Green Star Award for Alaska Railroad

The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) is recertifying the Green Star Award it originally earned in 1993, having made strides in new areas of waste reduction, pollution prevention and energy conservation. ARRC’s dedicated Waste Management Office has reduced hazardous waste streams by 70 percent over the last six years. And, the recently-formed Real Estate Facilities Department has focused more expertise and resources on preventing building energy loss and on installing greener systems as old building systems need to be replaced.

ARRC is also applying for a Green Star Air Quality Award. Over the past few years, the Railroad has dramatically reduced locomotive emissions by purchasing new efficient locomotives, installing engine idle-reduction systems, implementing idle-reduction policies, and maintaining locomotive engines in peak condition. ARRC has also made commuter rail service more feasible by conducting regional commuter rail studies, straightening tracks, building and improving depots, and providing technical guidance to commuter rail advocates.

Additionally, with the renewed focus on Green Star, ARRC has initiated a “Recycling Pilot Program,” beginning with office paper as one of the more prolific material streams in the office environment. The Recycling Pilot Program Plan was approved as part of the Green Star proposal.

The Alaska Railroad Corporation and its employees are committed to environmental stewardship and to responsible growth and investment in the State of Alaska.

The Railroad hopes to recertify its Green Star and be well on its way to earning an Air Quality Award by the end of 2007.

City Energy Projects
Cut Costs And Create Jobs

The Municipality of Anchorage is stimulating new economic development and creating jobs while saving taxpayers money by reducing waste and using recyclable commodities.

Over the past two years, the Begich administration has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars while reducing Anchorage’s contribution to global climate change. Alaska finds itself at “Ground Zero” when it comes to the impacts of global warming, so Mayor Mark Begich has asked city departments to devise ways to save money while reducing emissions.

A first step was the appointment of Renewable Resources Coordinator Kevin Harun, a long-time environmental advocate, who has helped coordinate the new initiatives.

One of the first is powering down hundreds of city computer monitors when not in use, which saves $84,000 a year. City Hall also is slated for a lighting retrofit which will save taxpayers $35,000 annually with a short payback period.

“Many of our facilities, such as the Project 80s (the Museum, Sullivan Arena, Loussac Library and Egan Center) were not built with utility costs in mind,” Begich said. “By retrofitting these buildings with energy-saving systems, we can save thousands of dollars every year.”

Another project is a plan to replace Anchorage’s 16,000 street lights with energy-saving, long-lasting LED (Light Emitting Diode) and induction lighting. The switch will save an estimated $5 million in energy costs alone after an initial $5 million investment.

The municipality also has embarked to make sure its new facilities have money-saving features. Anchorage’s new Dena’ina Civic and Convention Center, now under construction in downtown, is slated to lead the national curve in energy efficiency.

Siemens Building Technologies, Inc., a worldwide leader in energy retrofits, will install several technology features in the center, making the building state-of-the-art and a model for Alaska.

Also, this past fall the Anchorage Assembly voted unanimously to support the mayor’s plan to make the museum expansion a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building. Working with local architects and developers, the mayor plans to introduce an ordinance making all city-owned buildings LEED certified, with development incentives for the private sector.

At the Anchorage Landfill, the city recently installed a methane gas recovery system. “Instead of letting the gas go to waste, this project will provide enough gas to power 2,500 Anchorage homes for over 40 years,” the mayor said.

The city has similarly supported the growth of new businesses using recycled materials. One such enterprise is E-K Industries which just took over the Glass Recycling Plant at Point Woronzof. The plant uses recycled glass to produce traction sand for the Alaska Railroad and sandblasting grit for the Seward Shipyard.

“This business will soon be producing high-quality Terrazzo flooring and countertops – all with glass that would otherwise end up in the landfill,” Begich said. “This is a win-win because it creates new jobs while lengthening the life of the landfill.”
Letter from the President

Happy New Year and welcome to 2008! In Anchorage, the past year has been one of new growth and development, and the coming year will prove to be just as exciting. As we begin the New Year, we look forward to continued business success throughout the United States and abroad.

2008 is also a milestone year for the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation as it marks 20 years of serving the Anchorage and Alaska business communities.

It is in that spirit of growth that we welcome Rich Karlgaard, one of the world’s most respected business commentators, to kick off AEDC’s Annual Economic Forecast Luncheon. As both publisher of Forbes magazine and a best-selling author, Mr. Karlgaard owns a unique perspective on globalization and will share his insights on the economic outlook for the U.S. and how Anchorage will play its part in that future.

For AEDC, that future will include a continued emphasis on increased opportunities in logistics, both in and out of Alaska, as well as a renewed vigor in attracting new business to Anchorage and the Southcentral region. Air cargo, our proximity to China, the Port of Anchorage and Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport remain unique differentiators that will keep our region competitive in a global economy, and AEDC will continue its work to keep them that way.

Closer to home, an increased focus on intrastate logistics will help lower the cost of delivering goods to rural Alaska and improve access from rural communities to high-value seafood markets outside.

And, with a diversifying economy, increased infrastructure and a growing health care sector, Anchorage continues to improve as a great place to live, work and do business.

As the business environment continues to prosper, workforce development efforts remain a critical requirement for Anchorage’s success. Our city already boasts a dynamic surge in employment with a 4.8 percent unemployment rate. And, with a diversifying economy, increased infrastructure and a growing health care sector, Anchorage continues to improve as a great place to live, work and do business.

Anchorage and the Southcentral region. Air cargo, our proximity to China, the Port of Anchorage and Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport remain unique differentiators that will keep our region competitive in a global economy, and AEDC will continue its work to keep them that way.

The sky really is the limit in Anchorage and AEDC is committed to working with you, our investors, to make our 20th year our most successful. Anchorage will continue to thrive, and we look forward to prospering with you in the coming year and beyond.

Bill Popp
President and CEO, AEDC

Port of Anchorage Expansion
Anchorage Intermodal Expansion Project On Schedule

The Port of Anchorage Intermodal Expansion Project continues to proceed on schedule. This federal project began in 2003 under the lead of the US Department of Transportation Maritime Administration, and will continue until approximately 2012. Due to its critical nature, the project has been permitted by the Corps of Engineers in phases. In 2007, a construction contract was awarded immediately after receiving the final green light from the Corps in mid-August, allowing mass excavation of gravel before freeze up. To complete the 2007 scope of work more than 630,000 cubic yards of fill were placed, adding approximately 23 new acres in less than four months.

Also in 2007, the Port of Anchorage executed the Tidewater Road improvement project, slated for completion in early 2008. This project creates the “backbone” for newly placed utility infrastructure. A new Port Security Command and Control Center is also under construction at the Port’s entrance, and is on schedule. This long-awaited facility will replace two temporary buildings in use since 9/11, will provide a training classroom, and will serve as an emergency operations center and monitoring point for the Port’s closed circuit TV system. Other landside work completed previously includes a new double-track extension, now connecting the Port to Alaska Railroad’s mainline.

The formal Invitation to Bid for the 2008 scope of work hit the streets in November with a scheduled bid opening date mid-January 2008. Work will begin in May and continue until late December. When this phase is completed, the Port will have filled approximately 70% of the targeted 135 acres of new land.

A next milestone will involve final utility placement and paving of this new land, with newly installed crane rail prepared to receive three new 100-gauge cranes late 2009 to support cargo container on- and off-loading operations at the newly constructed berths. The “new and improved” Port of Anchorage promises (name it just a few):

• Almost two miles of linear bulkhead capable of supporting seven vessels simultaneously without conflict
• Essential facilities with the geotechnical and structural capability to survive earthquakes of greater magnitude than the catastrophic 1964 earthquake
• Enhanced safety for all commercial waterfront workers and stakeholders
• Two publicly operated barge berths, and the only dry dock in Southcentral Alaska
• Military access to road and rail that will preclude shuffling military vehicles to the Port’s waterfront via public roads
• Helicopter landing opportunities and vehicle/ aircraft maintenance facilities
• Reductions in annual maintenance dredging

Mitigation for the project was also negotiated with the Port to be spent locally, within our community. Ship Creek beautification projects are under review for implementation, as are crucial hydrologic improvements for Chester Creek and Six-Mile Creek in the local watershed.

Economic data compiled by
McDowell & Company
Augustine Energy Center

AEDC member Venture Development Group is excited to announce its latest major project, a 21-story Class A office tower in downtown Anchorage.

Augustine Energy Center brings a dynamic workplace with state-of-the-art facilities and amenities that are unmatched in Anchorage. Construction of the building on 6th Avenue between G and H Streets is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2008, and be complete by the summer of 2010. Development is contingent upon leasing commitments.

The high-security building features retail shops at street level, 15 stories of office space, a fitness center, and a large conference center. At nearly 600,000 total gross sq. ft., it will include 365,000 rentable sq. ft. of office, retail and storage space that give tenants the freedom to create their own work environments. Augustine Energy Center will be constructed to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification.

The building owners will be NANA Development Corporation and Augustine Land, LLC. As the design-builder, Neeser Construction Inc. will construct the facility, which is being designed by kpb architects Inc. and LMN Architects. The building operator will be NANA Management Services, and parking will be managed by Anchorage Community Development Authority.

To lease space at Augustine Energy Center, contact Amy B. Slinker at (907) 646-4644 or aslinker@vdg-alaska.com. More information is available at www.augustineenergycenter.com.
Alaska Air Cargo
Committed to Cargo

Alaska Airlines recently renewed its commitment to cargo by investing more than $100 million in new technologies and aircraft. Through the introduction of converted 737-400 aircraft and improved technology systems that make cargo reservations, shipment tracking and accounting more reliable, Alaska Air Cargo is well poised to meet the growing demand for air cargo services.

In the summer of 2006, Alaska Air Cargo launched the world’s first 737-400 freighter. Throughout 2007, the airline launched four 737-400 combi aircraft, expanding cargo capacity by 30 percent. The improved, next generation aircraft, which are more reliable and fuel-efficient than the 737-200s they replaced, also feature technologically advanced Required Navigation Performance flight guidance technology. This system allows the airline to maintain more consistent and reliable flight schedules even in the most difficult weather conditions in northern Alaska.

As part of an ongoing commitment to cargo, Alaska Air Cargo also introduced an innovative new cargo management system that simplifies cargo reservations, document handling and accounting for customers and employees. The technology allows Alaska Air Cargo to better manage capacity and improve shipment visibility. Additional enhancements to the system planned for 2008 and beyond will allow Alaska Air Cargo to provide more online tools and real-time scanning solutions.

Alaska Air Cargo operates the most extensive air cargo operation on the U.S. West Coast of any passenger airline. Together with sister carrier, Horizon Air, Alaska Air Cargo transports more than 150 million pounds of cargo annually, including seafood, mail and freight. About 25 million pounds of this cargo is fresh seafood from Alaska fishing towns transported throughout North America. A next-flight-guaranteed service, GoldStreak, is offered for small items that require same-day delivery. In addition, Alaska Air Cargo offers Priority and General Air Freight services.

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Alaska Airlines celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2007. The airline company has grown from a small floatplane operation flying cargo to its neighbors around Anchorage, Alaska to serving more than 75 cities in Alaska, the Lower 48, Canada, and Mexico.

FedEx Express Introduces
New Early Morning Delivery Service

At 8:58 a.m. on Tuesday, November 7 a new era began in the Anchorage express delivery market as the inaugural FedEx Express First Overnight package was delivered to a grateful and elated recipient. FedEx Express has implemented the popular early morning First Overnight service with delivery guaranteed before 9:00 a.m. Priority Overnight Service has also been upgraded to a 10:30am guaranteed delivery time in the Midtown, Downtown, and International Airport areas of Anchorage. First Overnight 9:00 a.m. service is ideal for high-priority, early morning delivery needs such as repair parts when machinery is down, or medical shipments. The new 10:30 a.m. Priority Overnight delivery time also ensures customers will have their high priority documents and packages earlier in the business day.

FedEx Express is the world’s largest overnight package delivery company with more than 141,000 employees and 669 Aircraft delivering 3.5 million packages daily in more than 220 countries and territories.

For information about First Overnight and Priority Overnight delivery service, call 1-800-Go-FedEx or log on to www.fedex.com.