

Greenhouse gases created by human activity are changing the climate. This is a global problem. In the Northwest Territories, our climate is warming faster than the rest of Canada and will accelerate until Canada and the rest of the world change the way we produce and use energy. Northwest Territories

residents now face thawing permafrost, sea level rise, coastal erosion, melting winter roads, plants and animals moving north and difficulties accessing

traditional foods. We need well-planned and meaningful actions to lower the greenhouse gases we create, and we need them now.



Framework for the Future

Local, territorial and provincial, Canadian and international governments are all developing and adopting new initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Government of the Northwest Territories will continue to be a part of the conversation and identify which options will shift the Northwest Territories towards a low-carbon economy. We will continue to implement our own northern approach to compel effective action now, while efficiently minimizing costs on households and businesses. Three policy options that have been implemented successfully in other jurisdictions and outlined in the Strategy are carbon pricing, renewable portfolio standards and energy efficiency standards.

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A Greenhouse Gas Strategy

for the Northwest Territories

2011-2015



Environment and Natural Resources

A Greenhouse Gas Strategy for the NWT 2011-2015

identifies actions in every sector that industry, communities and governments can take.

The Strategy is the result of extensive consultations with Aboriginal and community governments, residents, industry representatives and researchers. In addition to a multi-stakeholder meeting held in Yellowknife on January 31, 2011, public consultations in April and May of 2011 were held in 12 small communities and urban centres in every region of the Northwest Territories.

We heard that the people who live here want action on climate change. We heard that many people are taking their own actions and believe more needs to be done at all levels. The 2011-2015 Strategy is the product of the views and values voiced by those who live here.

The people we heard across the Northwest Territories developed these principles to guide the Strategy and Government of the Northwest Territories:

1. Northerners are empowered to address a shared responsibility to take action on climate change.
2. Northerners take real action to improve the well-being of the environment and their health in ways that help reduce the cost of living.
3. Northerners maximize the economic opportunities created by shifting to local low-carbon energy sources.
4. The GNWT delivers programs and designs policies reflecting the needs and priorities of residents, communities, local and regional governments and industry.
5. GNWT programs are transparent and results are measurable.
6. The NWT collaborates with other territorial, provincial, national and international jurisdictions to coordinate action on climate change.



The Opportunity

Like the rest of Canada and the world, we need to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. This is a big task, and one that has enormous potential for our economy. Action now will allow us to strengthen our economy by making the most of our natural resources and stimulating green investment, green innovation and green jobs. We have a rich history of adaptation and innovation. We are experienced in designing our homes and businesses to be efficient, and are finding new ways to use our rivers, forests, sun and wind to make clean energy.

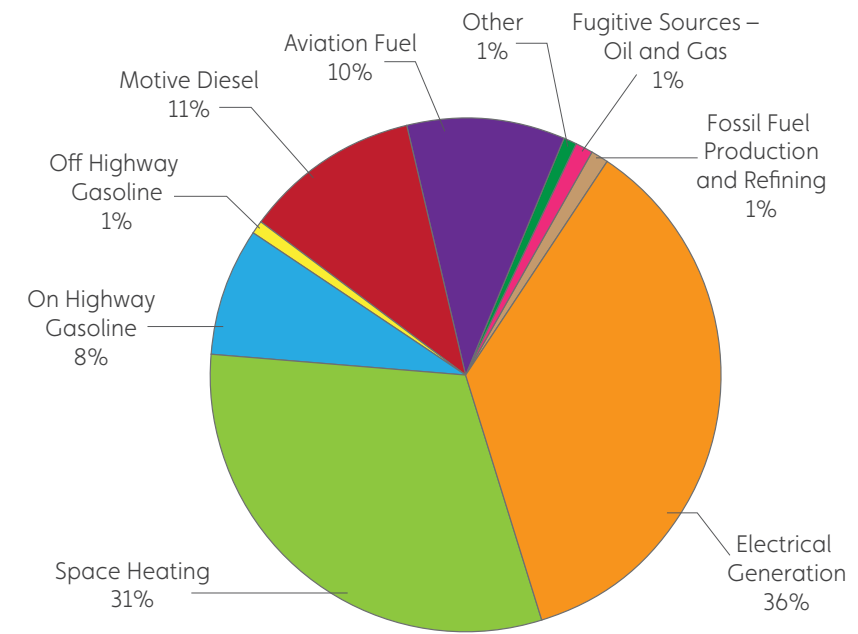
But, if we stay dependant on fossil fuels, the Northwest Territories economy will continue to be impacted by global markets, our cost of living will increase with higher fuel prices and greenhouse gas emissions will continue to soar. The 2011-2015 Strategy outlines a path for a prosperous and sustainable future where the Northwest Territories can achieve success in the new low-carbon economy.

Northwest Territories Greenhouse Gas Emission Targets

- Stabilize emissions at 2005 levels (1,500 Kt) by 2015.
- Limit emissions increases to 66 percent above 2005 levels (2,500 Kt) by 2020.
- Return emissions to 2005 levels (1,500 Kt) by 2030.

In the next 20 years, greenhouse gas emissions in the Northwest Territories are expected to grow faster than anywhere else in Canada. But this growth can be controlled with the right actions to stimulate energy efficiency and green energy development.

NWT 2009/10 GHG Emissions by Sources



The sources of emissions in the Northwest Territories are derived from Government of the Northwest Territories internal data.