



2021 **ANNUAL REPORT**



MISSION

Promoting conservation of the environment and sustainable resource stewardship in Interior and Arctic Alaska through education and advocacy.

GREETINGS FROM FAIRBANKS –



As our 50th year came to a close, we reflected on the meaningful work the Northern Center accomplished, and what lays ahead. Over the years the Northern Center has maintained focus on conserving the large-scale landscapes that define Arctic and Interior Alaska. While some implications of our work may not be felt for years or generations, we also saw measurable successes in 2021.

2021 began with massive disruption in our nation's capital, and unsealing of oil lease bids that opened the Arctic Refuge for drilling. Alaska politicians continued to push for more extraction in the Western Arctic, and to build a road through traditional hunting and fishing grounds in the largest roadless region in the US. We saw legal victories and ongoing challenges.

We celebrated victories by welcoming in a new administration, including the first Indigenous Interior secretary. We celebrated the pause of oil and gas leases in the Arctic Refuge, and a court ruling voiding the permitting of the Willow Master Development Plan in the Western Arctic. We celebrated the building opposition to the road to Ambler, and the success of Solarize Fairbanks in leading a local renewable energy transition. We celebrated our partnership with Sovereign Iñupiat for a Living Arctic, helping uplift frontline Arctic Indigenous voices.

Though we were unable to meet in person to celebrate together, our virtual events allowed us to connect with you, our members and supporters, whether by sharing photos of the 25th annual Run for the Refuge or gathering on Zoom for our virtual speaker series.

We've continued to meet our mission to protect Arctic and Interior Alaska through education and advocacy. This mission drives us to help empower people to defend the values, lifeways, and ecosystems that shape this landscape. Part of advocating for healing of our earth means acknowledging past wrongs, including those within the conservation community, and we remain committed to this ongoing process of learning and unlearning.

One of my heroes, Wangari Matthai, said:

"You cannot protect the environment unless you empower people. You inform them. And you help them understand that these resources are their own. And they must protect them."

And we couldn't empower people without the support from our dedicated board and staff, our strong partnerships, our core of volunteers and, from individuals and organizations like you. We feel so grateful for all of you, for your care and commitment to our mission and vision.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Scott Fogarty'.

Scott Fogarty

STAFF

Scott Fogarty
Executive Director

Elisabeth Balster Dabney
Deputy Director

Lisa Baraff
Program Director

Erica Watson
Communications Director

Emily Sullivan
Arctic Program Manager

Christin Swearingen
Events & Development Coordinator

Siqiñiq Maupin
*Executive Director of Sovereign
Inupiat for a Living Arctic (SILA)*

BOARD

Frank Williams
President

Paul Reichardt
Treasurer

Helen Chmura
Secretary

Nick Clarke
Laramie Maxwell
Shannon Busby

OUTGOING STAFF

Solaris Gillispie
*Clean Water and Mining Program
Manager, 2018–2021*



Solaris was born and raised in Fairbanks and spent many of their childhood

summers canoeing up and down the Yukon River, which instilled a deep respect for the natural world. They enjoy rock climbing, skiing, and hiking in the hills near home. Solaris earned their B.A. in Political Science from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and worked as a campaign manager for local candidates, a Legislative Aide in the Alaska State Legislature, and a freelance grant writer before joining the Northern Center in 2018. We're grateful for the astute, compassionate, and clear-sighted organizing Solaris brought to their work in the past three and a half years, and we learned immensely from their commitment to justice and equity. We wish them the best in this next chapter of life.

Laura Hartman Walker
*Finance Director
2020–2021*



Laura Walker offered stability and calm during a year of transitions and uncertainty,

and we wish her the best as she returns to her work as the Sales and Marketing Manager at the University of Alaska Press. Laura lives with her family in the hills north of Fairbanks, where she was born and raised, and loves traveling, reading, and being outside with her husband and children however the seasons allow. We're grateful that she was able to share her skills, and wish her well in all to come.

OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER

Lois Barger
2015–2021



Throughout a decade of political, electoral, conservation, and community

outreach Lois has a broad range of experience working to support healthy communities and a healthy environment. From advocating for rural renewable energy policy in Wisconsin, fighting the Healy 2 Coal Plant, and supporting local food, she's explored various positions and gained skills along the way including grassroots organizing, effective communication, campaign management, and online organizing. After working at the Northern Center in 2011 on energy issues, she served on the Board from 2015–2021, supporting the protection of northern landscapes. Her dedicated service to the Northern Center will leave an impression for years to come.

CLIMATE CHANGE & ENERGY PROGRAM

Climate change informs all program work at the Northern Center, as it shapes issues in Interior and Arctic Alaska, the state, country, and world. The Climate Change and Energy (CC&E) program focuses on addressing climate change through local and statewide alliances and through a lens of energy democracy, and just and equitable access.



Solar energy is an increasingly viable choice in Interior Alaska.
PHOTO BY RACHEL RUSTON/NORTHERN CENTER

Northern Center program director Lisa Baraff was one of five community members selected to serve on the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly Climate Action Committee (created in 2021). Lisa looks forward to working with the committee to develop a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan in 2022.

SOLARIZE FAIRBANKS,

a partnership between the Northern Center and five other local organizations, is one example of these values in practice. Solarize Fairbanks is a community-led solar energy initiative that aims to make solar more accessible and affordable to residents of Interior Alaska. Between 2020 and 2021, the Solarize campaign has facilitated adding over 800kW of solar to homes and businesses in the Interior. We are closing in on a megawatt of solar!

In total, there were five communities, 71 solarizers, and >419kW installed, or soon to be installed.

Coalition Partners

Northern Center
Information Insights
The Alaska Center
Alaska Center for Energy and Power
Native Movement
Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition

Campaign Team

Lisa Baraff
Jamie Hansen of Information Insights
Alyssa Quintyne of The Alaska Center
Kenzley Defler of Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition

Communities

Chena Loop
Denali
Downtown Fairbanks
Eielson Farm Road
Farmers Loop

New Communities for 2022

Denali
Downtown
Gold Hill
University Heights

SILA director Sigiñiq Maupin represented Iñupiat people at the People Vs. Fossil Fuels Rally in October, prompting the headline "Frontline Indigenous Leaders Occupy the Bureau of Indian Affairs in D.C. for the First Time Since the 1970's."

SOVEREIGN IÑUPIAT FOR A LIVING ARCTIC (SILA)

Sovereign Iñupiat for a Living Arctic (SILA) is a new and growing organization housed by the Northern Center. SILA's mission is to create space for healthy communities; spiritually, mentally, and physically. We do this by fostering the connection between people, culture, and land. We are empowered as frontline communities and those who have deep connection with the land and what it provides.

SILA has ramped up our digital newsletter, "Imiq Iñuggusiq Tusaayugaaq." Imiq Iñuggusiq means "water is life" and Tusaayugaaq means "to receive news, information." The newsletter comes out quarterly.

SILA is excited to continue collaboration with Bright Shores and Creative Decolonization on an inter-generational storytelling project. In 2021, traditional and modern stories were told by Iñupiat people, then produced and directed by Iñupiat people as plays. The recordings were then distributed with discussion guides to go with them for use in schools. As the organization grows, we plan more collaborations like this but with a true-life focus on what sovereignty means to Iñupiat today.





The Imago task force met to discuss Indigenous-led conservation along the banks of the Hula Hula River

ARCTIC PROGRAM

2021 seemed off to a grim start for the Arctic program, as the Bureau of Land Management auctioned off oil and gas leases on the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge in January. But the lease sale attracted little interest from oil corporations, thanks in large part to pressure from conservationists and the uplifting of Gwich'in and Iñupiat voices opposed to Arctic oil extraction.

Because the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority was the main bidder on leases in the Refuge, we were quick to turn our attention to their board of directors, launching a campaign targeting AIDEA. A state-wide coalition of Indigenous and conservation groups published in newspapers and organized letters from Alaskans pressuring AIDEA to drop their leases in the Arctic.

In August, the court struck down the Trump-issued permits for the massive Willow project, a proposed oil and gas disaster in Alaska's Western Arctic. This sent the project back for review, and we are hopeful that a thorough review will show the unacceptable climate impacts a project like this would have in the rapidly warming Arctic.



Nutaaq Simmonds
and Arctic Program
Manager, Emily Sullivan.

CLEAN WATER & MINING PROGRAM

Opposition to the private industrial road to Ambler continues to build, partly thanks to film, media interviews, and research that uplifts the voices of those in the region working to protect their food and way of life. Although it's hard to organize across vast regions, especially during a pandemic, former clean water and mining manager Solaris helped coordinate a virtual fly-in to Juneau. This allowed constituents to speak directly with their state representatives about the impacts of the road. In spite of the State continuing to funnel money to the Ambler road project, we are building momentum in the Alaska legislature. We demand that the Biden administration revoke the Trump-era permits for the road, and we will defend the Brooks Range in court if needed.

Opposition to the massive Donlin gold mine in the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River remains strong. We continue to support tribes and local groups working to appeal State permitting for the mine.

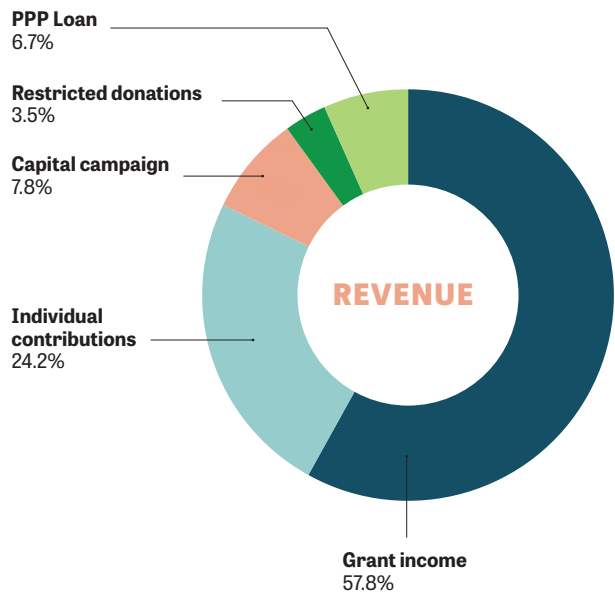
Here in Fairbanks, mining companies threaten our local communities as well. We are providing outreach and resources to defend Ester Dome, Murphy Dome, and the Cleary Summit area. People's health and wellbeing must not be sacrificed for mineral extraction, at any scale.



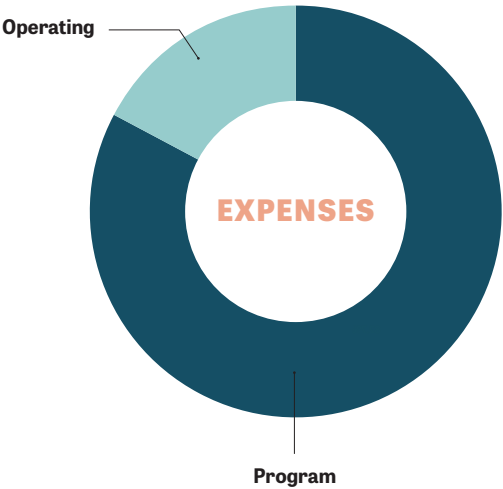
Alaska's food security depends on clean water.
PHOTO BY RACHEL RUSTON/NORTHERN CENTER.

FINANCE

At the Northern Alaska Environmental Center our capacity is our people. As educators, advocates, and activists compensating the people who perform the work is the thrust of our expenses. We remain committed to keeping our overhead as low as possible, and every position at the Northern Center helps to implement and meet our programmatic goals. Remaining expenses cover travel, building occupancy, outreach events (like our annual Run for the Refuge), and consultants (for example, specialized subject matter experts). In general, we strive to make sure that our overhead expenses are 20% or less of our total expenses.



REVENUE	\$1,155,000
Grant income	\$668,000
Individual contributions	\$279,000
Capital campaign	\$90,000
Restricted donations	\$41,000
PPP Loan	\$77,000



EXPENSES	\$709,000
Program	\$586,000
Operating	\$123,000



DONORS

\$100,000 or more

True North Foundation

\$40,000 or more

Anonymous
Tortuga Foundation
Liberated Capital
NorthLight Foundation
444S Foundation
Alaska Conservation Foundation
Alaska Wilderness League

\$10,000 or more

Anonymous
Carol Kleckner
Conservation Lands Foundation
Patagonia Inc.
Russell and Barbara Tabbert
The Wilderness Society

\$5,000 or more

Amy Mower
Indigenous Environmental
Network
Heidi Fleischmann and James
Scott
Paul and Terry Reichardt
Larry and Karla Zervos
Sonia Mazurek and John Hagey
Community Foundation of
Jackson Hole/ Joseph Albright
and Marcia Kunstel
Scott Bell and Catherine Walling

\$1,000 or more

Al and Ann Renfro
Alan and Rochelle McGowan
Alaska Community Action on
Toxics
Ann and Bruce Jamieson
April Crosby
Barbara A. Jackson
Barry Sullivan
Bell Family Fund
Bob and Bobbie Ritchie
Bob and Frances Schulz
Charles Keith Miller

Charlotte and Charles Bird
Chloe Wurr
Cliff Eames and Ruth McHenry
Daniel and Ann Swift
Dave and Carol Norton
Denali National Park Wilderness
Centers Ltd.
Don and Tracie Pendergrast
Frank and Judy Williams
Gail Mayo
Hugh Richards
James Marshall and Judy
Colligan-Marshall
Jane and John Aspnes
Jean and Dan Failoni
Jonathan G. Blattmachr
Karen Ruud and Peter Mjos
Kurt Sahl
Laurel and Ed McLaughlin
Leigh Cox
Lynn Larsen and Ron Yarnell
Margaret Irene Harbison
Mary and Ronald Teel
Mary Zalar and Ken Whitten
Max Wright
McCain McMurray
Network for Good
Pat Moodie
Philip and Jan Marshall
Randy Lewis and Pam Seiser
Rich and Patricia Seifert
Richard and Barbara Moore
Rita and Dan Osborne
Running Reindeer Ranch
Sally Quinby
Sharon and Thomas Baring
Spener Armstrong Family
Charitable Fund
Stan Justice
Tako Reynolds
Torre and Janet Jorgenson
Tundra Trails LLC
Wendy Chase and Greg
McCarthy
William C. Leighty
Woody Brooks and Nancy Felix

\$500 or more

Alaska Community Foundation
Alaska Wildland Adventures
Alexandra Teitz, in memory of
Linda Lance
Ali Blechman and Hugh Rose
Anthony Sisto and Deanne
Adams
Beverly Anderson
Cary and Sarah Keller
Deidre Hunter
Doug Colclasure
Doug Plummer
Douglas Allchin
Elmer Leistikow
Eric Bronner
Goldstream Group, Inc.
Gondwana Ecotours
Greg & Tara Mantell-Hecathorn
Greg and Nancy Warren
Heidi Chapman Supkis
Heidi White
James Schwarber
John and Cindy Adams
Karen and Brendan Kelly
Karl and Susan Monetti
Kristopher and Rachel Brown
Louise Kowalski and Richard
Stolzberg
Mark Fenster
Mark Simon
Matthew Tuchband and Hanina
Goldstein
Melissa C Chapin
Pat Lambert
Patrick Marlow and Richard
Collins
Pheobe Brown
Phil Somervell
Rebecca Hanrahan
Tima Priess
Tom Miller
William Thompson

GREEN CENTURY FUNDS

When you donate to the Northern Center, you are trusting that your donation will be used to further our mission and make a difference for Alaska. We have a responsibility to use your money strategically, and have built up a stable reserve to ensure that the Northern Center is in a position to continue fulfilling its mission far into the future. Part of that responsibility is investing in a fund that will keep up with inflation and grow our reserve to maximize each donor's impact.

We chose to put money in Green Century Funds (GCF). Green Century, Inc. is one of the first mutual fund companies to put environmental values at their core, and was actually founded by environmental and public health nonprofits. They are 100% fossil fuel free. Green Century mostly invests in companies involved in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture. GCF also screens out producers of nuclear weapons or nuclear energy, guns or civilian weapons, military weapons, tobacco, or GMOs.

Please accept our thanks if you have supported the Northern Center but are not listed here. A full list of supporters can be found on our website northern.org by searching "donors".



LITTLE GREEN HOUSE

In 2000, thanks to a group of dedicated supporters, the Northern Center was able to purchase our office on College Road, making a permanent home for the organization. Since then, our little green house has had renovations, retrofits, and, just last year, a rooftop solar installation. Even with these upgrades, we've made do with aging appliances and delayed repairs.

In September we asked for donations specifically for capital improvements to our building, and your generosity blew us away, bringing in \$90,430! The bulk of that sum came from a \$60,000 gift from one of the original donors who helped us purchase the building more than 20 years ago.

Construction season is fast approaching, and we look forward to making these investments in our home. Improvements planned immediately include replacing broken windows and updating our electrical system. We'll also refurbish the basement apartment for use by interns or guests, a major project that your donations have made possible. We want our office building to showcase our values, offer a model for energy- and cost-efficient workspaces, and provide an inviting and functional space for the next half century.

Keep an eye out for a new sign featuring our current logo!



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Fairbanks, Alaska
99701-1535

