

Project Objective:

The primary objective of the grant was to improve human health and air quality in Chistochina Alaska by providing locally grown household plants known for their air purifying qualities as well as nutritious fruits and vegetables that are not readily available to locally.

Results:

Following many planning meetings, a greenhouse was selected. The greenhouse and all of the necessary supplies were ordered and received. The greenhouse was assembled by local volunteers and potting beds were introduced. The greenhouse will harness electricity from an existing solar panel that was purchased through the IGAP program in 2008. The Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium also provided a Toyo stove to the project as an in-kind contribution which will be retrofitted to supply radiant heat to the plant beds. Although the greenhouse was not ready in time for the 2009 growing season, a lot of community education has been done about the project and residents are anxiously waiting to begin growing food and plants this spring 2010. Data will be collected on the type of plants and food grown as well as the amount grown and distributed. The continued process will be documented.

Benefits:

- Residents will no longer have to drive 100 miles round trip to purchase nutritious fruits and vegetables. Fewer trips will help improve air quality by minimizing emissions.
- Residents will be healthier. A well balanced diet is especially important for elders and children.
- Indoor houseplants will help to improve indoor air quality.
- The community has gained a sense of ownership in the greenhouse which will help sustain it.

Lessons Learned:

- **Communicate with your supply vendors.** Talk to them often and make sure they understand exactly what you want and when you want it. The initial greenhouse vendor for this project was asked to submit the order for the selected greenhouse which would take about a month to receive. Due to some miscommunication, the order was never placed. This caused a significant delay in the project timeline. A new vendor was selected.
- **Find creative ways to get the community involved.** People are very busy and finding volunteers can sometimes prove difficult. Take every opportunity to educate residents about the project. This could be during community events, doing a presentation at the school or just chatting with a friend at the Tribal office. You can also make fliers to hang in the community. Let people know exactly what you need help with, when they are needed, where they should meet and how long it will take.

* Final outcomes will be presented during future environmental conferences and will be available on the ANTHC and AERHO websites.

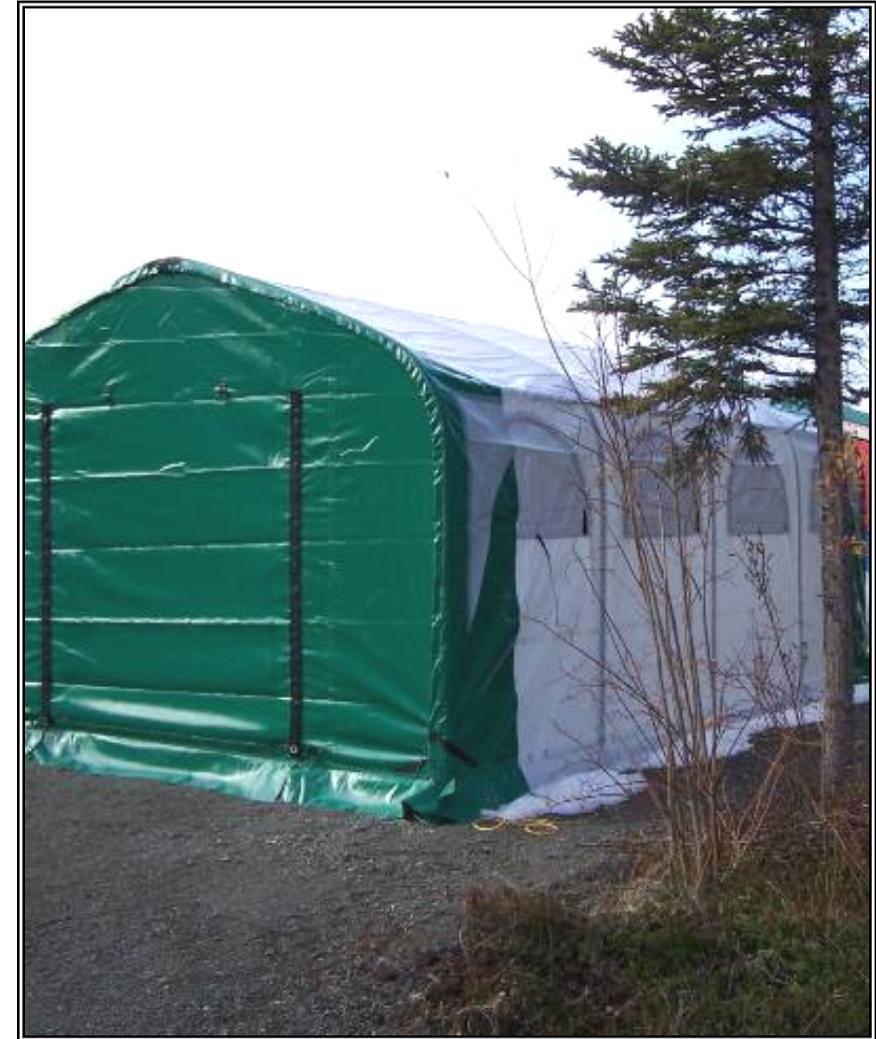
For more information:

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ANTHC project website: <http://www.anthc.org/chs/ces/hve/cedgr09.cfm>



MT. SANFORD TRIBAL CONSORTIUM

Community Greenhouse using Renewable Solar Energy



Funding provided by ANTHC through the Community Environmental Demonstration Grant Program made possible with the Alaska Tribal Multi-Media Grant from the US EPA.



Work performed before February 1, 2009

- * Through their IGAP grant, they purchased and installed a solar panel.
- * Researched, prepared and submitted CEDP grant in December '08.

*** PROJECT TIMELINE ***

Mt. Sanford's 2009 Community Environmental Demonstration Project Grant

