



Alaska Center for the Environment
Annual Report
2009

Alaska Center for the Environment

Overview

Alaska Center for the Environment (ACE) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization, founded in 1971 and based in Anchorage. The primary goal of the organization is to achieve preservation of key Alaska wild places, sustainable use of Alaska's resources, and the development of healthy Alaska communities. ACE is a membership organization and relies on the active involvement of its nearly 7,000 members for political and financial clout. ACE is funded primarily by its membership as well as through local and national foundations. The organization seeks to achieve its mission and goals through public education, grassroots organizing, and advocacy.

Board Structure

Alaska Center for the Environment is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Board members are all Alaska residents and possess work and life experience in business, education, law, policy, science, advocacy and related issues. The board supervises an Executive Director who supervises staff and is responsible for the organization's activities.

Vision

ACE's vision is an Alaska that is economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable. Increasing the availability of renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy conservation addresses a means to create an economically viable state and nation. Locally grown and distributed food, intelligent urban design, and effective mass transportation systems foster healthy, livable communities. Maintaining healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems, preserving core wilderness areas, and supporting healthy wildlife populations are critical for effective stewardship of our natural resources. Each of these core areas is dependent necessary to realize a higher quality of life and ensure an Alaska that will endure for generations to come.

Mission Statement

To enhance Alaskans' quality of life by protecting wild places, fostering sustainable communities, and promoting recreational opportunities.

Core Values

- A Advocacy
- C Community
- E Education

ACE's Guiding Principles

- Be factual, relevant, credible, and effective in all communications and advocacy.
 - Provide members with an opportunity to take action and get involved.
 - Provide information about how individuals can make a positive difference through daily choices.
 - Develop committed members as a primary means of achieving our mission- a large and active membership is the basis for grassroots effectiveness.
 - Identify and support solutions to the problems facing Alaska's environment.
 - Work collaboratively and support colleagues and members. Maintain good working relationships internally and externally and build relationships for the long term.
 - Recognize that financial solvency is essential to future success.
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Overview

2009 was a very successful year for ACE. ACE was fortunate to undergo a comprehensive organizational assessment which allowed staff and board to better prioritize efforts and renew the organization's focus. Following a successful fundraising effort and a resulting net surplus in calendar/fiscal year 2009, ACE is in position to not just survive but thrive in the coming years despite challenging economic conditions throughout the nation.

ACE continues to help keep Alaska's vast coal supplies permanently in the ground, working most intently on the proposed Chuitna coal strip mine and proposals in the Mat-Su valley. On the energy "yes" side ACE promotes renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation measures through legislation and other tactics. ACE is the only remaining regional group working to mitigate threats in Chugach National Forest, working hard to preserve what makes the region worthy of protection while striving for permanent federal protections. ACE is working to shift outdated state predator control policies towards progressive ecology-based stances. ACE is engaged in multiple sustainable community efforts from public transportation legislation to shaping intelligent urban design to leading a local food campaign. ACE operates Alaska's largest outdoor youth education camp. In short, ACE is building an Alaska that will be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable long into the future.

ACE works across multiple program areas, including Energy, Forest and Wildlife Conservation, Sustainable Communities, and Oceans. ACE also supports regional and national conservation groups through its GIS mapping center, and influences future stewards of our environment through its popular Trailside Discover Camp. ACE achieved many successes in 2009, and a sampling of victories follows.

Current Programs

Sustainable Communities

Anchorage boasts a world-class park and trail system, an urban salmon run, and stunning scenery. ACE's Sustainable Communities campaign focuses on quality of life issues in and around the city and ensures that the many issues that affect citizens and neighborhoods are heard. We believe that Anchorage should strive to live up to its natural settings, and keep the real Alaska alive and well in the place so many Alaskans call home. Working together, we can make sure that Anchorage is a model Alaskan city for future generations.

2009 Accomplishments:

1. ACE formed a new coalition to address concerns related to the proposed Highway to Highway project (H2H) and forced H2H proponents to delay the controversial project and extend the public comment period, allowing affected Anchorage communities more time to mobilize against construction of a new highway corridor.
2. Creation of a new Alaska Local Food Campaign culminated in a seven-day Alaska Local Food Film Festival attended by over 1,000 Alaskans that built significant momentum among consumers in support of local food options.
3. ACE helped move the expensive and contentious Knik Arm Bridge to the long-range transportation plan despite legal, political and other pro-development efforts, though this ongoing effort continues.

Energy

In Alaska, the negative effects of climate change are threatening our very way of life: salmon streams are warming, forests are succumbing to increased infestation and fire, and our favorite winter recreation activities are threatened by increasingly unpredictable winters. Just as Alaska is ground zero for global warming, we can also be a leader for reversing the harmful causes of climate change. Global warming is a global problem that requires global solutions - which means taking positive steps at the personal, regional, and national level. This requires action on two fronts: minimizing extraction of carbon-based fossil fuels, and promoting renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and energy conservation.

2009 Accomplishments:

1. The ACE energy coordinator in conjunction with the Alaska Coal Working Group coordinated coal workshops in five statewide communities to educate Alaskans about the detrimental effects of coal development and combustion.
2. Grassroots pressure and membership activation helped pressure the Alaska state legislature to override former Governor Palin's veto of \$28.6 million in energy efficiency stimulus funding.
3. Strong member activation and efforts by ACE led to the passage of a first ever statewide net metering policy that is the first critical step to energy utility reform.

Forest and Wildlife Conservation

ACE's Forest and Wildlife Conservation Program, which safeguards Alaska's Chugach National Forest for future generations, advocates for well-balanced conservation management and sustainable use of our public resources. The program's primary focus is to permanently protect special places in South Central Alaska's backyard - the Chugach. The program also seeks to protect critical wildlife and salmon that thrive in these areas.

2009 Accomplishments:

1. Through strong local grassroots support, ACE helped defeat two of four high-impact low-output hydroelectric dam projects proposed in high value scenic areas along productive salmon spawning tributaries of the popular Kenai River.
2. Through the efforts of ACE and its membership, Chugach State Park was closed to wolverine trapping by the Alaska Board of Game.
3. Due to public outreach and ACE's role in implementation of bear-resistant carts and dumpster lids, far fewer bears were killed in the Anchorage area and on the Kenai Peninsula in the defense of life and property in 2009 than in 2008.
4. Revisions to the Far North Bicentennial Park Trails Plan eliminated a single track development in an established bear corridor.

Oceans

Alaska's marine environment is home to an incredible bounty of marine life and a rich history of human cultures. Alaska's oceans support world-class populations of fish, marine mammals, and birds, and are a major component of Alaska's subsistence and cash economy. Despite this importance, much is still unknown about our marine environment, and it is vulnerable to pressures from pollution, climate change, and overfishing. ACE is working to build support among Alaskans for marine conservation, and to mobilize our members on marine issues that impact Alaska. The Oceans program has two primary outlets for ocean education: The Alaska Ocean Film Festival (winter) and the Alaska Ocean Festival (summer).

2009 Accomplishments:

1. The Alaska Ocean Film Festival reached twenty communities and nearly 3,000 viewers across the state.
2. The 6th annual Alaska Ocean Festival saw 2009 attendance of over 8,000 Alaskans and was described by The Anchorage Daily News as "Alaska's premier summer festival."
3. The Cook Inlet beluga whale was listed as an endangered species with broad support from ACE members and other concerned citizens.

Trailside Discovery Camp

Established in 1982, Trailside Discovery started as a small summer camp serving 50 children out of facilities based at Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage. In 1997, Trailside Discovery commenced Winter Camp programming in December and March to coincide with the respective winter break and spring break schedules of the local school district. Twenty-eight years after our inception, more than 2,400 children (ages 4 - 16) slogged through bogs, explored forests, treaded gently across trails, and learned about nature while being immersed in it as they attended Trailside Discovery Summer Camp 2009 sessions at the Campbell Creek Science Center in south Anchorage, Kincaid Park in Anchorage, and Spring Creek Farm in Palmer, a town in the Mat-Su Valley approximately 40 miles north of Anchorage.

2009 Accomplishments:

1. Enrollment for 2009 was the highest in Trailside's 28-year history with a record breaking summer camp enrollment in Anchorage serving over 2,400 children.
2. Trailside's outreach programs into Title 1 Anchorage area schools impacted over 2,000 youth.

Public Lands

Alaska Center for the Environment's Public Lands program covers issues that face Alaska's federal state, and borough lands; they are part of what makes the Alaska way of life special. ACE's goal is to ensure these lands are managed to protect fish and wildlife, wilderness, clean air and water, scenic beauty, recreation and subsistence. The Public Lands program uses direct advocacy, a strong membership, and legislative measures to 'Keep Alaska wild'.

GIS Mapping

ACE houses a GIS and cartography shop dedicated to conservation efforts in Alaska. The Conservation GIS Center assists with ACE's work and collaborates with a number of other groups and individuals throughout the State to assist with issues on the local, regional, or statewide level, from shipping safety to renewable energy to habitat protection.

Juneau Watchdog

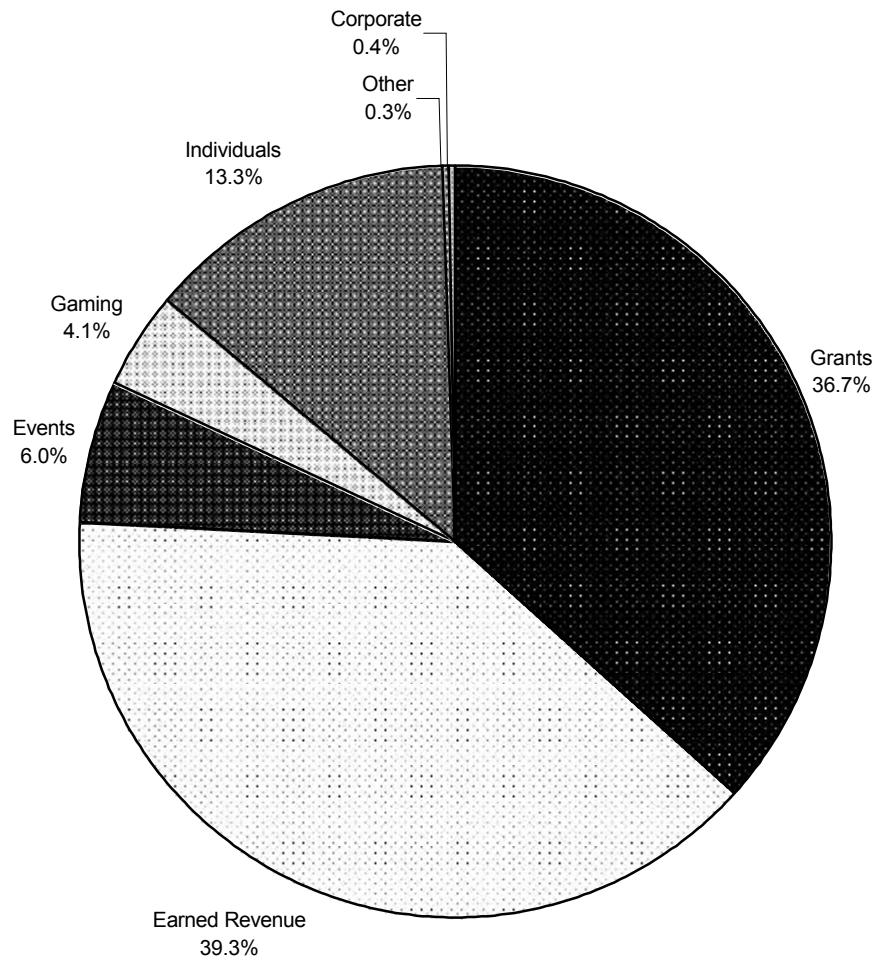
The Juneau Watchdog is a program of the Alaska Center of the Environment established to monitor the public policy process in Alaska, mobilize support for conservation bills and provide the necessary support to take action against bills that threaten Alaskan landscapes and communities. The Juneau Watchdog provides the Watchdog Weekly, a weekly report that follows conservation-related bills through the state legislature during the Alaska legislative session from January 20th - April 19th.

Alaska Center for the Environment

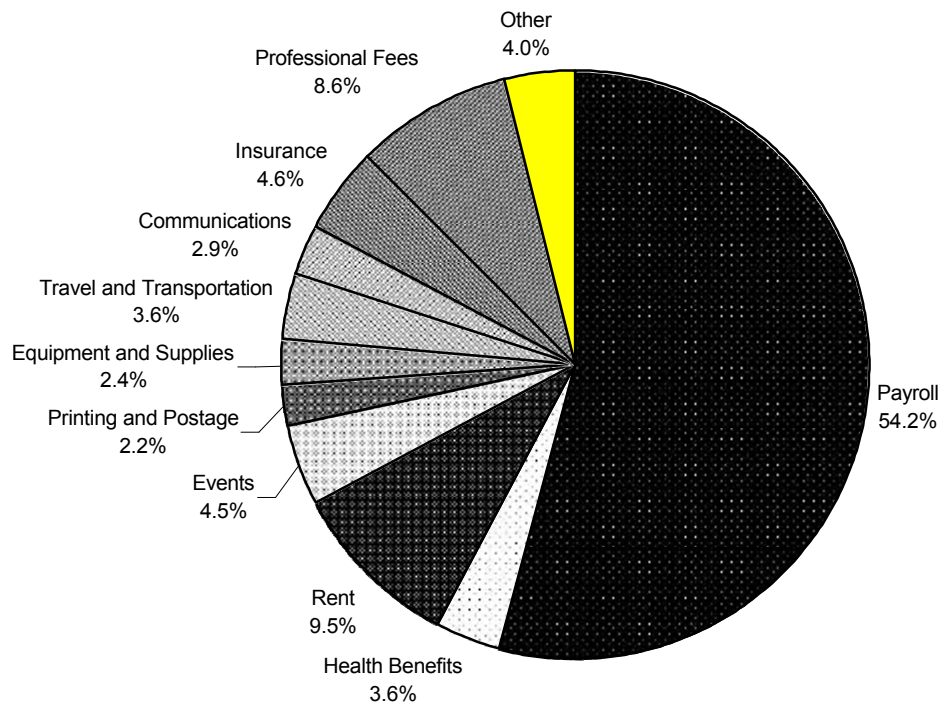
Budget versus Actual Financial performance, fiscal/calendar year 2009

	2009 Budget	2009 Actual	Variance (\$)	Variance (%)
Income Items				
AK Comm. Share	\$6,000	\$ 3,747	\$ (2,253)	62%
Auction	\$57,000	\$ 44,666	\$ (12,334)	78%
Field Canvass	\$64,125	\$ 42,696	\$ (21,429)	67%
Phone Canvass	\$58,000	\$ 49,984	\$ (8,016)	86%
Earned Income	\$6,000	\$ 11,234	\$ 5,234	187%
Gaming	\$50,000	\$ 53,946	\$ 3,946	108%
Grants	\$416,250	\$ 482,545	\$ 66,295	116%
Miscellaneous	\$1,500	\$ 1,905	\$ 405	127%
Major Donor	\$51,000	\$ 36,755	\$ (14,245)	72%
Membership	\$45,200	\$ 32,245	\$ (12,955)	71%
Merchandise Sales	\$2,050	\$ 1,422	\$ (628)	69%
Overhead Income	\$29,509	\$ 42,753	\$ 13,244	145%
Raffle	\$10,000	\$ 10,212	\$ 212	102%
Scholarships	\$10,000	\$ 5,452	\$ (4,548)	55%
Special Events	\$30,750	\$ 33,653	\$ 2,903	109%
Tuition Income	\$483,700	\$ 505,602	\$ 21,902	105%
Total Income	\$1,321,084	\$ 1,358,817	\$ 37,733	103%
Expense Items				
Accounting Fees	\$12,000	15,702	\$ 3,702	131%
Advertising	\$8,500	2,719	\$ (5,781)	32%
Auction	\$9,420	14,357	\$ 4,937	152%
Bank Fees	\$16,000	16,488	\$ 488	103%
Communications	\$16,755	27,730	\$ 10,975	166%
Contract Labor	\$28,500	87,694	\$ 59,194	308%
Depreciation	\$7,757	7,757	\$ -	100%
Equipment	\$10,200	16,329	\$ 6,129	160%
Food	\$10,730	8,920	\$ (1,810)	83%
Health/Dental	\$54,261	46,273	\$ (7,988)	85%
Legal Fees	\$10,000	7,435	\$ (2,565)	74%
Liability Insurance	\$26,000	23,432	\$ (2,568)	90%
Lobby	\$1,500	0	\$ (1,500)	0%
Merchandise Cost	\$2,200	3,882	\$ 1,682	176%
Miscellaneous	\$1,600	5,335	\$ 3,735	333%
Newsletter	\$21,800	10,013	\$ (11,787)	46%
Overhead Expense	\$29,509	42,753	\$ 13,244	145%
Parking	\$660	626	\$ (34)	95%
Payroll Gross	\$698,413	652,154	\$ (46,259)	93%
Payroll Taxes	\$53,429	47,912	\$ (5,517)	90%
Unemployment	\$1,500	4,278	\$ 2,778	285%
Workers Comp	\$24,720	31,247	\$ 6,527	126%
Postage	\$9,293	6,743	\$ (2,550)	73%
Printing/Copying	\$24,600	21,203	\$ (3,397)	86%
Raffle Expense	\$3,000	1,050	\$ (1,950)	35%
Rent	\$124,000	123,414	\$ (586)	100%
Special Events	\$26,300	43,307	\$ 17,007	165%
Subscriptions/Dues	\$4,200	8,756	\$ 4,556	208%
Supplies	\$12,525	14,734	\$ 2,209	118%
Training	\$8,030	4,732	\$ (3,298)	59%
Travel & Transport	\$50,163	45,858	\$ (4,305)	91%
Total Expense	\$1,307,565	1,342,833	\$ 35,268	103%
Ordinary Income	\$13,519	15,984	\$ 2,465	

Revenue by Category, 2009



Expenses by Category, 2009



Board of Directors

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