

Mayor Ethan Berkowitz

Sustainable Community Investments



Energy Smart Lighting Initiative

Mayor Berkowitz launched the Energy Smart Lighting Initiative to retrofit Anchorage streetlights with LED fixtures. Municipal Maintenance and Operations (M&O) and ML&P will replace some 16,000 lights with LEDs. M&O will convert 12,000 lights with an estimated annual cost savings of \$780,000, while ML&P is converting 4,000 bulbs for \$400,000 in annual cost savings. Anchorage Fire Stations, the Egan and Dena'ina centers, and Anchorage Golf Course will also see LED retrofits.



Waste Heat Pilot Project

Two city-owned utilities, Municipal Light & Power (ML&P) and Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility (AWWU), are capturing waste heat and using it to warm the AWWU water supply, saving AWWU customers money and reducing air pollution. The new technology will reduce water consumption by as much as 75 million gallons of water annually, saving the community \$1–2 million annually in energy costs.



Beluga River Unit Natural Gas Purchase

ML&P and Chugach Electric Association (CEA) purchased the Beluga River Unit in February 2016. The purchase will save Anchorage residents millions of dollars and supply a significant portion of the utilities' gas needs over the next two decades. The final agreement transfers 70 percent ownership of the ConocoPhillips' interest to ML&P and 30 percent to CEA. The purchase helps create a strong and energy independent Anchorage.



Power Pooling

A new partnership between ML&P, Chugach Electric, and Matanuska Electric Association will allow the utilities to more efficiently operate power production, by reducing the amount of fuel burned and emissions released into the atmosphere. Ratepayers will save \$12-16 million annually.



Improved Transit System

Anchorage Transit re-engineered the transit system to increase ridership by cutting wait times, expanding hours, and increasing service frequency. Improving public transportation will reduce emissions across the community.





Expanded Recycling

Anchorage Solid Waste Services (SWS) is launching a new commercial recycling service for businesses and multi-family housing buildings. SWS and Alaska Waste are partnering to increase curbside participation within the MOA. By reducing waste these efforts will prolong the life of the Anchorage Landfill, saving Anchorage taxpayers money.



Community Composting

SWS implemented a community composting pilot program with 250 residents. After successfully diverting over six tons of waste in three months, the program is expanding this summer. SWS will have a publicly available food waste drop-off site at the Central Transfer Station.



Cities of Service Resiliency AmeriCorps

Through a national "Cities of Service" grant, the Berkowitz Administration hired two AmeriCorps VISTAs to raise awareness about food security within the Mountain View and Fairview neighborhoods. The VISTAs developed an after-school gardening curriculum and recruited volunteers to build a school greenhouse at Mountain View Elementary. This summer, the VISTAs are working with volunteers to plant edible landscaping in Fairview Park and are mapping community gardens across the city.



Salmon in the City

Municipal Project Management and Engineering (PM&E) and Parks and Recreation have completed or are currently in construction or planning phases on 19 projects that enhance salmon watershed habitat and access in the Anchorage Bowl.



Prioritizing Bikes and Pedestrians

Under the leadership of Mayor Berkowitz, Anchorage residents have invested \$7,568,200 in Anchorage's parks and trails through Municipal bonds. Anchorage's transportation planning authority, AMATS, is finalizing a "Complete Streets" policy to govern project planning and engineering standards. AMATS is also renewing the Bicycle Plan in a combined Bike, Pedestrian, and Trails Plan that will identify opportunities for expansion and connectivity. Bike-first/pedestrian investments include a 10th Avenue bike boulevard, Fish Creek Trail connection, and UAA Drive pedestrian improvements – leveraging \$2,000,000 of state and federal funding through AMATS



Local Food

The Berkowitz Administration pushed through a new ordinance to allow farmers markets in Anchorage and Chugiak/Eagle river parks, including Town Square Park. The Department of Health and Human Services is working with the cottage foods industry to promote local food production and entrepreneurship. Parks and Recreation also added community gardening space into the Muldoon Town Square Park master plan.



Keeping pesticides out of parks

With support from Parks and Recreation and Alaska Community Action on Toxics, municipal parks will have more stringent rules on the application of pesticides. The new code promotes the use of more environmentally friendly pest management methods.

