

## Setting New Greenhouse Gas Emission Targets

The 2007-2011 NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy includes a commitment by the GNWT to review progress and set longer-term targets beyond 2011.

Current international discussions to reduce global emissions are leading to a target preventing overall global temperatures from rising more than 2° C. Scientists believe this will require reducing global emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050.

The GNWT recognizes it has a responsibility to contribute to emissions reduction since the NWT is one area feeling the consequences of climate change. However, NWT emissions are a small fraction of total global emissions. Currently, there is no international agreement or national plan to help define a possible territorial target. It remains up to the people of the NWT to determine our target.

The following are current greenhouse gas targets in other Canadian jurisdictions:

- **Canada** – 17 percent below 2005 by 2020 (national target)
- **British Columbia** – 33 percent below 2007 by 2020; 55 percent below 2007 by 2050 (provincial target)
- **Ontario** – six percent below 1990 by 2014; 15 percent below 1990 by 2020; 80 percent below 1990 by 2050 (provincial target)
- **Alberta** – 25 percent above 2005 by 2020; 14 percent below 2005 by 2050 (provincial target)
- **Yukon** – Yukon Government target only: cap emissions in 2010; reduce by 20 percent by 2015; become carbon neutral by 2020
- **Nunavut** – does not have a territorial target

Many actions underway in the NWT will lead to continued emission reductions in future years. These actions are now being evaluated. Understanding the achievements of these reductions during the next few years could help define a practical short-term goal. ENR is analyzing these actions during the renewal of the Greenhouse Gas Strategy to come up with a total for the expected reductions.

Longer-term goals can help set policy direction and drive goals without knowing if they can be met. Other Canadian jurisdictions have developed a combination of short, interim and long-term targets.

**Should we be setting GNWT targets or NWT targets?**

**Should the targets be short term, long term or a combination?**

# Renewing the Northwest Territories Greenhouse Gas Strategy 2011-2015



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It has been suggested that targets for specific actions may be more appropriate than setting NWT-wide emission standards. For example, wood and wood pellets currently provide about 10 percent of the total energy used for heating in the NWT. A target in the 2011-2015 Greenhouse Gas Strategy could be to double it and have 20 percent of heating energy come from wood by 2015.

**Do you think sector-specific targets are a better approach than setting NWT-wide targets?**

**Do you think an approach that combines sector-specific targets and NWT-wide targets should be considered?**

### We Need Your Input

We invite you to send any comments, questions or concerns about the renewal of the Northwest Territories Greenhouse Gas Strategy to:

Climate Change Unit  
Environment Division  
Environment and  
Natural Resources  
Government of the NWT  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Phone: (867) 873-7654  
Fax: (867) 873-0221  
E-mail: [climatechange@gov.nt.ca](mailto:climatechange@gov.nt.ca)

To arrange a meeting in your community on the renewal of the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy for 2011-2015, call (867) 873-7654.

**Please submit all comments by April 30, 2011.**

More information on the Northwest Territories Greenhouse Gas Strategy is available on-line at [www.nwtclimatechange.ca](http://www.nwtclimatechange.ca)