

In 2018, the GNWT adopted the 2030 Climate Change Strategic Framework – providing the NWT with a long-term roadmap to address climate change. The GNWT is implementing climate change mitigation through the 2030 Energy Strategy and related action plans, and reports on its progress annually.

Since January 2021, the GNWT has included climate change considerations in all relevant Executive Council and Financial Management Board decision-making instruments. The NWT is one of the first jurisdictions in Canada to do so. There are also climate change committees at the Director, Deputy Minister and Committee of Cabinet level to coordinate the GNWT's climate change response.

What this means is that climate change considerations are top of mind for GNWT senior management and all staff.

The GNWT takes climate change seriously. Some recent actions the GNWT has taken on climate change include:

- Funded 15 climate change-related positions across five departments.
- Currently developing Northern-specific codes and standards with the Northern Advisory Committee of the Northern Infrastructure Standardization Initiative to address climate change resilience in infrastructure design, planning and management.
- Invested over \$115 million since 2018 in actions and initiatives to address greenhouse gas emissions, leading to a GHG emission reduction of 3.6 kilotonnes in 2020-21, and an overall drop in GHG emissions of 19 per cent since 2005.
- All new facilities being built by the GNWT will consider the use of biomass heating. In 2020-2021, we offset nearly 12,000 of GHG emissions by using biomass heating.

The GNWT does not consider the phrase 'climate crisis' alarmist.

GNWT documents and strategies use and refer to the term "climate change" as it is currently the most widely accepted term to describe the phenomena, both nationally and internationally.

The GNWT recognizes climate change is a serious challenge for this generation and future generations and it is impacting the NWT's land and environment, its infrastructure, culture, heritage, economy and the health and safety of our residents. Our overarching goal is to take an evidence or science-based approach to address climate change.

Climate change is affecting GNWT infrastructure through increasing mean annual air and ground temperatures, permafrost degradation, and increasing snow loads. This has resulted in direct action by the GNWT to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of a changing northern climate on infrastructure.

The GNWT is committed to providing a work environment where every employee is treated with fairness, dignity and respect. Staff are empowered to make progress on GNWT climate change actions as they are a priority of GNWT leadership and at all levels of the GNWT.

The GNWT has prioritized climate change action in all departments through the development and implementation of the 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework and Action Plan, as well as the 2030 Energy Strategy.

Interdepartmental working groups at all levels meet regularly to share information and make progress on the GNWT's climate change commitments, which are publicly reported annually.

There are several highlights to report from 2020-2021:

- Invested over \$115 million in energy actions and initiatives under since 2018 to reduce emissions and reduce the cost of energy of residents, businesses and communities across the NWT.
- The GNWT and its partners implemented 57 of the 63 (90%) of the actions under the Energy Action Plan.
- As of 2020-21, under 2030 Energy Strategy actions and initiatives, GHG emissions have been reduced by 17 kilotonnes since the strategy was implemented in 2018.
- As a result of these actions, we estimate that by 2025 the GNWT will have reduced emissions by 46 kilotonnes as a direct result of its investments, and this will save Northerners over \$77 million in energy costs over the eight-year period between 2018 to 2025.
- Construction of the Inuvik Wind Project began in the winter of 2022. Once it is operating, this single 3.5-megawatt wind turbine and battery storage system will offset approximately three million litres of diesel per year and reduce GHG emissions by 6,000 tonnes annually.
- The GNWT has secured up to \$45 million in funding from the Government of Canada, alongside \$15 million in GNWT funding for the construction of the Fort-Providence-Kakisa Transmission Line. This project would reduce GHG emissions by 2.75 kilotonnes annually.
- Through the Capital Asset Retrofit Program, which is designed to deliver energy efficiency projects to GNWT buildings to reduce GHG emissions, energy use and operating costs, projects completed in the 2020-2021 fiscal year reduced GHG emissions by 2,013 tonnes. Since the program was created in 2007, it's reduced GHG emissions by 16.9 kilotonnes.
- Funding provided by the GNWT through the federal Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund to the Arctic Energy Alliance (AEA) in 2020-2021 allowed AEA to provide more and bigger rebates and initiatives. This resulted in the AEA giving out about 1,000 more rebates than in 2019-2020 and reduced clients' electricity usage by 1,900 megawatt hours and GHG emissions by 1,300 tonnes.
- The GNWT's Greenhouse Gas Grant Program approved three projects in 2020-2021 that will reduce GHG emissions by an estimated 1,029 tonnes per year.

The GNWT is currently developing the 2022-2025 Energy Action Plan, which will replace the 2019-2022 Energy Action Plan. This plan lays out multi-year government actions and initiatives designed to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Energy Strategy.

The updated action plan will build on current projects and initiatives and continue successful programs, as well as include new activities that will reduce emissions and support secure, affordable and sustainable energy in the NWT. The 2022-2025 Energy Action Plan will include a review of the 2030 Energy Strategy, and will include modeling of the technical and financial feasibility of GHG reduction pathways up to and beyond 2030.