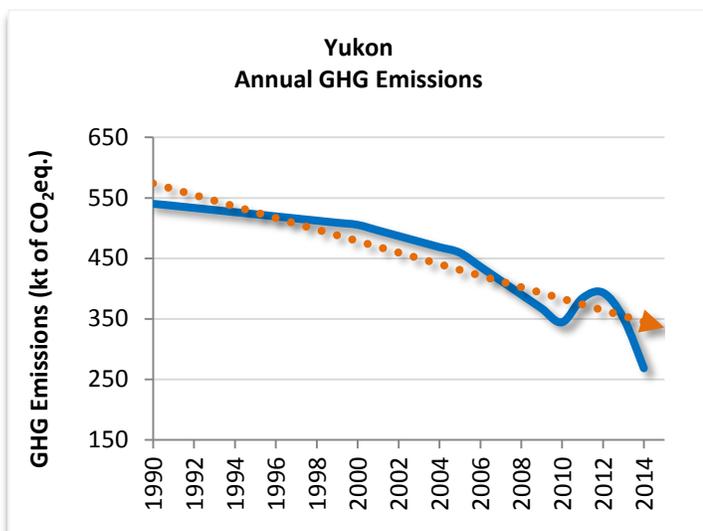


## One Million Climate Jobs Challenge for Canada: Lowering Emissions and Creating Jobs in Yukon

The local impacts of climate change are already apparent in Yukon. During the past 50 years, the average temperature in Yukon has increased by 2°C and increased by 4°C in the winter. Temperatures in Yukon are predicted to increase by an additional 2°C over the next 50 years.

Scientific research, traditional knowledge, and personal experience demonstrate that climate change is already influencing life in Yukon. Observable changes include increased frequency of extreme weather patterns, thinner sea ice, earlier and faster sea ice break-up, melting permafrost, and changes in wildlife distribution patterns. These changes are already having profound impacts for people living in Yukon, and these changes particularly impact the traditional activities of First Nations people.



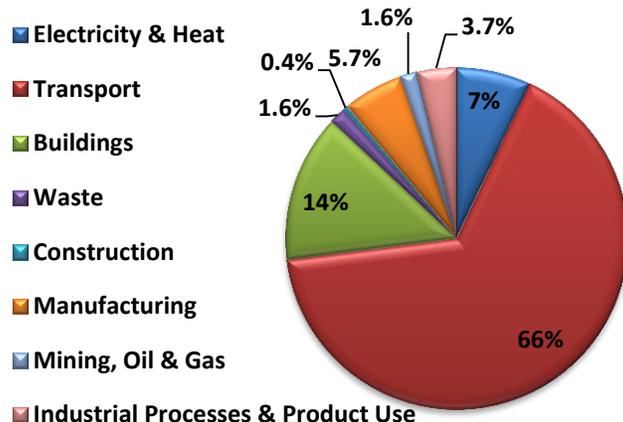
Targeted public investments in energy efficiency and building retrofits, renewable energy, and public and active transportation will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and create jobs for Yukoners.

### Emissions

- The Yukon *Government Climate Change Action Plan* (2009) set a target to reduce GHG emissions from internal government operations by 20% by 2015 and to become carbon neutral by 2020; and
- The Yukon government has also set nine sector-specific targets in key areas for emission reductions, including transportation, buildings, electricity, and industrial operations.

For references and additional information, please see <http://greeneconomy.net.ca/>

**GHG Emissions for Yukon  
by Sector (2014)**



### Energy Efficiency and Conservation

Energy security and the energy efficiency of buildings, particularly homes, is a concern in the territories. The quality of housing in the North is also a concern because incidences of non-compliance with building codes and standards pose a threat to human health and well-being. Additionally, in many areas in the North, housing has not been designed and constructed to suit northern realities and lifestyles and therefore may not accommodate the needs of Northerners or be suited for the northern environment.

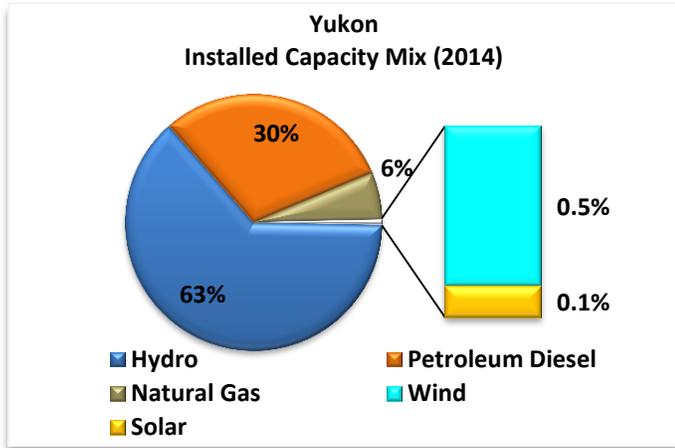
There are major opportunities to create employment by investing in renovating existing housing stock for energy efficiency and conservation, as well as for adaptation to the changing climate. These investments will also decrease GHG emissions and lower utility costs in response to energy savings, freeing up capital and discretionary income. There are also opportunities to create jobs and reduce emissions in the construction of new homes and buildings.

Budget 2017 committed \$24 million to Yukon over the next 11 years to support northern housing by helping territorial governments offset the higher cost of construction in the North. These investments could be an opportunity to dramatically increase the energy efficiency and climate change resiliency of new buildings, resulting in energy cost savings over time.

- 45% of homes were built before 1980 and 56% of homes require energy efficiency retrofits; and
- In 2016, Yukon adopted new energy efficiency standards for new homes and renovations which requires builders to meet an EnerGuide rating of 78 out of 100 for energy efficiency.

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The Good Energy Program, which is run through the Yukon government's Energy Solutions Centre, promotes energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy systems in Yukon's homes and businesses. The program includes rebates for energy efficiency retrofits, rebates for energy assessments, and rebates for energy efficiency appliances. However, Yukon does not have energy efficiency programs for renters or grants for low-income families to increase their energy efficiency and decrease their utility costs.



### Renewable Energy

**The 2017 Federal Budget committed \$641.4 million to reduce reliance on diesel for rural, remote, northern, and Indigenous communities. This total includes \$400 million in an Arctic Energy Fund to address energy security for communities north of the 60th parallel, including Indigenous communities, and \$21.4 million to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to continue the Northern Responsible Energy Approach for Community Heat and Electricity Program to reduce reliance on diesel and support the deployment of renewable energy projects. In combination with the right policies, these investments could offer an enormous opportunity for skills development, training, and local jobs.**

In 2016, The Government of Yukon and the Canadian Geothermal Energy Association released a report on the potential for geothermal energy in Yukon. According to their studies, Yukon's geothermal potential could be more than 1,700 MW of energy. This is equivalent to 18 times the current energy supplied by Yukon's renewable electrical system (90 MW). In addition, geothermal systems connected to greenhouse projects can increase the possibility of growing crops year-round, providing increased food security.

In Yukon, First Nations communities are demonstrating that renewables make sense above the Arctic Circle. The community of Old Crow (Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation) has plans for a large-scale solar project that could offset 17% of the community's total diesel use. There is also potential for wind power. The Kluane (Burwash Landing/

Destruction Bay) First Nation in the southwestern Yukon will be installing a wind power generation project in 2018. The project is expected to offset the community's diesel use by 21%.

Yukon also has a Micro-generation Program to enable individuals and businesses to offset their electrical consumption by installing renewable energy technologies to their homes and businesses while remaining connected to Yukon's electrical grid. Yukoners save money on monthly electrical bills and receive an annual reimbursement for surplus electricity exported to the grid.

### Public and Active Transit

The City of Whitehorse has developed a 25 year plan to achieve a target of 50% of commuters choosing public and active transit or car-pooling. Currently, 83% of commuters in Whitehorse travel by personal automobile.

There are also ways to reduce personal transportation-related emissions from smaller communities. For example, the Teslin Tlingit Council is purchasing a 28-seat passenger bus to replace the current aging bus. The bus will have an accessibility ramp and accommodate two wheelchairs. The bus will help reduce the number of vehicles on the road and decrease air pollution, especially as many of the trips will be to Whitehorse.

The 2016 Federal Budget allocated \$890 million in funding for Yukon to improve and expand public transit systems. Investments in public and active modes of transportation can alleviate poverty and inequality by ensuring more equitable access to health services, education, recreation, and employment, including the employment opportunities that are created through the creation and expansion of transit services.

### Building a More Equitable and Sustainable Future

**The environmental changes and impacts we are already seeing today are projected to continue into the future. We need a collaborative and comprehensive approach to reduce GHG emissions and ensure that we are fostering resilient communities. We must also strive to reduce poverty and inequality through public investments to mitigate and adapt to climate change in Yukon.**

**The incidence of poverty is higher in the North, where the divide between low-income households and top earners is more pronounced in the territories than in the provinces. Investments in energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy and public and active transit can help to alleviate poverty and inequality, while also creating employment and lowering GHG emissions. We must also ensure that workers in carbon-intensive industries are supported in this transition. Let's work together to put this plan for Yukoners into action, create decent jobs, and build a better future.**