



ARENA 2020

Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy

Overview

The Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy (ARENA) is a unique circumpolar knowledge sharing and capacity-building program about isolated power systems integration held in partnership with Canada, Gwich'in Council International, the U.S. and Iceland and endorsed by the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) of the Arctic Council.

Combining visits to communities and participant knowledge exchanges with presentations and laboratory demonstrations, ARENA connects current and emerging energy professionals with hands-on learning experiences, mentors, and project development leaders from throughout the circumpolar north.

ARENA seeks to provide participants with the necessary knowledge-base, skills and collaboration networks to develop clean energy projects in their own communities or regions with a view of effectively achieving balance between economic viability, energy security, environmental and public health concerns in the circumpolar Arctic region.

History

In 2017, the ARENA pilot program brought together 17 individuals from three Arctic states and three Arctic Indigenous peoples' groups for a combination of training, mentoring, and site visits. The program focused on the development, operation, and management of remote energy networks (microgrids), incorporating renewable resources and associated technologies.



ARENA 2017 Pilot Program Cohort



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2020 Program Schedule

Canada - May 24th to June 1, 2020

The Canada on-site session will be based at the Canadian High Arctic Research Station in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, with visits to community scale projects within the territory of Nunavut (Rankin & Iqaluit). The focus will be on community and Indigenous energy development, ownership and management, capacity building, and the roles of governments and utilities in building success.

Alaska - July 2020

The Alaska on-site session will be held in Fairbanks and Kodiak, with a focus on energy system integration, northern energy project management, high penetration variable renewable resources, wind energy, hydroelectric energy, energy storage, utility governance, and supportive energy policy.

Iceland - November 2020

The Iceland on-site session, based at the UNU Geothermal Training Programme, will focus on value-added and cascading uses of available energy resources. A combination of lectures and visits to various energy and business sites in Iceland will be employed.

Participant Eligibility

Participants will be selected via consensus of a committee composed of individuals identified by the ARENA 2020 co-leads. Permanent Participants are asked to nominate 2-3 people, to be confirmed by the committee, and others may apply directly to the committee. Selection is competitive and based on the strength of application as well as individual interviews (conducted via Skype video or similar tool). Criteria for consideration as a member of the ARENA 2020 cohort are:

- Prior knowledge of energy projects relevant in an Arctic context;
- Good English language communication skills;
- Commitment to participate in all aspects of the program and to comply with program expectations for preparation and conduct;
- Support from their employer to make available the time required to participate in all program activities; and
- Articulation of an energy project relevant to their community and region that they will commit to plan and refine over the course of the program.