

2nd Annual Water and Sanitation Innovations for the Arctic
Panel Questions

Funding Panel (Panel 1):

1. What should the overall objectives be when trying to promote in-home water and sanitation service for optimal public health benefit in Alaska?
2. What policy changes are needed to achieve these objectives?
3. What kind of information/arguments (that we are not currently using) might be provided to people at the Federal Delegation or State Legislative level that will help support funding requests?
4. What support is available and what obstacles might be encountered when attempting to fund pilot projects of new concepts?
5. If a program similar to Power Cost Equalization (PCE) could be established for the water and wastewater utilities, what State agency would be best situated to advocate for the funds from the legislature and to administer the program? How could something like this get started?
6. Should O&M costs to local residents be considered as criteria for capital funding consideration?

O&M Panel (Panel 2):

1. Are there additional challenges to O&M that the panel is aware of (beyond those in the preceding presentation)?
2. Funding agencies have established a sustainable threshold of 5% median household income. Do you think that this threshold is too high, too low or appropriate?
3. Besides providing funding to offset operational costs, what services could be provided to improve the sustainability of the existing and planned systems?
4. How can we more effectively incentivize more effective O&M?
5. Regarding subsidies: how might we get a program such as Power Cost Equalization (PCE) off the ground?
6. If there was a subsidy, how would you propose a subsidy be distributed among the communities?