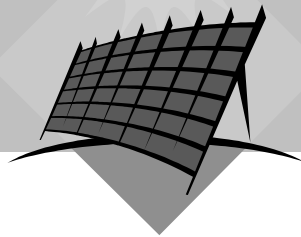


Climate Change Call to Action



Mitigation



What can we do to
use less fossil fuel and
reduce greenhouse gas pollution?
Why do we need to do it?

What is Mitigation?

Mitigation means doing certain things so that other things become more mild and moderate, less intense or harsh. In the natural world mitigation means we ease and improve something that creates some sort of stress.

Our ability to mitigate depends on knowing what causes the stress, and the potential effects of different kinds of mitigation.

Mitigation – Call to Action

To use less fossil fuel and produce less greenhouse gases.

- ☑ **Learn about climate change and how to mitigate the effects.** What is the relationship between climate change, fossil fuels, and greenhouse gas pollution? How can conservation and renewable energy reduce impacts? What other actions can we consider?
 - ☑ **Make a plan.** What steps do we need to take, to reduce air pollution, save money, and become more self-sufficient?
 - ☑ **Take responsibility and work together.** What is each level of government responsible for – community, Aboriginal, territorial, federal? How can we support each other to meet our needs?
 - ☑ **Introduce a range of government actions that apply the polluter pays principle.** What policies and programs most effectively put a price on greenhouse gas pollution?
 - ☑ **Invest now and save in the long run.** How much do we need to invest in new technology? How much does it cost if we delay?
 - ☑ **Monitor what happens.** What information do we need to make good decisions? How do we adjust the plan as things keep changing?
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Climate Change - Myths and Facts

Belief affects action. What do people and governments believe?

Myth: We don't produce a lot of greenhouse gases in the NWT. Any actions we take to reduce greenhouse gases have little or no effect on this global challenge.

Fact: NWT average emissions are high; the total is low only because of our small population. The NWT produces 43 tonnes of greenhouse gases per person - compared to Canada at 22 tonnes, Norway at 12 tonnes, and the world average at 5 tonnes. We all contribute to climate change; it affects everyone; we are all part of the solution.

Myth: We need fossil fuels for heat and light, especially during our long, cold, dark winters in the NWT.

Fact: We can use renewable and more local sources of energy to produce the heat and light we need; we can use energy more efficiently. Other northern countries produce less greenhouse gas pollution – and still provide heat and light for their people.

Myth: Climate change is part of the natural cycle; we will adapt.

Fact: Individuals, governments, and businesses accept climate change is a big problem; we recognize we need to do something. Canadians want their governments to take stronger action; people are willing to work for change.

Myth: If we use less fossil fuel and reduce greenhouse gases we lose jobs and destroy our economy.

Fact: Great Britain, Norway, and other countries clearly show the opposite. Renewable energy, energy efficiency, and local sources of energy are part of a healthy, sustainable economy.

Climate Change - Myths and Facts

Belief affects action. What do people and governments believe?

Myth: It costs too much to change. For example to trade in older vehicles or appliances for energy efficient ones; to switch to renewable sources of energy; or to renovate our homes and buildings.

Fact: It costs too much to NOT change. We may pay more at the beginning BUT – energy efficient buildings, vehicles, and appliances cost less to operate; the total cost is less. Payback is often less than five years.

Myth: It is too late to stop some effects of climate change.

Fact: We cannot stop what has already happened. But we can work today to cut back greenhouse gas pollution - so that in the future we can avoid some of the worst effects of climate change.

Call to Action:

Maximize reduction as soon as possible

- Make an NWT plan. Include existing and new industries. NWT greenhouse gas pollution will double if the Mackenzie Gas Project goes ahead as proposed.
 - Use new and existing policies, programs, and actions.
 - Set realistic, but aggressive targets. For example BC has a target to reduce emissions 33% below 2007 levels by 2020. This far exceeds the federal government target of 20% below 2006 levels by 2020.
 - Regularly gather information and review our progress.
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Call to Action: Work with the global community

- Show leadership. Wealthy countries must greatly reduce their greenhouse gas pollution, even if developing countries increase their emissions.
 - Work together. Many developing countries realize they must start to reduce greenhouse gas pollution, or at least slow down the growth.
 - Set a good example within the NWT. Canadian provinces, territories, and cities can make progress – even without federal leadership.
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Call to Action: Provide consistent, effective subsidies

- Provide government subsidies for renewable energy and promote new research. Try different northern applications.
 - Develop a local, community-based, skilled labour force for renewable energy and energy efficient building and renovations.
 - Build on existing rebate and subsidy programs – for energy efficient vehicles and appliances, home renovations, and renewable energy.
 - Increase the number of people that replace vehicles and appliances, and that do building renovations. The net results must be for each household to use less energy.
 - Review and revise existing fossil fuel subsidies.
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Call to Action: Set standards and regulations for energy efficiency

- Support and work with other levels of government to develop standards. Yellowknife has energy standards for new homes and commercial buildings.
 - Adopt NWT energy standards for new homes and commercial buildings. Build on current standards for new government buildings.
 - Adopt California-type efficiency standards for vehicles. Build on examples such as Quebec. They adopted California standards, which are higher than US standards.
 - Adopt the Energy Star standard for household appliances.
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Call to Action: Consider cap and trade to set industry targets

- Encourage the federal government to consider a national cap and trade system to regulate greenhouse gas pollution. Under this system government sets targets for industry to reduce greenhouse gas pollution; industry decides how to meet the targets.
 - Work with other provinces and territories to consider their own cap and trade systems, or how to effectively participate in a national system.
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Call to Action:

Consider a carbon tax to help cover costs related to climate change

- Consider an NWT carbon tax to manage greenhouse gas pollution. Work with Aboriginal governments and seek northern consensus.
 - Study and learn from other jurisdictions. For example, in Feb. 2008 the BC government set a carbon tax at \$10 per tonne, to increase to \$30 per tonne over the next four years. At \$30 per tonne the tax is \$0.0819/litre for diesel, \$0.0708/litre for gasoline, and \$0.06045/cubic metre for natural gas. BC included special tax credits for low-income people.
 - Build on the existing fuel tax system and the *Petroleum Products Tax Act*. Right now the GNWT collects fuel taxes on diesel and gasoline. We have different rates for on-road and off-road, and for aviation gas. We have no tax on propane, natural gas, or home heating fuel.
 - Use money from the carbon tax to fund renewable energy, energy efficiency, and other programs that save energy, reduce greenhouse gas pollution, and help deal with the effects of climate change.
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Call to Action:

Collect and provide good information

- Provide regular updates about climate change and mitigation, how things change over time.
 - Provide information people can easily understand and use, that helps them take action to use less fossil fuel.
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Call to Action

Talk to your leaders, your family, your community

- ? What do you believe about climate change?
 - ? What can you and your community do to use less fossil fuel and reduce greenhouse gas pollution?
 - ? Do you believe the NWT needs to take action based on the polluter pays principle, to reduce greenhouse gas pollution? Why or why not?
 - ? What actions should governments in the NWT take to use less fossil fuel and reduce greenhouse gas pollution?
 - ? What should Canada and other countries do when they meet in Denmark in December 2009 to talk about a new global agreement?
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Ecology North produced this discussion paper about mitigation, and another paper about adaptation. See our website.

Adaptation is anything we do to reduce the negative impacts of climate change, and to make the best of the positive effects.

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Ecology North started in 1971. We are an environmental non-government organization with 150 NWT members. Our three priorities are environmental education, climate change, and sustainable living.



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