

Re-Energizing the NWT Energy Plan



March 6, 2014

Standing Committee on Economic
Development and Infrastructure

2013 Energy Plan

- We like:
 - The emphasis on energy efficiency and renewables
 - A commitment to develop performance indicators
 - Testing Smart Grid Technology
 - Reviewing an *Energy Efficiency Act*
 - Supporting community energy loan programs

One Public Housing Tenant's Perspective

2013 Energy Plan

- Some of our concerns:
 - Subsidies remain the key tool for both energy use and for introduction of renewables
 - Subsidies for energy can bury the price signal and could encourage increased consumption
 - Subsidies can be costly and ineffective and take away from other key government programs
 - In some cases, certain subsidies should be increased
 - No new resources for energy literacy

Types of Energy Consumers

A	Willing to change/invest
B	Interested and willing to change in the right situation
C	Unable or disinterested in changing

2013 Energy Plan

- How do we develop a culture of conservation?
 - Increase energy literacy
 - Don't bury the price signal
 - Improve existing subsidy programs
 - Use regulations
- We need to get more people on side

Green Schools



Public Housing tenants pay a portion of their fuel bills

- Tenants currently pay \$.09 kW/h for electricity
- Could be tried in detached units with own fuel tanks
- Would only pay a small portion of the bill and would be deducted off the base rent
- Would increase accountability for energy efficiency/energy use
- Could also award prizes for low use.

Territorial Power Support Program

- Subsidizes power use up to 1000 kW/h per month from September through March
- Subsidizes power use from April to August up to 600 kW/h per month
- During these summer months, let's gradually reduce this threshold to something closer to 300 kW/h per month

Regional Energy Tax Credit

- Large spread in energy prices throughout the NWT
- Federal and territorial cost of the living credits are the same across the board
- People in the private sector may not benefit from government programs
- An energy tax credit should be geared to low-income families in communities with high energy costs

A new subsidy program

- Climate and Energy Action Fund proposal
 - Fund would finance new and existing renewable and energy efficiency programs across the NWT;
 - Would be in place for three years;
 - With more resources, more communities and individuals would be helped;
 - Would be financed by less than 1 cent levy/litre on gasoline and diesel;
 - Would raise \$2-3 million per year.

Conclusions

- 2013 Energy Plan has some good things but is only a slight improvement on the status quo
- This is a topic that deserves our very best
- Canada and the world will take notice
- Let's us begin...