



Sustainable
Development
Working Group



ARCTIC COUNCIL

Economies and Energy:

The SDWG encourages the development of economic assessments that strengthen analysis and joint monitoring of economic trends and activities in the Arctic, include both cash and subsistence economies, and enhance innovative, sustainable and diverse economic development, investments and policies.

During the United States Arctic Council Chairmanship (2015-17), the SDWG produced the ***Economy of the North (ECONOR) III*** report which provides a statistical overview of the economy, social conditions and environmental change in the Arctic through contributions from the national statistic agencies of all eight Arctic states. The report presents a comprehensive overview of the economy of the circumpolar region; including the traditional production activities of the Indigenous peoples. ECONOR III aims to inspire work to further strengthen the information basis from which to assess the sustainability of the Arctic communities in terms of natural wealth management and environmental challenges.

In addition, projects and activities in the area of sustainable energy are encouraged that promote responsible and sustainable management, use and development of energy and resources as well as innovative approaches encouraging renewable energy in even the most remote Arctic communities. During 2015-17, the SDWG

undertook the following two sustainable energy projects:

The ***Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy (ARENA)*** project addresses the need for a greater number of community energy experts to ensure affordable, reliable, renewable source energy solutions for Arctic communities. Its approach integrates web-based seminars with classroom learning and field exposure. The project draws from best practices established through the experience of the people living and the organizations operating in the Arctic. Participants in ARENA will bring back to their home countries knowledge,





SDWG contributes to Arctic regional sustainable development through the **Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas (AREA)** project, an online tool that enhances knowledge of best practices and local adaptation actions on Arctic renewable energy and energy efficiency. This tool will visualize collected renewable energy supply and demand data in addition to Arctic-wide local community success stories while identifying information gaps and improving the understanding of Arctic investment potential.

skills, tools, and a network of collaborators that will facilitate integrating clean energy technologies in their communities and improving management of fossil fuel resources used for power production and heating. An interim report on project activities has been produced.

The SDWG will continue to assist capacity building by sharing knowledge and establishing professional networks related to the transition from diesel to hybrid and renewable energy systems. These goals will be accomplished during the Finnish Chairmanship (2017-2019) through a combination of a webinar series and an on-site program. In 2017, 20 Arctic energy champions will attend workshops in Canada (Yellowknife, Northwest Territory), the United States (Kodiak and Fairbanks, Alaska), and Reykjavik, Iceland, combining classroom instruction, coaching, peer engagement and visits to communities and sites operating micro-grid energy solutions.

