

COLLABORATION
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SOLUTIONS

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TERRITORIES
YUKON
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YUKON AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Objectives/priorities

- The Yukon government's Climate Change Action Plan is based on four goals important to effective climate change action in Yukon:
 - » Enhance our knowledge and understanding of climate change.
 - » Improve our ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
 - » Reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.
 - » Lead Yukon action in response to climate change.
- The Yukon government committed in 2009 to reducing GHG emissions from its internal operations: cap GHG emissions to 2010 levels, reduce emissions by 20% by 2015, and work towards becoming carbon neutral by 2020. The Yukon government in 2012 established emission targets in the following sectors: electricity, building and energy efficiency, industrial and transportation.
- The Yukon government is taking action to ensure that adaptation research and innovation projects deliver lasting positive benefits for Yukoners as the effects of climate change are felt intensely in Canada's north.

Highlights/measures/actions

- Progress made over the last five years on adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change includes:
 - » Co-leading Canadian action on the Arctic Adaptation Exchange, an on-line information portal that enables the sharing of climate change adaptation information across the Arctic.
 - » Growing adaptation efforts to include projects in the areas of: ecosystem changes; flood risk mapping; predicting the impacts of mountain pine beetle; and examining the impact of thawing permafrost on agriculture, the North Alaska Highway, and Yukon water systems.
 - » Reporting internal government GHG emissions data annually through The Climate Registry, and working across government to identify and implement emission reduction opportunities.

Opportunities for sustainable economic development

- Growing the tourism industry, including ecotourism.
- Security and growth of Yukon-based agriculture, with a focus on economically viable farms.
- Growth of the knowledge sector, including research projects such as permafrost thaw.
- Reducing energy costs for homeowners through programs which support renovating existing homes or building new super-insulated homes in order to achieve greater energy savings, as well as rebates which incentivise the purchase of high efficiency wood stoves, boilers, and pellet stoves.
- Infrastructure activities including Next Generation Hydro and the Independent Power Production policy.

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