

Update: **Climate Change Action Plan**

November 2011

The Climate Change Secretariat co-ordinates effective implementation of the *Climate Change Action Plan* by working with Yukon government departments and with partners external to YG. The secretariat also monitors and reports on climate change progress.

IMPLEMENTATION HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2011:

Adapting to climate change by identifying needs, opportunities and priorities

- The Department of Highways and Public Works completed a three year infrastructure vulnerability assessment of YG buildings in areas where permafrost is thawing, in partnership with the Yukon Geological Survey and Aboriginal and Northern Development Canada (AANDC). The Yukon Geological Survey also created an inventory of permafrost information to help those active in permafrost related work and research activities. permafrost.gov.yk.ca
- The Water Resources Branch of Environment Yukon, with AANDC funding, completed a water resources risk and vulnerability assessment. This identified current and forecasted water resource issues due to climate change. The new web-based information tool, YukonWater, provides water users with easy access to water data to help them plan for a changing hydrologic regime. yukonwater.ca
- The Forest Management Branch of Energy, Mines and Resources completed a Yukon forest tree species and vulnerability assessment in partnership with AANDC. This information will help decision makers understand the risks associated with changing forests due to climate change.
- The Community Climate Change Adaptation Project was piloted to help Whitehorse, Mayo and Dawson prepare for climate change. It evaluates their vulnerabilities as well as developing plans to adapt to climate change challenges or opportunities. This work was funded by YG, through the Northern Strategy Trust Fund, and led by the Northern Climate ExChange at Yukon College. taiga.net/nce/adaptation/projects.html

Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by promoting and supporting action

- In its *Climate Change Action Plan*, the Yukon government committed to a GHG emissions cap equal to its 2010 GHG emissions. The Climate Change Secretariat collected and calculated YG's 2010 energy and fuel consumption data and submitted it to 'The Climate Registry' for third party verification. Once the 2010 level is confirmed, the secretariat will track YG's GHG emissions from internal government

operations and activities against it and work towards future targets (20% less than 2010 by 2015, carbon neutral by 2020). Annual reports will communicate progress on meeting YG’s GHG emissions targets.

- All YG departments and agencies now follow the Green Procurement Policy put in place in June 2010. They must incorporate environmental performance considerations into their purchasing decisions (goods, construction and services).
- An Environmental Stewardship Initiative helped reduce GHG emissions in schools and other facilities operated by the Department of Education. Activities included: a waste diversion pilot project at two Whitehorse schools; purchasing software to optimize school bus routes and reduce emissions; and buying and using new energy efficient lighting for three Whitehorse schools. The design for the new F.H. Collins Secondary School building will use LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards to conserve energy and reduce water consumption
- The Yukon Housing Corporation now uses GreenHome energy efficiency standards for all its new residential construction -- home heating costs are much lower.

Leading Yukon Action in Response to Climate Change

- Work on a Yukon-wide GHG emissions target began with the help of both a Technical Working Group and an Advisory Group comprised of stakeholders from government, industry and private sector. The secretariat and working groups are looking at Yukon’s economic and social trends in order to forecast future GHG emission levels. Federal partners are helping to ensure the national GHG Inventory is accurate and consistent for Yukon. This work recognizes the environmental, social and economic realities of Yukon.
- The *Climate Change Information and Mainstreaming Program*, developed by the Climate Change Secretariat and Northern Climate ExChange, helps managers incorporate climate change considerations into their decisions. Since the program began in 2010, over 55 government employees have participated in the Decision Making for Climate Change course and two government departments have taken advantage of project support
- Environment Yukon hosted a youth engagement forum in 2011 for taking action on climate change. These annual forums (five since 2007) provide Yukon youth with an opportunity to learn about climate change and to get involved in climate change action in their community

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