



SUMMER 2009

AYEA GOES TO JUNEAU!

Civics & Conservation Summit 2009



Written by participants
Hannah Wilson, Juneau,
and Noah Schieber, Healy

This year's AYEA Civics & Conservation Summit held in Juneau brought teens together from across the state to learn about the legislative process and how youth

can have a voice in Alaska politics. Eighteen youth participants from ten communities across Alaska gathered to share in this experience.

At the summit, teens were split into three groups that each focused on a legislative bill.

House Bill 70 was about providing Alaska grown food in schools; Senate Bill 121 pushed for energy efficiency in buildings throughout the state; and House Bill 46 focused on stricter regulations for mixing zones. Each participant was able to meet individually with his or her senator and representative to talk about bills and any other issues that were important to them and

their community. The youth sat in on a House floor session, a hearing for HB 70, as well as meeting with Governor Palin's special assistant Joe Balash. The Summit concluded with a community dinner where AYEA teens presented several legislators with awards for doing good work for the environment, youth, or their communities.

Alaska Youth for Environmental Action's Civics & Conservation Summit was more than just a chance to meet our legislature. There was strong peer bonding and great

new friendships developed. Though there was an immense amount of politics to learn about, there was also much to learn about living and

working together. The high school -- and even some middle school

continued on page 2 ...

I learned way more about the political process than I knew before; I actually feel like I have a good understanding of it and I know how it can be used to further environmental action.



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www.nwf.org



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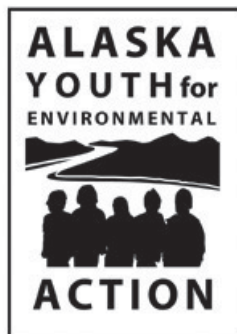
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AYEA Youth participants presenting our Renewable Energy petition to the Governor's assistant



teens -- came together and stayed in a communal housing arrangement that shared a common living room and kitchen. Each meal was cooked by different "family groups" organized within the larger group. The time together allowed us to share and enjoy our differences in culture.

Youth that partook in the summit were given the opportunity to serve as leaders. Those that might not usually be so outgoing were given the confidence and support needed to step up to the challenge of being an active participant and a leader. Enthusiastic participant Tamrit Grewal from Dillingham said, "I learned about the bills and the environment and most of all I learned more about myself." This confidence allowed us to educate legislators about solutions and concerns we had regarding different difficulties and conflicts that are being experienced around Alaska.

In five action-packed days participants learned how to communicate with their legislators, be leaders for activism in their communities, and, most importantly, became aware of how powerful their voices are for inciting change. To sum it up, one participant answered the question *What was the biggest impact from the training?* by saying: "Our voice. I did not know that U.S. citizens had the power and opportunity of involvement that we do."

LEARN MORE
about the Civics Summit &
upcoming AYEA Trainings
www.ayea.org

CONNECT WITH AYEA

EMAIL ~ ayea@ayea.org

AYEA'S WEBSITE ~ www.ayea.org

TWITTER ~ www.twitter.com/ayea

MYSFACE ~ www.MySpace.com/AYEA4life

FACEBOOK ~ friend [AYEA@ayea.org](https://www.facebook.com/AYEA4life)

SUMMER FUN WITH AYEA

OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEENS, FAMILY & FRIENDS ACROSS ALASKA

MAY

18-19: REAP Clean Energy Conference

11 am - 12 pm Dena'ina Center, Anchorage
Present Renewable Energy petition signatures
Participate in a roundtable discussion on clean energy
Contact Maeve to sign up taylor@m@nwf.org

JULY

AYEA Summer Training GETTING CREATIVE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

July 20-24
Arctic Valley outside Anchorage

Learn about climate change and renewable energy
Meet teens from all over Alaska
Play outside & spend the week camping in tents
Learn about different art forms and ways to creatively
express your ideas on the environment

GET MORE INFO & APPLY ONLINE
WWW.AYEA.ORG!

**** June 8 is the deadline to apply! ****



JUNE

6: ACE Alaska Ocean Fest

Anchorage Park Strip, 10am-10pm
Volunteers needed for AYEAs table!
To sign up email Maeve: taylor@m@nwf.org

24: AYEAs Fundraiser: Sustainable AYEAs for a Sustainable Planet June 24 ~ 5.30-8.30pm

1142 G Street, downtown Anchorage
Hosted by Deborah Williams



Youth volunteers are needed!
Bring your family and friends to support and celebrate
the youth of AYEAs!

AUGUST

1: Renewable Energy Fair (Anchorage)

Volunteer at AYEAs booth or just attend to learn about
Renewable Energy in Alaska

3-7: YEP Career Week (Anchorage)

If you would like to mentor a Youth Employment in
Parks crew member, please email Sam Hoeffler at
hoefflers@ayea.org

RENEWABLE ENERGY IN ALASKA *Our Time is Now!*



Written by Oceana Wills, Homer AYE Chapter & a leader of the RE Campaign

“Renewable Energy” is a phrase common in today’s world. It streams through our TV sets and radios; it is plastered in big letters on storefronts. When we hear it, we think of a greener future. Alaska Youth for Environmental Action, a part of the future generation that will inherit this world with all of its beauty and problems, is working towards a wider use of renewable energy in the state of Alaska. It is a big job but one that the youth voice is capable of.

On January 8-11, 21 youth from 10 communities - varying in size from Emmonak to Anchorage, gathered at the AYE Leadership Retreat to decide upon a statewide campaign. They narrowed it down to three important environmental topics: Real food which focused on healthiness of lunch and recycling within schools, toxics, and renewable energy. Finally, the vote was cast, and renewable energy was the winner. We chose the slogan “Renewable Energy in Alaska - Our Time is Now!” and then the real work began.

While last year’s “Re-Think Plastics” campaign applied to communities and their use of plastics, the renewable energy campaign is focused on the legislative decisions of Alaska. The goal is to collect 6,000 signatures statewide to support renewable energy in Alaska and try to have more money put in the budget for renewable energy. The AYE chapters have been collecting signatures in their communities. So far, a big push granted more than 750 signatures that were then presented to the Alaska Senate Resource Committee, as well as many of our Representatives, Senators, and the Governor.

A week later, \$25 million was added to the state budget for renewable energy in 2009! This was half the proposed \$50 million but still very positive for Alaska. The collection of signatures is ongoing – to next encourage Governor Palin to include \$50 million in the 2010 budget for renewable energy. Chapters will also present around the state on renewable energy.

CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

- The Homer chapter collected 123 signatures and met with the Homer Planning Commission to present a chapter on energy (written by bureau official Bill Smith) and their own Vision Statement of energy in Homer!
- Gunner Gregory collected 123 signatures from the Village of Emmonak all by himself!
- Mt. Edgecumbe students collected 251 signatures, including youth from more than 60 rural Alaskan communities!
- Talitha Wilson and Hannah Wilson delivered our petition signatures to the Alaska Senate Resource Committee and helped convince them to fund Renewable Energy in Alaska!
- Anchorage teens collected signatures at the Indigenous People’s Global Warming Conference, with representatives from over 80 countries!
- Wiley Cason delivered the petition signatures to our Senators’ offices to convince them to support the Federal Renewable Electricity Standard (requiring utility companies to generate 25% of their power through Renewable Energy by 2025!)



Joe Balash, Assistant to the Governor, signs AYE’s Renewable Energy Petition, Civics & Conservation Summit in Juneau, March 2009

AYEA has tackled a large-scale project. It requires the support of the highest levels in the state as well as extremely large sums of money to build expensive renewable energy projects. But just imagine a world where oil and gas were obsolete and our energy came from turbines and magma. Humans and nature working together: the future.

Visit www.ayea.org to sign the online petition and learn more about the Campaign!

WELCOME SAM HOEFFLER

Green Jobs Summer Intern

Sam Hoeffler is the summer 2009 AYEA Green Jobs Intern. She will be planning and coordinating the weekly Community Action workshops for the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) crews and co-leading them with YEP Senior Crew Members. Sam will also be putting together the Career & Mentorship Week of the YEP program with job shadows, a career fair, and skill-building sessions. Sam hails from Ohio and is a recent graduate of Kenyon College. She is excited to experience life in Alaska for the summer! Sam is an Alaska Conservation Foundation (ACF) Intern. Thanks to ACF for this opportunity!



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POWER SHIFT 2009



Written by Lauden Eller, Ionia - Kasilof, participant of 09 Power Shift

I jumped at the chance to sign up for a trip AYEA was offering to Washington, D.C. I found out that I was to attend an event organized by Energy Action Coalition (EAC) called Power Shift '09. Power Shift is a renewable energy convention made up of three days of hundreds of workshops and panels, keynote speakers, including the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the EPA, multiple Congressmen, a slew of grass-roots organizers such as the director of the EAC, and many others (even Ralph Nader was there). On the fourth day of the convention, we met with our own Congressmen and Senators.

It was during the first evening that I understood the true power and impact this event wielded. The conviction of the speakers made it clear that the people here were serious; every keynote was introduced by a representative of the EAC, all of whom were just out of college and most of whom were even more inspiring than the keynotes themselves. The event perfectly animated the power of grass-roots organizing and the impact of local action no matter what the issue.

On the second and third days, we met with our home state group. Sixteen strong, we talked about the issues facing our home state and the solutions. This part of the event really inspired me. I was once again impressed by the conviction of the group; I didn't get the feeling that these people were going to go back home and forget about the issues they cared about. We won't be satisfied without



working towards the change we want to see. It was clear that the 12,000 young people who attended Power Shift are not going to let their future be built on anything other than the green and environmentally just country we deserve!

For the wonderful opportunity to attend this event I would like to thank all the organizers!!

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS: AYEA Youth Want REAL FOOD NOW

Written by Zoe Fuller, President of the Palmer Chapter



As we sit down in a typical high school's cafeteria, we see masses of wasted resources. In the worst of situations, food is shipped, prepackaged, served on disposable trays that are not recycled, and eaten with plastic utensils. This current system uses fossil fuels to ship the items all the way to Alaska. It uses trees for paper napkins, cups, and trays. This system uses petroleum products for plastic spoons, forks, (and sporks!) and wrappings.

Schools need to see that students care about what they put into their bodies and care how it affects the earth. In a phrase, we want sustainable schools with food systems that do not harm our bodies, our communities, or our earth. Many chapters in AYEА have been working on this goal and approaching it with varied ideas and perspectives.

Juneau AYEА wanted to decrease the plastic utensils that were wasted. They met with their administrators and reached a bargain. The school was willing to use metal silverware and they even had dishwashers to wash the silverware off. However, they had no silverware to start with; so JAYEA hosted a silverware drive to get silverware. They asked for donations of people's old mismatched forks and spoons. They collected a lot and got about half of what

"We want sustainable schools with food systems that do not harm our bodies, our communities, or our earth."

they would need. They are considering fundraising for the rest of the silverware. Anchorage AYEА has been considering trying to use biodegradable



AYEA Grad Shannon Kuhn (bottom, 2nd from right) at a farm in Portland, Oregon while at a Real Food Summit. Shannon has been working for The Real Food Challenge.

Juneau AYEА teens making t-shirts in preparation for their Silverware Drive!



'Greenware' utensils in various schools. They have been communicating with the representative from "Greenware Alaska" to find these supplies. They hope that entire districts will start using biodegradable utensils.

Palmer AYEА has come up with three goals: increase the presence of local food, initiate recycling in the cafeteria, and start the use of biodegradable utensils. Their petition for people that support these objectives has gotten about 300 signatures so far. They plan to use these to influence the district's food director and administrators for more sustainable schools. They will be attending a workshop by a principal who has influenced school-food changes nationwide.

All these actions are making strides towards a food system that is more environmentally friendly! I hope to see it continue.

GET INVOLVED

Palmer AYEА Chapter:
payea@ayea.org

AYEA Staff:
ayea@ayea.org

For more information on
The Real Food Challenge:
realfoodchallenge.org

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING AYEA!

All the trainings, programs, and youth support that AYEA offers are funded through generous donations and grants. In this time of economic hardship, your donations are extremely important to help AYEA conduct our trainings, programs, and youth support. You can contribute to AYEA with donations of your time, money, or Alaska Airline miles.



Stephanie Thompspon of Kotzebue gives a thumbs up for being a Peer Leader at the Civics Summit, Leader of the Renewable Energy Campaign and the Donations that make it all possible!

Thank you to all our individual donors, foundation, business, and organizational supporters!

Individual Donors

Anne Wieland, Barbara Thurston, Catherine Taylor, Chris Beck, Deborah Williams, Douglas Redfox. George Laurito, Gerry and Flo Clawson. Jack Lentfer, Jamie Shearer, Jeffery Sloss, Jim Adams, Joan Frankevich. John Braden, Joseph Lapp, Joseph Sebastian, Karen McBride, Kenneth and Elisabeth Holladay, Ken Leghorn, Larry and Gail Taylor, Lynn Fuller, Megan McBride, Nina Faust and Ed Bailey, Nora Sheakley, Patricia Harris, Roberta Highland, Shannon Fields, Senator Joe Paskvan, Tony and Stuart McPherson, Valerie Connor, William McBride, Zoe Fuller

Foundation Support

Alaska Community Foundation, Alaska Conservation Foundation, Currents of Change Fund, Jeanne S. Williams Endowment Fund, Skaggs Foundation, Studebaker Environmental Education Fund

Business & Organizational Support

CentralBering Sea Fisherman's Association, Denali Citizens Council, Kennedy Associates, Norma Sheakley

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESSES

- ★ Donate something to the silent or live auction at the AYEA Fundraiser
- ★ Mentor a teen during the Youth Employment in Parks Career Week August 3-7

INTERESTED IN DONATING TO AYEA?
www.ayea.org/WordPress/support/donate
or call Maeve Taylor at (907) 339-3907

Don't forget the

AYEA FUNDRAISER
Sustainable AYEa for a Sustainable Planet
JUNE 24 ~ 5.30-8.30 PM

\$25 Requested donation

1142 G Street, downtown Anchorage

Hosted by Deborah Williams



Bring your friends and family! Food, entertainment, and FUN for everyone!

Volunteers needed!

Contact Maeve for more info!



A 2008 Summer Fundraiser attendee
Photo Credit Oscar Avellaneda

Thank you to everyone who recently supported AYEa as volunteers and peer leaders!

AYEA Volunteers

Alli Harvey, Amanda Huff, Charlee Lockwood, Claire Fordyce, Donna Mears, Elena Dolitsky, Erin Bernard, Jamie Shearer, Janice Barry, Jeff Sheakley, Jeremy Storm, Joe Okitkun, Kathy McLinn, Kerri Sheakley, Kyra Waggoner, Laenne Thompson, Luc Mehl, Lynn Fuller, Margaret Adsit, Megan Waggoner, Michael Hay, Natalie Sattler, Nina Faust, Oceana Wills, Rob Cadmus, Stephanie Thompson, Sue Ely, Tiaya Waggoner, Van Waggoner, Wiley Cason, Zoe Fuller



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over 9,000 photos of AYEА in Action!
www.flickr.com/photos/ayea



The Palmer AYEА Chapter presented about Sustainable Schools to the Mat-Su School District, May 2009

The AYEА Statewide Leadership Retreat
Hatcher’s Pass, January 2009



Anchorage AYEА youth promoting the Renewable Energy campaign at the Business of Clean Energy in Alaska conference



AYEА Youth participate in a panel at the “Get Outdoors Anchorage!” Conference in December 2008

Participants of the 2008 Summer “AYEА Art in Action” Training having fun hiking



Participants brainstorm at the Civics & Conservation Summit 2009

AYEА MISSION: TO INSPIRE, EDUCATE AND TAKE ACTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FACING OUR COMMUNITIES.

WWW.AYEA.ORG