



Responding to climate change in the NWT



Wildfire burning near Whati in July 2014

As temperatures in the North continue to rise faster than in the rest of the world, residents of the Northwest Territories (NWT) are increasingly concerned about the effects of climate change.

Important climate change impacts include:

- Increasing permafrost thaw
- Greater coastal and river erosion
- Changing ice conditions and longer ice-free seasons
- Increasing risk of wildfires
- New mammal, bird, insect and fish species moving north

These impacts can have negative effects on the health, well-being and safety of residents, their culture and heritage, the territory's infrastructure and the viability of certain economic activities.

Taking strong action to address climate change in the NWT is necessary to mitigate these impacts.

The 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework (May 2018), outlines how the territory plans to respond to challenges and opportunities associated with a changing climate. Along with the 2030 Energy Strategy, the Strategic Framework supports Canada in meeting its international commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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The 2019-2023 Climate Change Action Plan (April 2019) is the first of two five-year action plans to implement the 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework. The actions focus on:

- Using less fossil fuel in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Improving knowledge of climate change impacts, including traditional, local and scientific knowledge
- Building resilience and adapting to climate change
- Improving leadership, communication and capacity
- Considering economic impacts and opportunities

Comments received during focused engagement and public reviews were carefully considered during the development of the Strategic Framework and Action Plan. Input was provided by Indigenous governments, community governments, federal departments, non-government organizations, industry, co-management boards and academics.



ENR Tundra Science Camp

Coordination and collaboration with Indigenous and community governments will be key as the NWT strives to become a leader in climate change adaptation. It will continue to be important to seek funding from the federal government and others to support the Action Plan and address our unique challenges and the significant climate change impacts felt in the territory.

If you have questions about climate change adaptation initiatives, funding programs, community hazard mapping or other climate change concerns, please contact the Department of Environment and Natural Resources at climatechange@gov.nt.ca or (867) 767-9236.

For general information or to read the 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework and 2019-2023 Climate Change Action Plan, visit our website: www.enr.gov.ca/en/services/climate-change.

For information about reducing greenhouse gas emissions through renewable and alternative energy solutions, read the 2030 Energy Strategy and 2018-2021 Energy Action Plan at www.nwtenergy.ca or contact the Department of Infrastructure at nwtenergy@gov.nt.ca or (867) 767-9021.