

Windows make Kaktovik warmer this year

By Jennifer Gordon

Tundra Times reporter

Houses in Kaktovik are a bit warmer this winter.

The North Slope Borough's Resident Employment Living Improvements program is teaching residents of Kaktovik to make insulated windows for the village.

Harold Snowball, the project coordinator, said the villages in the North Slope Borough had big problems with heat loss from insufficient windows and doors. Most of the windows in the

villages, however, are odd sizes, he said, and buying new ones would have been expensive.

In an effort to save money and to train and employ the local labor force, Snowball said the RELI staff looked at the idea of manufacturing windows and doors at each village, making them the sizes needed.

In September of 1988, the village of Kaktovik started making REHAU windows, made from polyvinyl chloride, PVC frames, and insulating glass. Snowball said these windows do

well in the Arctic conditions of the North Slope Borough.

Snowball said that the equipment used to make the windows is mobile, so once all the windows are replaced in the village, the program can be moved to another village.

Once the windows are finished, a separate RELI crew takes the windows and installs them in the houses. The program employs 10 to 15 people to make the windows and another 10 to 15 people to install them.

Snowball said that RELI has coordinated projects in Anaktuvuk Pass, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Atkasuk, Barrow, Point Lay and Wainwright.

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