ALASKA RAILBELT CLEAN ENERGY TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE GROWTH CLUSTER

Appendix 2: Industry Leadership

U.S. Economic Development Agency (EDA)
FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Build Back Better Regional Challenge

Submitted by:

Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska

Mat-Su/Fairbanks Rail & Natural Gas Coalition Members:

1. PARTNER EMPLOYERS

The Coalition's strategy to grow the **Alaska Clean Energy Transportation Infrastructure Growth Cluster** is dependent upon the involvement and engagement of partner employers. Demonstrating this commitment, each year the Interior Gas Utility (IGU) puts out a bid for contractors to install new service lines and main lines. Two contractors were selected this year: **American Broadband Communications** and **Utility Technologies Incorporated**. About $1 Million is budgeted for this work annually.

In addition, the Fairbanks North Star Borough has a changeout program that provides financial incentives to home and business owners for upgrading to lower polluting heating appliances, including conversions to natural gas. The following list shows certified Oil and Gas Installers in Fairbanks: the only vendors that can install gas appliances through the Borough's change out program.

A & W Plumbing & Heating
Alaska Best Plumbing & Heating
Arctic Plumbing and Heating
Ask-Seek-Find
Avance, LLC
Beckley Mechanical Company
Cowles Heating
Dobbs Mechanical, LLC
Full Tilt Mechanical & Construction, LLC
Holaday-Parks, Inc.
H.V.A.C. LLC
Kraft Heating, Inc.
Monkey Wrench Mechanical
Mountain High Services, LLC
Prospector Plumbing & Heating
RES Fairbanks
Rocky's Heating
Stew's Electric LLC
Thunder Mountain
Total Toyo
The Woodway
Western Mechanical Inc.

2. PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Interior Gas Utility has a strong relationship with mechanical contractors throughout the community: those who install and maintain natural gas-fired equipment on customer property, as well as the suppliers that ensure the availability of natural gas-fired appliances. In July 2021, IGU held two workshops where mechanical contractors learned about the IGU processes, standards of construction, and gas code; and were offered the opportunity to become IGU-preferred contractors. The same presentation was given to the **Mechanical Contractors of Fairbanks**, an organization of contractors represented by a union.

While the companies have not yet made any official hiring commitments or promises of financial investment, the contractors and supplier communities are well educated on the increased demand of natural gas and are ready to support the industry with a qualified workforce and adequate supply of equipment and parts.