

Climate and Health E-News

Raising Awareness and Connecting People in the Interest of Public Health

No. 23, July 10, 2010

High Energy Cost in Arctic Effects Water Security - *Laura Eichelberger, American Journal of Public Health, June 2010.*

High energy costs and the need for fuel based transportation in Arctic villages are two significant factors that influence domestic water access. In this insightful and well researched paper, Eichelberger explores how high energy costs decrease water access with adverse effects on household hygiene. Other confounding factors that hinder access to water and sewer services include remoteness, small populations, poverty, cultural miscommunication and difficult weather conditions. In the Northwest Arctic where Eichelberger performed her research, climate change is contributing to low river water conditions that interfere with barge based fuel deliveries. "The situation of utility scarcity facing remote Alaskan populations serves as a harbinger of the water security possible elsewhere if attention is not paid to the energy required to produce and access water." This paper provides an important primer for understanding water security in rural Alaska communities, as well as for understanding the implications of climate change on access to basic health services. ([See article in attached PDF](#))

New Climate Change Tool Available - The Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy (ACCAP) is introducing a new quarterly, climate information report which compiles information from the Alaska Climate Research Center, SEARCH Sea Ice Outlook, National Centers for Environmental Prediction, and the National Weather Service. The Alaska Climate Dispatch provides seasonal weather and climate summaries as well as Alaska weather, wildfire, and sea ice outlooks in one easily accessible document. It is distributed electronically and made available on the ACCAP website. [View Climate Dispatch](#)

If you have an observation or an update you would like to include in our E-News or have added to our [Alaska Climate Events Map](#), send a message to mbrubaker@anthc.org. To join the E-News mailing list, just respond to this message with your contact (e-mail/name) information. Click [> here](#) for prior E-News archived at the Arctic Health Library.

Regards - Mike

Michael Y. Brubaker

The Center for Climate and Health

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Tel. 907-729-2464

<http://www.anthc.org/chs/ces/climate/index.cfm>

Safe, Healthy, Sustainable Communities