b>	<b>Develop the well-trained regional workforce of operators and repair technicians needed for existing and new energy generation technology.</b>
<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Same as Action 1</i>; plus AVEC and independent utilities, including power plant operators</li> <li>• Yuut Elitnaurviat with YK Regional School Districts</li> <li>• Out-of-Region: AEA, UA/KUC and other campuses, PCE educator – Connie Fredenberg</li> </ul>
<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include job creation and training as part of strategic energy plan within individual communities.</li> <li>• Identify most promising areas for future energy related jobs, include energy audits, alternative energy installation and maintenance.</li> <li>• Build capacity and ownership of tribes to work with school districts and Yuut; use this partnership to develop training curriculum and overall success of students.</li> <li>• Involve out of region energy efficiency and renewable energy trainers.</li> </ul>



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Priority Actions, Who, How, When

<b>Action #1</b>	<b>Prepare residents for work in emerging economic sectors, including energy, housing, infrastructure, trails and resource development.</b>
<b>Action #2</b>	<b>Work with children and youth to develop the skills to comfortably and successfully operate within workplace culture.</b>
<b>Action #3</b>	<b>Develop new school curricula that give students real life learning opportunities and build future employment skills, such as in alternative energy.</b>
<b>Action #4</b>	<b>Provide education in finance, business basics, and life management skills to help residents understand credit, loans, insurance and banking opportunities.</b>
<b>Who</b>	<p><i>Specific educational/skills training organizations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School districts, University of Alaska/Alaska Pacific University</li> <li>• Yuut Elitnaurviat</li> <li>• ANSEP</li> </ul> <p><i>Other supporting partners and employers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elders, regional businesses, Kuskokwim Educational Foundation, UAF Climate Science Center, AVCP, Calista, parents and families, CDQ groups, REAP (Renewable Energy Alaska Project)</li> </ul>
<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Hire: Continue to promote opportunities with regional residents and employers to fill jobs that would otherwise go to people from outside the region.</li> <li>• Help young people understand the importance of reading and math skills; provide support to school districts to help youth gain these critical skills.</li> <li>• Take advantage of REAP “gap analysis”, which identifies career paths in emerging fields, skills needed to pursue those options, and means to gain those skills.</li> <li>• Set stage for more jobs in commercial fishing – connections through CDQs.</li> <li>• Funds for action: ANSCA corporation settlement trusts, like St. Mary Native Corporation example.</li> </ul>
<b>Action #5</b>	<b>Promote farm-to-table and seafood-to-table commercial and export opportunities for locally grown and harvested goods, including value-added processing.</b>
<b>Action #6</b>	<b>Partner with impact investors, who seek to generate a measurable, beneficial social or environmental impact alongside a financial return.</b>
<b>Action #7</b>	<b>Prioritize investments in regional infrastructure projects (<i>described in the Infrastructure section</i>).</b>
<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village and regional corporations, EDA Adjustment Assistance Programs, CDQs, Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), UAA Small Business Development Center, US Small Business Administration Office of Native American Affairs, YK version of AFN marketplace, YK “Best in the West” Entrepreneurial Grants Program, First Alaskan Institute - Stanford University Leadership Training, REAP, Alaska Conservation Foundation</li> </ul>
<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Options for local self-sufficiency and cost reductions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Promote use of locally grown foods; expand knowledge of how to grow small scale vegetable gardens.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop heavy equipment “hub communities” – several strategically located YK communities used to store and maintain heavy equipment used by surrounding communities.</li> <li>○ Form cooperatives to buy locally needed goods in bulk.</li> <li>● Promote and support new local business opportunities:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Village corporations and tribes establish and run businesses that benefit and support tribal members, shareholders, regional residents. For example, village corporations and tribes could purchase boats or other subsistence equipment in bulk and resell to tribal members and shareholders at a reduced rate to decrease cost for subsistence and other economic development activities?</li> <li>○ Take advantage of “Best in the West” grants to entrepreneurs, from \$2,000-\$8,000; to date 56 grants distributed and many of these businesses still operate today.</li> <li>○ Continue and expand access to start-up capital, for example through corporations setting up programs to support entrepreneurs, for example, Bristol Bay Native Corporation’s Bristol Bay Development Fund.</li> <li>○ Promote “catcher seller” approach for commercial fishing.</li> <li>○ One specific example: In Napakiak where river erosion will create a need for jobs in climate change adaptation, including heavy equipment operators - “Makes sense to hire local people, use local equipment.”</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Job training, skills development             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use the Kuskokwim Learning Academy – alternative high school mentorships.</li> <li>○ Use mentorship programs.</li> <li>○ Encourage/build trainings in heavy equipment operation. Palmer Center is one option; Delta Junction is another. “Provide equipment operator training... but most important was training in ‘soft skills’.”</li> <li>○ Use State Technical Education Program (STEP) – provides funding for personnel training but requires a lot of paperwork.</li> <li>○ Job skills foundation is a good education, but schools need to focus on skills needed for work in the region (mechanics, heavy equipment operators). Give schools more latitude to focus on vocational education - “I’ve seen kids who can take outboard apart with eyes closed.”</li> <li>○ One model for skills training that benefits an individual and the region – set up loan programs that can be paid back through working in YK region.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Business environment             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Modify PCE to incentivize use of alternative energy, which leads to expanded local business development opportunities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Action #8</b>	<p><b>Improve systems for regional planning and coordination, including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Establish more regular regional communication.</b></li> <li>● <b>improve in-region socio-economic data collection to inform shared regional strategies</b></li> <li>● <b>Develop unified regional requests for support from out-of-region partners; for example, to do climate change research.</b></li> <li>● <b>Increase capacity for communities to assess risks and opportunities, as well as to develop and carry out community plans.</b></li> </ul>

<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional “sister organizations”, including AVCP, AVCP RHA, Calista, YKHC, Yuut, CVRF, YDFDA.</li> <li>• Local tribes, village corporations, cities</li> <li>• Wide range of other partners in and out of region, including State and Federal agencies, University, businesses, non-profits</li> </ul>
<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get regional leaders together at least annually to work on common issues, common actions. “We need to meet like this, again, and again, and again”.</li> <li>• Create a regional “Think Tank” for YK Delta, that could bring out the best ideas forward for solutions and would combine both in and out of region partners.</li> <li>• Use this “Triple E” (and adding a 4<sup>th</sup> “E” for “Education” conference as a jumping off point for improved ways for regional communication and collaboration. One model:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Solidify YK Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy committee membership; meet regularly to work on identified priorities.</li> <li>○ Develop working committees under the CEDS committee, combining CEDS committee members with a range of other in and out-of-region partners.</li> <li>○ Use the working committees to make progress on major objectives outlined in the CEDS, Adapt YK, and Regional Energy Plans, and progress made during this conference.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Take advantage of statewide and regional conferences to bring people together and work on shared strategies and actions. These include AFN, ATCEM, BIA Providers Conference, and in-region annual events like the fall AVCP conference.</li> </ul>

## Regional Activation: Strength in Numbers

Presentation by Donna Bach, Tribal Partner Specialist, US Census – on importance of 2020 Census and achieving an accurate count for the Yukon-Delta region. Related information and links:

- The census has a significant impact on the federal dollars Alaska receives with 18% of funding going directly to Alaska nonprofits.
- To connect directly with Donna:
  - Telephone: (323) 791-2381
  - Email: [donna.e.bach@2020census.gov](mailto:donna.e.bach@2020census.gov)
- For more information on the issues, the Alaska Census Working Group, how you can get involved and Census Resources: <https://www.forakergroup.org/speak-up/learn-the-issues/2020-census/>.

**Next Steps** (including preliminary ideas for reinvigorating the YK CEDS Committee to take action on priorities identified during the YK 3 Es Work Session)

1. Within two weeks: Develop work session notes, list of participants and link to session presentations to share with all invitees. Everyone that receives work session materials should broadly share them with their communities, tribes, shareholders, organizations.
2. September 24 – 26, 2019: Provide a summary of work session outcomes and next steps at the AVCP fall meeting.

3. Over the next six to eight weeks:
  - Revisit composition and reconvene the CEDS Committee.
  - Create a working group for priority actions.
  - Expand membership of working groups as needed (e.g., more elders, youth, representatives from out-of-region partner agencies).
4. Over the next three to six months:
  - CEDS Committee reviews the existing CEDS implementation plan and revises to align with YK 3 Es Work Session outcomes, with specific actions and steps to achieve shared goals.
    - Each working group has a specific action plan with assignments, benchmarks and timelines for demonstrating progress and maintaining accountability to the region and to shared goals.
    - Benchmarks include measurable indicators of progress.
5. Over the next year and beyond:
  - CEDS Committee develops and maintains a regular schedule for working groups and larger committee to reconvene, share progress report(s)/update(s) on actions taken.