

Villages Have Warmer Homes in Northern Regions

Villagers in three regions of the state will have warmer homes and lower fuel costs this winter as a result of a federally financed self-help program to winterize low-income homes.

Alaska's project, the largest in the nationwide plan, is being administered statewide by Rural CAP, who has contracted

with regional entities to direct operations at the local level. Target areas for this year's funds are NANA (administered locally by Mauneluk Association), Bering Straits (Kawerak) and Arctic Slope (Arctic North Slope Borough Housing Authority).

Each region has selected several of its villages on the basis

of need, to receive materials to winterize eligible homes in each village. A total of 192 homes are involved; 70 in Bering Straits, 63 in Arctic Slope and 59 in NANA. By midsummer, construction materials will be arriving and be installed by volunteers, in many cases the homeowner and CETA labor.

Improvements covered include insulation of walls, ceilings, and floors; installation of solid-core doors and storm win-

dows, and repair of cracks between walls and ceilings that have opened up over time as the houses settle into the ground. These measures conserve warm air within the house and prevent infiltration of cold air from outside.

In a weather-tight home, winter fuel bills have been reduced by as much as half and health problems greatly minimized.

Rural CAP also plans to conduct consumer education

workshops in participating villages. These workshops will cover conservation and self-help material installation techniques. Fuel conservation is an on-going concern; the goal of the workshops is to provide homeowners with basic conservation skills and knowledge of how to maintain an energy efficient home.