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**Postcard Survey to Track Home Heating Usage
in Fairbanks North Star Borough**

(FAIRBANKS, AK) — The Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will conduct an annual survey to collect information on residential heating practices in the borough area. Unlike the telephone-based surveys conducted in previous years, this survey will be conducted using a postcard mailer, making it easier and more convenient to participate. This survey simply asks respondents to identify changes in device or fuel use between this winter and the last.

Previous results from heating surveys have been an important part of determining the overall picture of home heating habits in the borough, monitoring trends, and verifying projections for air quality planning. This year's results will be compared with those of past years and used to help assess changes in heating practices that may have resulted from the drop in heating oil prices.

"The participation and feedback from residents is important to track the effect of programs being implemented to address air quality impacts from home heating in the Borough," said FNSB Mayor Karl Kassel. "I encourage residents to respond so local, state, and national officials can develop and improve programs that enable residents to affordably heat their homes while keeping local air clean."

The survey will be conducted by Alaska-based firm, Hays Research Group. Residents who participated in the 2014 and 2015 surveys will be mailed survey postcards. The survey is confidential, and the postcard information takes only a minute or two to complete. Postcards will be mailed on March 18, and it is requested that forms be returned by March 28. Postage has already been included for the convenience of responders.

For more information on air quality in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, visit their website at <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/>.

For more information on air quality in Alaska, visit the DEC Air Quality Division website at <http://dec.alaska.gov/air>.

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