

Alaska Legislative Recap: 2024 Session Wins for Clean Energy

In cooperation with Gov. Mike Dunleavy, the Alaska Legislature in the 2024 session set the stage for increasing Alaska's energy resilience and independence through development of Alaska's vast renewable resources. We highlight four legislative actions below.

1. Passed legislation to smooth the way for large-scale renewables integration on Alaska's largest electric grid.

Lawmakers adopted a [measure](#) to improve governance and facilitate transmission upgrades on Alaska's 'Railbelt grid' in Southcentral Alaska, which serves 70% of the state's population. There are abundant known renewable energy opportunities in the region, but large-scale development of these resources has been hampered by legacy regulatory systems, balkanized governance, and inadequate transmission infrastructure.

The legislation is a critical step to overcoming these barriers and improving Alaska's energy resilience and reliability. Key provisions of the bill follow:

- Creates a new Railbelt Transmission Organization (RTO) to oversee, manage and develop Alaska's Railbelt grid, which is owned by five separate entities.
- Sets a standard rate for power transmission between utilities, enabling the lowest-cost power to move throughout the grid. This eliminates duplicative transmission fees, which significantly degrade the economics of renewable energy projects.
- Exempts independent power producers from local property and other taxes to create a fair playing field with utilities and reduce the cost of generation for end users.
- Improves governance for state energy policy and programs by establishing a separate board for the Alaska Energy Authority, which is currently governed by the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority board.

Read: [Alaska Beacon: Alaska House approves bill designed to unify Railbelt electric transmission system](#)

2. Appropriated \$30 million in state match for federal electric grid modernization funding.

The U.S. DOE's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships ([GRIP](#)) funds will modernize Alaska's Railbelt Grid, improving reliability and efficiency and enabling integration of large-scale renewable generation. This appropriation signals the state's commitment to renewables and willingness to work with the federal government to achieve shared energy goals. Alaska has been awarded a \$206.5

million grant with a 100% required match. State money approved for fiscal year 2025 represents the first tranche and allows the state to begin implementation.

Read: Alaska Congressional Delegation's [press release](#).

3. Passed legislation enabling the state to establish a 'green bank.'

The [measure](#), proposed by Gov. Dunleavy, enables the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to establish a subsidiary to help finance sustainable energy development. The new subsidiary is expected to:

- Make substantial resources available to Alaskans by receiving dedicated federal clean energy funds.
- Catalyze investment in clean energy projects by leveraging state and private dollars.
- Offer specialized loans for renewable projects and energy efficiency upgrades.

Read: AVF's [letter of support](#).

4. Passed legislation enabling community-owned renewables projects in Alaska.

The [bill](#) expands access to the financial benefits of renewable energy to Alaskans who do not own homes by enabling Alaskans to participate in community-owned renewable energy projects. The bill:

- Expands net metering options to allow Alaskans to voluntarily subscribe to community-owned solar, opening clean energy access to the 260,000 Alaskans living in rental housing and 79,000 living below the federal poverty level.
- Will enable community solar projects to access a federal Solar for All award to Alaska of \$125 million, a portion of which is dedicated to community solar.

Read: [Solar Power World: Community solar legislation awaits governor's signature in Alaska](#)