

## Climate Change Adaptation Mitigation and Actions

- The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) continues to implement actions identified in its Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy to increase energy efficiency, renewable energy use and identify new clean sources of renewable energy in the Northwest Territories (NWT).
- The most recent inventory shows that in 2013, GHG emissions from the NWT remain below the 2015 target to keep emissions stable at 2005 levels.
- Emissions from GNWT activities continue to be well below 2001 levels.
- Progress on the implementation of the GHG Strategy will be reviewed in 2015 and a new climate change plan will be prepared to ensure adaptation and mitigation actions taken in the NWT remain consistent with national and international actions
- National and international discussions about efforts to control global GHG emissions are ongoing and there remains considerable negotiation about levels of ambition and targets nations will be willing to meet after 2015.
- Following United Nations climate change negotiations in Lima, Peru in 2014, Canada submitted its “Intended Nationally Determined Contribution” (INDC) in May 2015, pledging to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030.
- The GNWT has established a four-year climate change adaptation funding partnership agreement with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), starting in 2012-13 through to 2015-16, in the amount of \$500,000 per year.
- Projects funded through the partnership include:
  - NWT Mountain Pine Beetle Vulnerability Assessment;
  - Hazardous Waste Risk Assessment;
  - Terrain Mapping and Community Heritage Resource Management Assessment led by Education, Culture and Employment and the Centre for Geomatics;
  - Integrating climate change in the Territorial Emergency Plan, including adaptation lessons learned from the 2014 fire season;
  - Building Vulnerability led by Public Works and Services;
  - Mapping of Permafrost Displacement led by Centre for Geomatics;
  - Community Government Climate Change Course; and,
  - Community Wildfire Resilience, led by Forest Management, Environment and Natural Resources (ENR).

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**Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:**

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Tel: (867) 669-2308 • Fax: (867) 873-0111

- The AANDC partnership has allowed the GNWT to access \$280,000 per year of RADARSAT-2 satellite imagery for permafrost mapping at no cost.
- The GNWT is completing a pilot of the Climate Infrastructure Forensic Analysis System (CIFAS) with GNWT infrastructure departments and contractor Risk Sciences International. CIFAS is a spatial database that allows infrastructure failures to be related to climate, providing future recommendations for codes and standards.
- The GNWT is completing inventories of permafrost mapping and climate monitoring.
- The GNWT is working with partners (Yukon College, Risk Sciences International and the International Institute for Sustainable Development) to complete an economic analysis of climate change adaptations for the Tibbitt to Contwoyto winter road. The analysis includes a Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee risk assessment and the generation of climate change scenarios for the road.
- The GNWT is working with Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Saskatchewan for the use of the Cold Regions Hydrologic Model in the NWT as an adaptation tool to predict stream discharge with different climate change scenarios.
- The GNWT is finalizing a draft Memorandum of Understanding with the Water Survey of Canada (WSC) to add climate stations in the NWT by installing temperature and precipitation instruments at stream gauging stations.
- The GNWT is participating in Natural Resource Canada's national "Adaptation Platform", a collaboration of government, industry and professions bringing expertise and resources together to address climate change adaptation issues. The GNWT is a member of the Plenary, the overall coordinating body for the platform, as well as technical working groups for the north, forests and coastal issues.
- The GNWT is working with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) to develop water management adaptation tools.
- The GNWT is collaborating with the University of Alaska to produce site specific climate change scenarios for NWT communities.
- The GNWT is collaborating with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Landscape Conservation Collaboratives (LCC) in Alaska. Alaska LCCs boundaries include the NWT and allow the NWT to benefit from climate change science, mapping and modeling that will support adaptation decision making.
- The GNWT is participating in the new Changing Cold Regions Research Network (CCRN), a research partnership investigating the role of climate change in influencing hydrological and ecosystem change in cold regions of Canada.

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- The GNWT has prepared a Climate Observations Report for release in summer 2015 based on temperature and precipitation records from Inuvik, Norman Wells, Yellowknife and Fort Smith.

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