



Who Is RCAC?

The Rural Community Assistance Corporation Vision

 RCAC envisions vibrant, healthy and enduring rural communities throughout the west, including Hawaii and Alaska.

Mission

 RCAC provides training, technical and financial resources and advocacy so rural communities can achieve their goals and visions.



Services Provided

Housing Programs

- Affordable housing loans
- Mutual self-help, counseling, development

Loan Program

- Environmental upgrades
- Economic development (small business loans)
- · "Bridge" loans
- · Community facility loans



Services Provided

Environmental / Community Services

- Technical assistance for water, waste water, solid waste
- Training for operators, managers and decision makers
- Income surveys and rate analysis
- Environmental Finance Center



What is an EFC?

The Environmental Finance Centers (EFCs) deliver targeted technical assistance to, and partner with states, tribes, local governments, and the private sector in providing innovative solutions to help manage the costs of environmental financing and program management.



What is an EFC cont.

- EPA based funded EFCs
- Some are no longer EPA base funded
- EFC in Region 10 uses base funding for Region 10 work but EFCs work in other regions



EFC Funding

- Base funding for 6-year work plan
- Base funded projects: asset management, decision tree, IACC
- Other sources of funding for other projects such as Tribal Source Water Protection



Where are the EFCs?

Each region has an EFC and Webpage:

- https://www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter/e fcn
- https://www.rcac.org/environmental/environmental-finance-center/





EFC in Region 10 Mission

During the next 20 years \$600 billion in infrastructure projects will need to be completed to protect public health, yet budget constraints are an increasing reality. To help address the challenge of infrastructure affordability, the EFC is developing financial models and tools and collecting and sharing resources so small rural communities and Tribes can move forward with innovative solutions.

EFC in Region 10 Goals

- Develop financial models & tools; very small system asset management plan, Tribal source water protection plan template, & decision tree for communities impacted by climate change
- Share infrastructure finance resources for innovative financial solutions



Goals cont.

- Deliver training; source water protection, Tribal infrastructure financing, and asset management
- Provide direct technical assistance
- Research adaptation & resiliency, advocate for sustainable policy & facilitate dialog opportunities



EFC in Region 10 Technical Assistance

The EFC provides direct technical assistance to small rural communities & Tribes as they plan for, and work toward, financial sustainability.

We assist communities with water, wastewater, storm water and solid waste technical, managerial & financial challenges.



Technical Assistance

Examples of technical assistance:

- Capacity assessments
- Developing asset management plans
- Sanitary surveys
- Financial policy development
- Source water protection plans



EFC in Region 10 Projects

- Very Small System Asset Management Project
- IACC (Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council) Tribal Outreach Project
- Financial Model/Decision Tree Project
- Tribal Source Water Protection Project
- Agency and Utility Source Water Protection Workshops Project

FM/DT Project

Decision tree for communities considering or in the process of relocating due to environmental impacts.

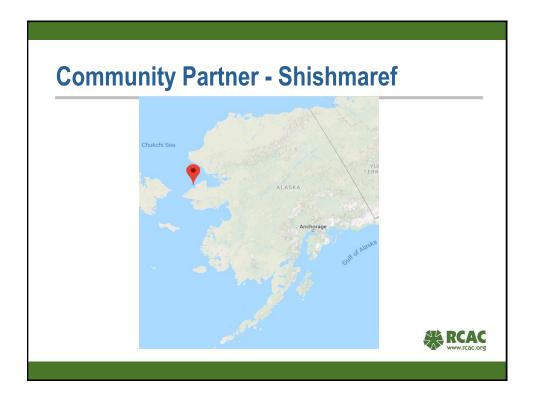
(erosion and flooding caused by climate change)



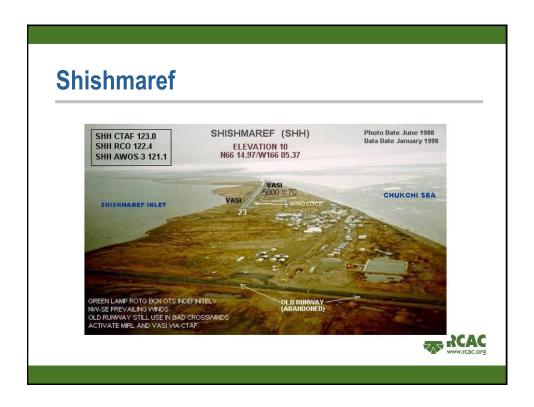
FM/DT Project

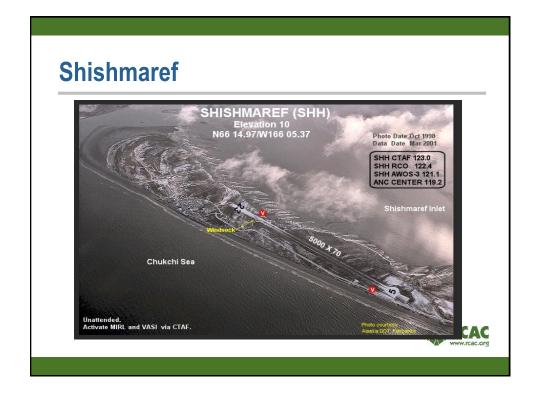
- Main Questions "Trunk"
- Solid waste "branch" of the tree
- Drinking water "branch" of the tree
- Waste water "branch" of the tree
- Funding for one more branch











Shishmaref





Village of Shishmaref, Alaska. Notice the trash can in the image on the left, before the storm, and in the image on the right, after the storm. Images courtesy of Nome Nugget Newspaper. (2002-11-14)



Group Exercise

- 1. Form two groups and decide the following:
- 2. If you had to relocate your community what question would you want answered in a decision tree?
- 3. Return as a whole group and present your group's question.



Quyanaa for attending this session

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