Summary

In February 2023, the Alaska Forum on the Environment (AFE) conference celebrated its 25th year by hosting an in-person event, the first time since 2020 and the Covid-19 pandemic. Registration options were offered for both in-person and virtual attendees. As an organization, we were eager to be able to gather in-person again for this conference after two years of virtual events, and it was evident our attendees were too, with AFE 2023 setting a record of over 1200 people registered for the event. Of the more than 1200 attendees registered, 80% of attendees opted to attend in-person.

AFE 2023 saw recording setting attendance, as well as enhancements throughout the conference. Some new features at AFE included;

- Going more paperless with an easy-to-use mobile app and agenda
- Quick and efficient check in with iPads and onsite name badge printers
- A commemorative AFE 25th anniversary mug for all attendees
- Virtual Attendee Hub access for both in-person and virtual attendees
- A fun Wednesday night networking event in the exhibitor hall
- And so much more!

With help from our generous partners, including Knik Tribe, AFE was able to live stream or record every in-person technical session, making all 65+ sessions available in AFE’s Virtual Attendee Hub for all attendees to watch live or post-event. AFE will continue with the year-round training model that was developed in 2021 by hosting bi-weekly virtual technical sessions throughout the remainder of the 2023, available to all registered attendees. All session recordings are also available through the end of the year in the Virtual Attendee Hub.

The Alaska Forum, the nonprofit organization that hosts the Alaska Forum on the Environment Conference, has a goal to cover the costs of the event through registrations, exhibitor’s booth sales, and sponsorships/partners. We are happy to report that even with the increase of costs in nearly all categories and adding in the virtual event option, AFE was able to break even, covering all costs associated with the event.
See Alaska Forum on the Environment 2023 by the Numbers

Numbers as of Feb. 28, 2023

1,220 REGISTERED ATTENDEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Access Pass</td>
<td>496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Access Pass</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presenters &amp; Moderators</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Day AFE Pass</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exhibitors</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exhibitor Staff</td>
<td>148</td>
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ORGANIZATION TYPES REPRESENTED AT AFE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business For-Profit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Non-Profit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Government</td>
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<td>Tribal or Local Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Government</td>
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<td>Military</td>
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<td>Educational Institution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Not all attendees answered this question so the numbers above don’t add up directly to match the 1,220 attendees)

208 Attendees used EPA IGAP Grant Funds to attend

125 of the 229 Federally recognized tribes attended AFE
Of that, 20 of those tribes sent 3 or more representatives

7 of the 12 ANC Regional Non-Profit Associations attended
The ANC Village Corporation attendance was low, with only 6 of the over 180 corporations represented

Over 50% of attendees listed their address as outside of Anchorage

6 of the 12 active ANSCA Corporations were represented at AFE by either their parent corporation or a subsidiary
Most notably,
ASRC sent 8 attendees
Calista Corporation sent 9 attendees
8 Partners/Sponsors
- Knik Tribe
- ConocoPhillips Alaska
- Jacobs
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- Oil Spill Recovery Institute
- US Forest Service
- AECOM
- US Ecology, a Republic Service Company

6 Keynote events
- AFE Celebrates 25 Years – Looking Back and Looking Forward
- UIC President and CEO Pearl Brower
- The Future of Broadband Service in Rural Alaska Panel Discussion
- Jason Brune, Commissioner of the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- Indigenous Waters: Learning from Elders in a Qasriq, a talk led by Elder Patricia Cochran
- EPA Region 10 Administrator Casey Sixkiller

67 Technical sessions and one film festival session
- Most attended technical session in-person and virtually - Eliminating PFAS in Soil? It Can Be Done!
- Most attended Keynote event in-person and virtually - Jason Brune, Commissioner of the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Native Village of Kipnuk receives their Green Star Communities Award
AFE 2023 Planning Committee Members

Jeanette Alas, Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Erika Ammann, NOAA Fisheries
Kendra Calhoun, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Jacqueline Chandler, Forest Service
Grace Cochon, US Department of the Interior
Rebecca Colvin, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Erin Cooper, US Forest Service
Bridget Corkus, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Karen Coulter, Department of Defense/Air Force
Nancy Fresco, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Santina Gay, EPA
Eric Goddard, UAF Bristol Bay Campus
Keith Guyer, Kuna Engineering
Doug Huntman, Delta Backhaul Company
Meg Kohler, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Chantelle Lewis-Boutte, Chugach Electric
Bob Loeffler, University of Alaska Anchorage
Megan Marie, Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Ben Martich, Geosyntec Consultants
Rachel Mills, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Jessie Moan, US Forest Service
Peter Murphy, NOAA Marine Debris Program
Allison Payne, AECOM
Maia Draper-Reich, Prince William Sound Citizens’ Advisory Council
Kathy Shea, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Katura Willingham, Jacobs
Kelly Rawalt, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

AFE Training Takes Place All-Year Long!

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, AFE was forced to pivot to a virtual only training. Thanks to our partnership with Knik Tribe, we created the Alaska Connect online training platform which hosted AFE 2021, AFE 2022 and weekly technical trainings throughout each year.

The online training platform that we developed also allowed for AFE to continue environmental trainings throughout the year, as well as showcasing all session recordings all-year long. Even though we’re able to host in-person events again, the year-round virtual training platform remains, adding value to AFE attendees throughout the year.

AFE energizes attendees. We are excited to continue to host virtual bi-weekly technical training sessions to keep up the momentum all year long. And provide access to recorded sessions from AFE 2023 through the end of the year for all attendees! As happy as we are to be back in-person, the virtual training platform is an added benefit for everyone.
AFE 2023 Exhibitors

Alaska Teen Media Institute
Triverus Cleaning & Environmental Solutions LLC
Energy Laboratories Inc.
North Pacific Research Board
UIC Bowhead Transport LLC
Alaska Institute for Justice
US HUD - Office of Lead Hazardous Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH)
Support Vessels of Alaska, Inc.
Department of Energy, Office of Legacy Management
Brice Engineering, LLC
US Ecology Alaska LLC a Republic Services Company
Prince William Sound Regional Citizens’ Advisory Council
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Alaska Pacific University
Throwe-Environmental
Environmental Management Inc. (EMI)
ALS-Kelso Laboratory
Tribal Technical Assistance to Brownfields (Tribal TAB)
University of Alaska Fairbanks Institute of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Extension
UAF Bristol Bay Campus
TTT Environmental, LLC
US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Denali Commission
Center for Creative Land Recycling
Woodwell Climate Research Center
SGS North America, Inc.
AFE Headshot Photobooth
EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., PBC
AECOM
US Navy (c/o ManTech International)
Alaska Ocean Observing System
International Arctic Research Center, UAF
Delta Backhaul Company
National Park Service
Jacobs
Eurofins
NOAA Fisheries/Alaska Fisheries Science Center
Earthjustice
Summit Consulting Services, Inc.
JOA SURVEYS LLC
Zender Environmental Health and Research Group
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Native American Fish and Wildlife Society
Sustainable Solid Waste Solutions
US Army Corps of Engineers
Keres Consulting on behalf of DoD
Minn-Alaska Transport
Alaska Conservation Foundation
Alaska Pacific University
Region 10 Tribal Operations Committee Consortium
Alaska Pacific University - Navigating the New Arctic Community Office
Alaska Minerals, Inc.
DOWL
ASRC Energy Services
Metiri Group
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
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Knik Tribal Council

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First National Bank Alaska (retired)

Larry Bethel
Environmental Management Inc.

Kendra Calhoun
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Patricia Cochran (Inupiaq)
Alaska Native Science Commission

Therese M. Deardorff
Community Representative

Victoria Demmet (Tlingit)
Yakutat Tribal Council

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Alaska Forum, Inc.

Megan Kohler
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Vivian Melde
Ecology and Environment (retired)

Alan Quesnel
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