

# NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

COLLABORATION  
LEADERSHIP  
**VISION**  
INNOVATION  
SOLUTIONS

ONTARIO  
QUÉBEC  
NOVA  
SCOTIA  
NEW BRUNSWICK  
MANITOBA  
BRITISH-  
COLUMBIA  
PRINCE EDWARD  
ISLAND  
SASKATCHEWAN  
ALBERTA  
NEWFOUNDLAND  
AND LABRADOR  
**NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES**  
YUKON  
NUNAVUT

## Objectives/priorities

- The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) supports global and local actions to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and remains committed to working with federal, provincial and territorial governments to reduce national greenhouse gas emissions.
- The NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy (2011) establishes a target of stabilizing emissions at 2005 levels by 2015.
- Significant warming of the northern climate in the last few decades has required all levels of society to take steps to adapt to problems caused by warming such as melting of permafrost and failure of foundations under infrastructure.

## Highlights/measures/actions

- The NWT Solar Energy Strategy and the Biomass Energy Strategy have identified measures to allow increased use of renewable energy. These initiatives compliment hydro-electric generation for the larger communities in the southern part of the Territory.
- Work is underway to renew the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy for 2015 to ensure actions in the NWT remain coordinated with those taken by federal, provincial and territorial governments and support global actions to reduce emissions.
- Considerable efforts are already underway by a number of government departments, communities and industry to address the impacts of climate change being experienced. The GNWT will prepare a Climate Change Adaptation Framework to describe these actions and identify measures to support actions needed to adapt to a warming climate.

## Opportunities for sustainable economic development

- The NWT leads other Canadian jurisdictions in the installation of institutional wood pellet fired boilers. Using wood pellets for heat has allowed the GNWT to reduce emissions from its operations by 10% below 2001 emissions level by 2011 and sustain those reductions. It has also supported the growth of a new industry to install and maintain boilers and provide a stable supply of pellets. As consumption of wood pellets increases, this is creating the conditions for establishing a forest industry to produce our own pellets in small remote communities where unemployment rates have historically remained stubbornly high.
- Expansion of the hydro-electric grid to provide transmission capacity to additional communities as well as remote diamond mines is considered technically feasible but the cost of this opportunity exceeds the current investment capacity of the GNWT.