



NWT Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

Greenhouse gas emissions are increasing global temperatures and causing climate change. These gasses, released mostly from burning fossil fuels, are measured as tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e).

The 2011-2015 NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy set an emissions target of approximately 1,657 kt (kilotonnes) CO₂e, which is a return to 2005 levels by 2030.

In 2014, the NWT's emissions were below this target, at 1,531 kt CO₂e.

On an absolute basis, the NWT's total emissions are low, less than 1% of Canada's total emissions. Despite this, on a per-capita basis, the NWT is the third highest emitter in Canada, at 33 tonnes per person.

Canada recently committed to a 30% reduction from 2005 levels by 2030, enlisting the support of Canadian provinces and territories in meeting this target. If the NWT decides to accept a similar target, our emissions will need to be reduced to 1,160 kt CO₂e by 2030.

Setting a suitable emissions target can be complicated. It involves making projections about the NWT's future economic activity, future energy needs and our capacity to adopt innovative practices and new technologies to reduce our use of fossil fuels for key activities such as heating, transportation and power generation.

The NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework (CCSF) will explore an updated emissions target for the NWT.

