



ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2021

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ECOLOGY NORTH

Ecology North is a charitable, non-profit organization based in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada that was formed in 1971 to support sound environmental decision-making on an individual, community and regional level.

Ecology North's programs focus on five priorities: climate change, environmental education, water, waste reduction, and local food production. A common thread throughout all of the Ecology North programming is an emphasis on environmental, social, and community well-being.

Ecology North maintains collaborative partnerships with a number of other local community and educational organizations to promote public education, sustainable living and climate change adaptation and mitigation on environmental initiatives.

MEET OUR STAFF



Dawn Tremblay
Executive Director



Nia Reid
Office Manager



Katharine Thomas
Education Program Manager



Richelle Castillo
Project Officer - Event Planner



HAPPY TRAILS

Marie Auger

Office Manager

Adrienne Schmalz

Project Officer - Climate Change

Jessie Bowser

Project Officer

Kate Shanrey Mendoza

Education & Events Summer Student

Emma Butler

Local Food Intern



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Jennifer Broadbridge

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Director

YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear members,

On behalf of the Ecology North board of directors I would like to thank you for reading our annual newsletter and taking an interest in our organization.

Ecology North is the North's premiere grassroots environmental organization, dedicated to "bringing people and knowledge together for a healthy northern environment." This past year, Ecology North has undergone a major transition, with the passing of the baton from Craig Scott, our long-serving Executive Director, to Dawn Tremblay, an Ecology North veteran who has done a tremendous job steering the organization through a very challenging time. In 2020, Ecology North also adopted a new strategic plan for 2020-2023, ratifying the incredible work of directors, staff, members, and supporters in providing guidance and shape to the organization's efforts over the next few years.

Needless to say, 2020 and 2021 have been unprecedented years for every human being on Earth. The full weight of the Covid pandemic has likewise imposed severe constraints on Ecology North's ability to deliver its popular public education programs. Important fundraising events and community gatherings had to be canceled like the Spring Coffee House and Fall Harvest Fair. However, staff were able to rise to the occasion by finding alternative means to delivering environmental knowledge and know-how to the public. Ecology North even managed to hold a successful Youth Leaders Summit on Northern Climate Change, luckily just before the resurgence of the pandemic in late August and September.

2021 also marks the 50th anniversary of Ecology North. Ecology North has blossomed from its humble beginnings as a collection of friends concerned about the Giant Mine pollution to an environmental organization with a long and respectable track record in educating the public on ecological thinking in the North. Unfortunately, like the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in 2020 that went by without much of a commemoration, we have not yet been able to properly mark the date given the resurgence of Covid this Fall. However, we do plan on still holding an in-person event as soon as it becomes safe to do so. Stay tuned!

Best Regards,

Rajiv Rawat
Chair of the Board of Directors



FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE



United Way



CSA
GROUP™

SCC



CCN

50
YRS
ANS



MakeWay



TD Friends of the
Environment
Foundation



NWT
RECREATION
& PARKS
ASSOCIATION



Numerous individual donations from people like you!

*Thank!
You!*



Planning Fire
Resilient Communities



Treating Wastewater
in the North



Operating Solid Waste Sites

NORTHERN ADAPTATION GUIDES

We've received a ton of positive feedback on our original four northern adaptation guides, and have published three new ones! These are plain-language, illustrated versions of northern infrastructure standards, designed to help communities adapt critical infrastructure to the impacts of climate change.

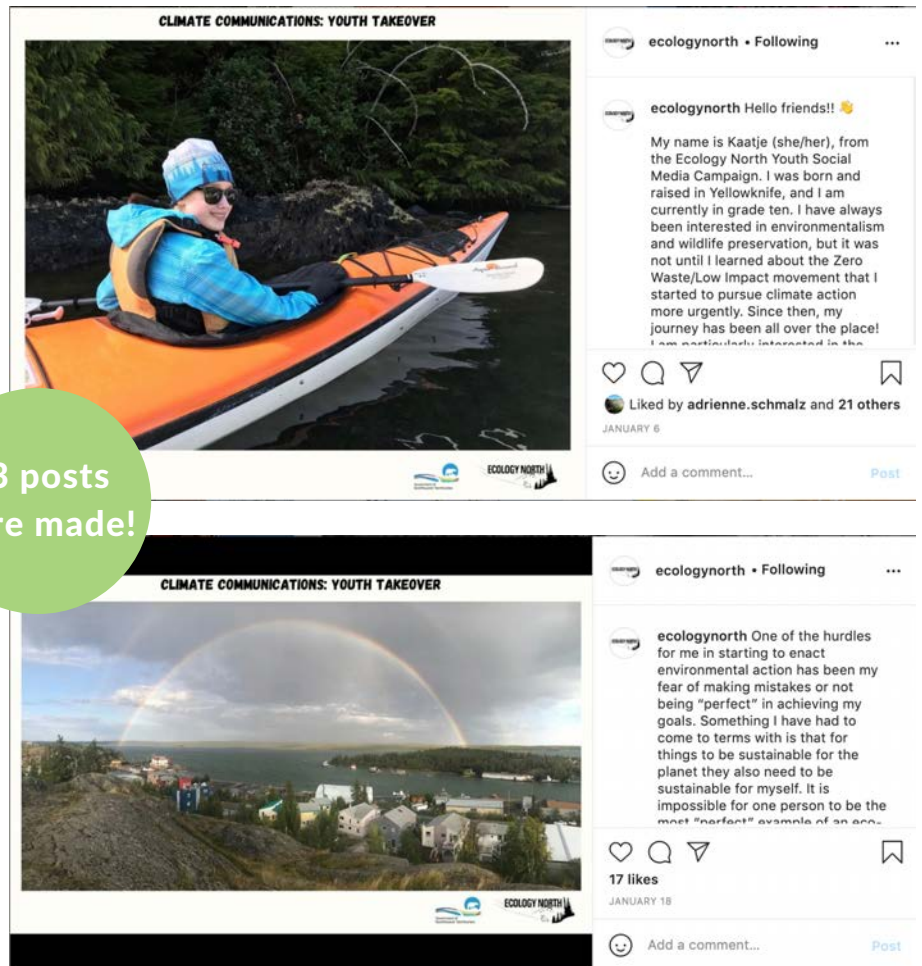


SEE THE GUIDES

CLIMATE COMMUNICATIONS

This project provided an opportunity for NWT youth to increase their knowledge of climate change and develop their communication skills. Eight youth participated in communications training with local journalists. Youth then took part in a "takeover" of Ecology North's social media pages, creating posts about their experience with climate change and ways that they take action.

13 posts
were made!





MAMAQTUQ

Mangilaluk School Traditional
Food Cookbook



CLIMATE ACTION TRAINING

The goal of this project was to encourage youth to learn about climate change and be empowered to use that knowledge to take some form of climate action in their community.

This training took place as a series of live-streamed webinar workshops, hosted in early 2020. Following the webinars, youth were provided with mentorship opportunities and were given small grants to help fund climate action projects. Three youth received grants and completed climate action projects in Tuktoyaktuk, Behchoko, and Hay River. Projects included hosting Earth Week events, creating a local food cookbook with students, and learning more about traditional foods.

SLOPE STABILITY

Ecology North, the Rat River Development Corporation, Wilfrid Laurier University, and Netruh-EBA Consulting Ltd. are working together on a multi-year project to evaluate the stability of a major slope in Fort McPherson. The pandemic has caused delays, but we are looking forward to continued work on this important project.

SUMMER OF SMOKE



[SEE THE ARTICLE](#)

SUMMER OF SMOKE UPDATE

A research paper about the 2014 Summer of Smoke was published in The BMJ (British Medical Journal) in February 2021. Click the link above to read the paper.



YOUNG LEADERS' SUMMIT ON NORTHERN CLIMATE CHANGE

The Young Leaders' Summit on Northern Climate Change 2021 brought together northern youth from across the three territories. Presenters, mentors, Elders, and youth shared their knowledge and inspiration on topics ranging from climate change, decolonization, and patriarchy; to food sovereignty; to climate change impacts on health. We were honored to host the Summit at BDene Adventures, outside of Dettah. Cultural activities including hand games, beading, and plucking ducks enhanced the natural cross-cultural sharing that comes from bringing passionate northerners together. Other highlights included the Mock Arctic Council neogitation led by Bridget Larocque and Whitney Lackenbauer, and climate justice with Daniel T'seleie and Will Greeves.



Yukon: 4 Participants



NWT: 7 Participants



Nunavut: 6 Participants





CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

ADAPTATION 2020 POSTER

This poster was created to provide easy, tangible actions for individuals and communities to take climate action.

Take Climate Action!
Make small changes with big impacts

HEAT SUSTAINABLY

- Prioritize biomass heating¹
 - Supplement oil heating with biomass heating
 - Swap-out old wood stoves for new efficient ones
 - Collect firewood locally
 - Use sustainably sourced pellets
 - Burn dry wood

SAVE ENERGY

- Try energy-saving tips²
 - Turn lights off when not in use
 - Switch to LED lights
 - Seal leaks around doors and windows
 - Add plastic film to your windows in winter
 - Wash clothes in cold water and hang-dry
 - Purchase ENERGY STAR appliances

SAVE GAS

- Curb emissions from driving³
 - Walk, bike, ski, or kick-sled instead
 - Carpool to your destination
 - Use 4-stroke engines in boats, snowmobiles, and ATVs
 - Don't idle longer than 60 seconds
 - Spend 2-3 minutes warming your vehicle in cold weather
 - Install a block heater

MITIGATE WILDFIRES

- Protect your home⁴
 - Store firewood and diesel away from your home
 - Prune or remove low branches, shrubs, and dead leaves around your home if you live near the bush
 - Build with fire-resistant materials
 - Clear leaves and branches off your roof

ACT COLLECTIVELY

- Engage with community leaders⁵
 - Create an Adaptation Plan
 - Create an Emergency Plan
 - Create Hazard Maps for floods, permafrost thaw, and wildland fires
 - Declare a climate emergency
 - Support electric vehicle charging stations
 - Support an anti-idling campaign

SPEAK-UP

- Let people know you care
 - Attend community meetings
 - Organize a letter-writing campaign
 - Organize a climate march, like Fridays for Future
 - Start a petition
 - Call your local MLA

EAT LOCAL

- Prioritize country foods⁶
 - Eat locally harvested meat and fish
 - Raise chickens
 - Use a community freezer
 - Harvest northern berries and plants
 - Host community feasts with local foods
 - Dry, can, and jam your fall harvest
 - Grow your own veggies

AVOID PLASTICS

- Use fewer petroleum products⁷
 - Refuse plastic bags, straws and stir sticks
 - Drink tap water, not bottled water
 - Serve water in pitchers with reusable cups at events
 - Wear natural fabrics and furs
 - Store food in reusable containers
 - Purchase food in bulk

PROTECT PERMAFROST

- Prevent damage to your home⁸
 - Provide the ground with shade from trees or buildings
 - Use open skirting to let air flow under your home
 - Don't store things under or beside your home
 - Clear away snow piles from your home
 - Allow water to drain away from your home
 - Use foundations like piers, footing and cribbing or screw jacks

1. Learn about the Arctic Energy Alliance rebate program for residential wood and wood-pellet stoves at aeaa.ca.
 2. Learn about the Arctic Energy Alliance rebate program for energy-efficient products and home improvements at aeaa.ca.
 3. Read "Fuel-efficient driving techniques" and "Why do Canadians idle?" at ec.gc.ca.
 4. Read the "Planning Fire Resilient Communities" adaptation guide at ec.gc.ca.
 5. Learn about community and regional climate action in the NWT 2030 Climate Change Strategic Framework at ec.gc.ca, and learn about rebate programs for electric vehicles and charging stations at ec.gc.ca.

6. Learn about gardening in Ecology North's Northern Backyard Farming Booklets and Northern Soil Recipes at ecologynorth.ca.
 7. Read the NWT Healthy Communities Toolkit, "Drop the Water Bottle - Drink Tap Water" at healthycommunities.nwtkit.com, and make the pledge to stop drinking imported bottled water at bottledwater.ca.
 8. Read "A Homeowner's Guide to Permafrost in the Northwest Territories" at ec.gc.ca, and read the "Preventing Permafrost Degradation" adaptation guide at ec.gc.ca.



Government of Canada
Gouvernement du Canada





ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AT A GLANCE:



CITY DAY CAMP

Ecology North offered sessions during the city day camp's Love the Earth week. Each day had a different theme: Water, Waste, Climate Change, Local Food and Species at Risk.



PROGRAM UPDATES



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



COVID-19 ACTIVITY KITS

In response to the Yellowknife/Dettah/Ndilo lockdown in May 2021, we began offering personalized activity kits for kids across the NWT. So far, we have packaged and delivered over 40 kits to kids in Yellowknife, Norman Wells, Liidlii Kue (Fort Simpson), and Inuvik. Kits include a selection of activity sheets and booklets, resources for parents and guardians, and equipment to promote at-home and outdoor learning.

OTHER EVENTS WE HOSTED:



BEES

In collaboration with Canadian Parks and Wildlife (CPAWS), we created field guides for identifying and tracking bees and a range of stickers encouraging the public to go pesticide-free!





SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAM

Spring came swiftly with Ecolog North staff excited to get outside and garden with students. Sessions were facilitated at Mildred Hall School, Range Lake North School, Weledeh Catholic School, École St. Patrick's School, and École Sir John Franklin School. We also provided supplies and collaborated with staff at Home Base, formerly Hope's Haven, so they could do their own garden work. Everyone was excited to see the school garden programs run in a safe way, outside, during the pandemic. Support was provided by Wilfrid Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems.

5 Schools

11 sessions per school

104 different students

100% according to the COVID-19 safety guidelines.

An invitation to run a gardening education session with students from Deh Gáh elementary school came in the spring. Dawn and Emma hit the road and met students and staff from the grade 3 class. Along the different activities, the worms were the most popular.



HARVEST FEST CONTEST

In lieu of an in-person Fall Harvest Fair, we hosted an online contest, asking people to submit photos of their harvest. Categories included "Funniest Looking Vegetable", "Prettiest Bouquet", and "Most Uncommon Vegetable". We recieved over 40 entries from across the NWT!



WASTE REDUCTION

WASTE REDUCTION WEEK

Waste Reduction Week 2020: COVID-19 edition featured presentations about circular economy, a Salvage Swap hosted by the City of Yellowknife, and a DIY workshop. We also hosted a waste forum on impacts of the pandemic on waste reduction and management, including highlights from the Salvation Army and the Salvagers Unite facebook page.

Community Events Sustainability Guide



Published by Ecology North, 2021.

With thanks to funding from the Government of Northwest Territories.



SUSTAINABLE EVENTS GUIDE

In 2020, Ecology North received funding from the Waste Reduction and Recycling Initiative Fund to draft a sustainable event guide for NWT communities. The next steps are to trial the guide, integrate user feedback, and finalize the guide in 2021. As with a lot of things, COVID-19 threw a wrench in the plan. How could we trial an event guide with no events happening?

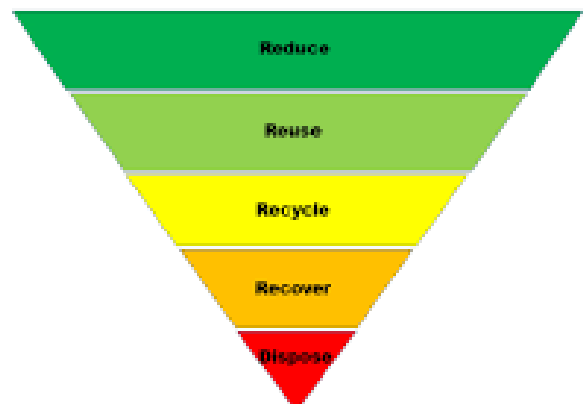
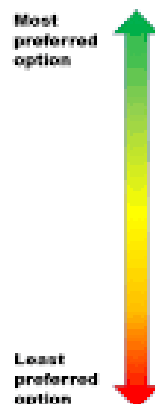


[SEE THE GUIDE](#)

WASTE REDUCTION EDUCATION

Throughout the summer, Ecology North supported the City of Yellowknife by providing education at the blue bin recycling stations. The City can't recycle if the categories get all mixed up or full of garbage. Ecology North fundamentally supports waste reduction and recycling initiatives. Keep up the great work recycling Yellowknife!

**Reduce first,
then reuse,
then recycle!**



The Waste Hierarchy



WATER STEWARDSHIP GROUP

In the fall of 2020, we launched a Youth Water Stewardship Group. This group is made up of youth from across the territory, we meet virtually every month to learn about different facets of NWT water stewardship.



WATER STEWARDSHIP GATHERING

In August 2021, we hosted an on-the-land water stewardship gathering on Ka'a'gee Tu territory, just outside of Kakisa. 12 youth, aged 18-30, participated in this Gathering, including Water Stewardship Group participants, and members of the Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation. The Water Stewardship Gathering has been hosted annually since 2018, but this is the first time we have been able to host it on-the-land and during open water season. Thanks to our partners, Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation, Wilfrid Laurier University, and Environment and Natural Resources for making this on-the-land version such a success!



RIVERS TO OCEANS

Rivers to Oceans Day (R2O) made a triumphant return after being canceled in 2020 due to Covid-19. The outdoor event saw over 200 students in grades one and five participate in engaging experiential learning activities. A range of aquatic ecosystems stations were delivered by partnering federal government agencies, territorial government departments, and non-profit sector organizations.

The week after R2O, we organized three "mini-R2Os" at schools that weren't able to join the main event due to Covid-19 capacity restrictions. These mini-events were a huge success!

WATER WEEK

Water Week 2021 had some hiccups, including having to postpone an event due to poor weather conditions, but was a great success all-told! We hosted a virtual talk with Daniel T'seleie, two film screenings, and the extremely well attended Ice Road Run to Dettah. The Ice Road Run saw over 100 participants - with people running, walking, and biking, some with their dogs and/or children, we even had one participant who ice skated!

FILM SCREENING
Water Week 2021 Celebrations



NAHANNI
River of Forgiveness
A JOURNEY OF HEALING & RENEWAL

DATE: Monday, March 22, 2021
TIME: 7:15 PM
LOCATION: Capitol Theatre, Yellowknife

Go to <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/nahanni-river-of-forgiveness-film-screening-tickets-144720237125> to get your free ticket(s) to attend. Masks are required and social distancing measures will be in place.

Yellowknife
Ice Road Run

WHERE: Ice Road entrance by Rotary Park

WHEN: April 10th, 2021 from 10:00AM to 1:00PM

WHAT: Walk, run, fat bike, or kicksled across the Ice Road to Dettah! 12Km to Dettah return, or turn around at any point! Bannock from Birchwood Cafe will be provided.

Remember to wear bright/visible clothing, dress in layers, and wear wind-resistant clothing.

FILM SCREENING
Water Week 2021 Celebrations



COLD AMAZON
The Mackenzie River Basin

Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2021
Location: Northern United Place, Yellowknife
Time: 12:00PM to 1:00PM

Go to <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/cold-amazon-film-screening-tickets-144717615283> to get your free ticket to attend. Masks are required and social distancing protocols will be in place.



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OTHER EVENTS AND ADVOCACY



TRASHFORMATION

Ecology North was honored to be a part of the annual Ramble & Ride Festival again this year AND be the first to host an event in the Wildcat Cafe since it closed its doors in 2019, in collaboration with the Yellowknife's Artist Collective. Trashformation is an event that is no stranger to the YK community, the public are asked to create art out of their 'trash' to bring awareness around reducing and reusing your waste. 16 pieces of art were displayed by 15 different artists in Yellowknife. The picture displayed is of the winning piece created by Diane Boudreau titled 'Musk-quito'. Thank you to the NWT Arts Council for the funding for this event. Did you know this was The Moment on CBC's The National?

EVALUATING NWT'S RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES: ALTERNATIVES NORTH

This document, spearheaded by Alternatives North, highlights three questions we, and the government, should be asking to ensure that we are tackling the largest greenhouse gas emitters in the NWT. Following the publication of this document, Alternatives North gave a presentation on the topic as part of Earth Week 2021.

EVALUATING NWT'S RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

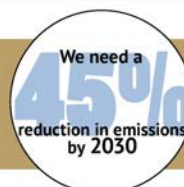
This guide offers three simple but critical questions to inform conversations regarding greenhouse gas emissions and renewable energy technologies in the NWT. There are many possible ways to reduce emissions. More are presented every day. How do we know how realistic or beneficial each technology is?

The three most important questions are:

- #1: What percentage of territorial emissions is this applicable to?
- #2: What is the estimated total emissions' reduction this could achieve by 2030?
- #3: What is the lifecycle cost per lifecycle ton of emissions saved?

Solutions that offer the best performance deserve the most support. By focusing on these three questions we can determine which are best for us, in our corner of the world, and implement those solutions on a scale and timeframe that will make a difference.

To understand the level of impact required, the International Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) latest modelling suggests that to avoid the worst consequences of climate change, GHG emissions must be reduced continuously, reaching 45% by 2030, and net zero by 2050.





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**OUR BOARD MEETINGS
ARE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS.**

www.ecologynorth.ca

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

If you like what we do, there are many ways to help:

- Make a monthly donation (tax deductible)
- Become a member (\$10 annual membership fees)
- Join one of our committees
- Help plan and organize social events
- Donate your bottle refunds to our account at the bottle depot