

Coalition Meeting Recap

The focus of the May 8 Coalition meeting was the Railbelt electric grid and how it inhibits alternative energy growth. The first [presentation was by Julie Estey of Matanuska Electric Association with a review of their current and future company objectives](#). Currently, MEA is incredibly reliant on Cook Inlet natural gas, however, their power plant can be seamlessly transitioned to diesel fuel, should there be an emergency. While MEA has the goal of further diversify their generation sources (the mix currently includes solar, wind, and hydro), it is necessary for the grid to have significant upgrades in order to handle large amounts of variable energy that come with many forms of diversification. Each form of alternative energy has pros and cons, and the mayors have seen interest from their constituents in solar, coal, wind, and nuclear.

Next, [Mikel Salzetti of Homer Electric Association presented HEA's progress in grid development and energy diversification](#). Homer has a diverse energy mix, including solar, wind, hydro, and battery storage supported by Cook Inlet natural gas as baseline power. HEA has big plans for the future and large energy investment goals, however, the goals can only be met with grid-wide infrastructure upgrades. The Railbelt is not on the same level as other first-world grids, which impedes our ability to engage in the energy transition.

Other agenda items included an update on the technical Committee from Cassandra Day, and Coalition approval of the branding for logo and stationary. The official letter format was not approved and will be reworked by Cassandra.

Please view the full meeting minutes [here](#).