

Tracking Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Current Emissions Target

In 2007, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) adopted a target to reduce emissions from its government operations by 10 percent below the 2001 emissions level by 2011.

GNWT emissions in 2001 were 53.6 kilotonnes. By 2006, GNWT emissions had increased by eight percent to 58.2 kilotonnes.

Since 2007, the GNWT has funded several greenhouse gas emission saving projects with its operations. These include:

- Replacement of heating oil boilers with wood pellet boiler and the electrification of heat load in several public buildings such as schools, health centres and the Legislative Assembly.
- Retrofitting of GNWT buildings through the Capital Asset Retrofit Fund. Retrofits are expected to reduce energy use in GNWT buildings by 15 percent.

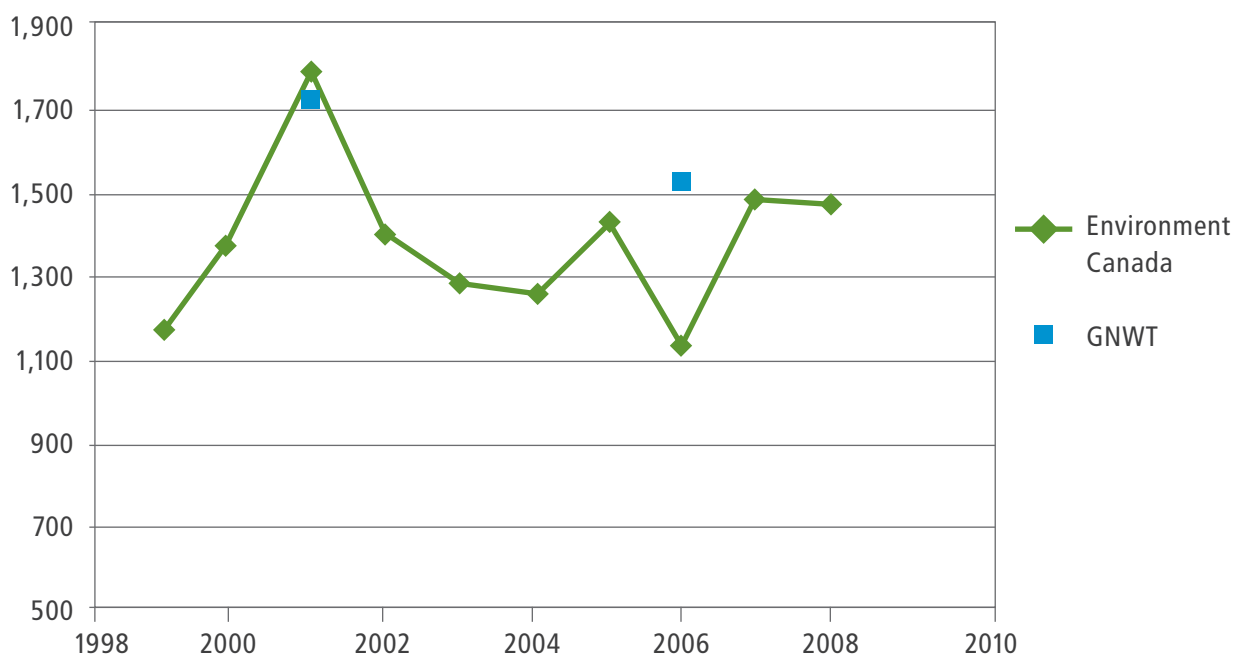
Current emission reduction projects and projects planned for 2011 indicate the GNWT will meet its 10 percent reduction target by the end of 2011. GNWT greenhouse gas emissions during 2011 are being tracked. 2011 emissions will be reported through protocols established by The Climate Registry, including third-party verification.

NWT Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Emissions from all activities in the Northwest Territories (NWT) have averaged below 1,500 kilotonnes since 1999. NWT emissions can vary on an annual basis depending on a number of factors, including a colder heating year or the number of construction projects using more heavy equipment. Although economic activity has increased during the past 10 years, general improvements in energy efficiency and greater use of hydroelectricity and natural gas have helped keep emissions from increasing.

Greenhouse gas emissions in the NWT make up about 0.3 percent of total Canadian emissions. However, the national per capita average is 22 tonnes CO_{2e} per year, while the NWT average is 36 tonnes. Northerners use more energy due to long, cold and dark winters and the very small population dispersed over vast distances. The main industries in the NWT, which includes mineral and oil and gas development, also use a lot of energy.

NWT Emissions Trends (1999-2008)



Data source:
GNWT inventories
and Environment
Canada

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NWT Emissions Trends by Sector (1999-2008)



Data source:
GNWT inventories
and Environment
Canada

Note: In 2001, Giant Mine in Yellowknife was still operating and Paramount Resources K-.29 gas well came on line, so emissions were high. Total emissions have declined since 2001. Spikes in emissions occur in years when a lot of heavy equipment is operated for large construction projects.

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

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

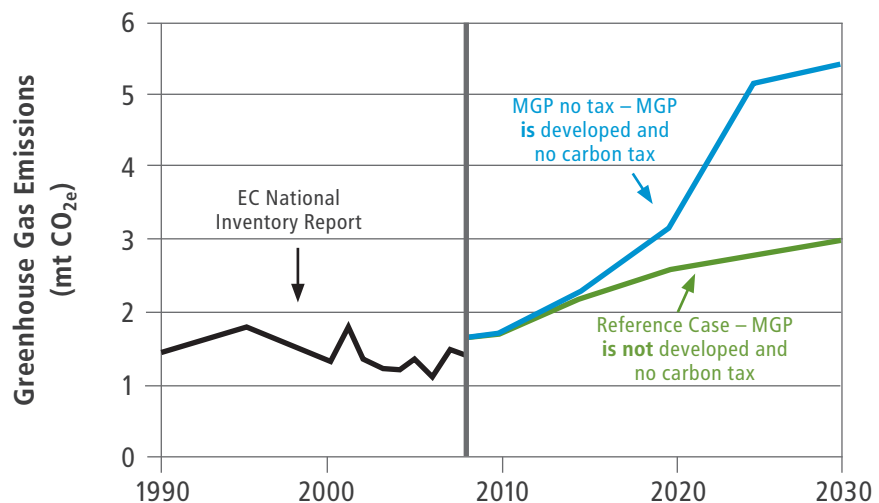
Projected Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the NWT

Emissions in the NWT are projected to rise to more than 2,500 kilotonnes by 2030, if the economy continues to grow. The Mackenzie Gas Project, should it proceed, would add to NWT emissions.

Total NWT emissions are projected to rise steadily after 2020, reaching 4,400 kilotonnes by 2030. These projections are based on the assumption that mining projects now in the advanced planning stages are built and no new the measures to control emissions are implemented.

Projected Emissions from the Northwest Territories

The anticipated rise in greenhouse gas emissions reflects the NWT role as an energy and mineral supplier. The projections do not include measures to reduce emissions.



Data source: Mark Jaccard and Associates (2011), *An Exploration into the Impact of Carbon Pricing in the Northwest Territories*.

Measures to reduce emissions include actions to improve energy efficiency and increase the use of local renewable energy. These actions can also reduce the cost of living, especially if they reduce dependence on imported diesel fuel. Residents, industry and businesses are already motivated to conserve energy due to high energy prices and overall cost of living.