

830 College Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-1535
(907) 452-5021
www.northern.org

Northern Alaska Environmental Center *Information for board applicants*

About the Northern Center

Since 1971 the Northern Alaska Environmental Center has employed grassroots activism, legislative advocacy, legal intervention, and public education to protect the ecological integrity of public lands in Northern Alaska. The Northern Center advocates for a sustainable approach to development on subarctic and arctic wildlands and the surrounding seas, and addresses environmental issues that impact Alaskans' quality of life.

The Northern Center has three main programs: the Arctic, Clean Water and Mining, and Climate Change and Energy.

- The Arctic Program advocates generally for integrated land planning that maintains overall ecological integrity of Arctic lands and waters, and specifically for land designations that permanently protect Alaska's most biologically important and special wild places, including areas within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska and the entire Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- The Clean Water and Mining Program aims to protect lands in the Interior and the Arctic from pollution, increased carbon emissions, industrial-scale surface and hydrologic disturbances, and new roads associated with large-scale development projects. The program monitors existing mines, engages in land-use planning, and advocates against environmentally irresponsible projects.
- The Climate Change and Energy Program recognizes the threat that climate change poses to wilderness areas and to the natural systems upon which Alaskans rely. The program advocates for climate-smart policies at the local and state level, educates Alaskans on climate impacts and solutions, and works with coalition partners to demand action at all political levels.

The Northern Center believes in public process – including the use of legal, legislative, and administrative systems – and seeks opportunities for collaboration with



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government and non-profit organizations. It employs clear, honest communication and constructive dialogue. And it bases conservation decisions on sound science and ethics.

The Northern Center works closely with allied organizations – local, statewide, and national – in all programmatic areas, providing expert knowledge and supporting grassroots action through its network of over 900 members.

About the board of directors

While staff carries out the programmatic, administrative, and fundraising work of the Northern Center, the board of directors provides high-level programmatic direction, makes decisions related to legal intervention, and assists with program work, outreach, and fundraising. The board is responsible for ensuring the financial health of the organization and for hiring and evaluating the executive director, who in turn hires and evaluates other staff. Staff consists of the executive director, a finance and administration director, a program director, a communications coordinator, and coordinators for one or more specific programs (Arctic, Clean Water and Mining, and Climate Change and Energy). It is expected that the board will work collaboratively with staff to carry out the organization's mission.

The Northern Center continually works to build a board of directors that reflects the many different backgrounds and perspectives of our community and brings together those with a passion for protecting the natural world and our way of life. By joining the Northern Center board, members commit to attending and actively participating in board meetings, serving on at least one committee, and contributing in some way to fundraising and outreach. A time commitment of six to ten hours per month is expected. (With approval from the board, a member may be exempted from some requirements if that member contributes significantly to the organization's effectiveness in some other way.) Board meetings are scheduled roughly every three months, and the board meets once per year for a weekend retreat. Board members serve 2-year terms and are eligible to serve three consecutive terms.

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