



NWT Small Air Quality Sensors

Community Based Air Monitoring Project



The GNWT has added a new type of air monitor to the air quality program. These small sensors are easy to install, and the data is easily accessible.



How can I get involved?

Provided by Environment and Climate Change Canada, the sensors are easy to operate – all you need is Wi-Fi and a power connection. The GNWT will give you a monitor for free and teach you how to setup and use the sensor.

What will these new sensors measure?

These sensors will monitor fine particulate matter (PM2.5) from wildfire smoke, vehicle emissions, and industrial activities in the air throughout the year. The small size of the airborne particles means they can cause breathing issues, headaches, or eye, nose or throat irritation.

Why do we need this data?

It will help communities make decisions regarding when to stay indoors, or when to reduce activities if the air quality is deteriorating (due to wildfire smoke, for example).

The air quality can change quickly during extreme events such as wildfires and can be further impacted by weather conditions, and these sensors will ensure every community has immediate access to air quality information.

Don't we already measure our air quality?

We already have air quality monitoring stations in Inuvik, Norman Wells, Fort Smith, Yellowknife and Fort Simpson. While these stations provide a lot of information, they are more expensive to run and require special training to operate.

These small sensors are an easily installed, easy-to-use alternative to measure real-time air quality in communities that don't have those stations and will collect even more data in communities that do.

To sign up for a sensor contact:
airquality@gov.nt.ca | (867) 445-3152