

Biannual Public Report

Our Clean Future Policy Implementation Committee

January 2023

One of the stated commitments in the 2021 Confidence and Supply Agreement between the Yukon Liberal Caucus and the Yukon NDP Caucus is to establish joint policy implementation committees. The commitment states:

Section 3.2 Within one month of the swearing-in of a Yukon Liberal Government, two policy implementation committees shall launch. The committees will be comprised of the appropriate Cabinet Minister and a Yukon NDP MLA to work jointly with the civil service to finalize implementation of the Our Clean Future and Putting People First reports.

The Our Clean Future Implementation Committee (OCFIC) was established in June 2021. Its members are the Honourable Nils Clarke, Minister of Environment and Highways and Public Works, and Emily Tredger, MLA for Whitehorse Centre. As the Yukon's Our Clean Future strategy actions are shared by multiple departments, the Honourable John Streicker, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has been appointed as an observer on the Committee.

Ongoing discussions

The OCFIC continues to receive updates on the progress of government actions identified in the Yukon's Our Clean Future strategy. Discussions were focussed on:

T15 – Begin a pilot project in 2021 to test the use of short-haul medium and heavy-duty electric vehicles for commercial and institutional applications within Yukon.

The OCFIC discussed the effectiveness of this program and how long the pilot program will run. Several local businesses are currently participating in this pilot.

H27 – Establish a partnership between the Government of Yukon, Yukon Energy Corporation and ATCO Electric Yukon by 2021 that will collaborate on the delivery of energy and capacity demand-side management programs.

Government informed the committee that there is a working group established to consider this. Broader concepts such as differential rates based on peak hours or seasons are being discussed, as well as what would be required to implement something such as that.

H3 – Provide low-interest financing to support energy efficiency retrofits to homes and buildings beginning in 2021.

Government informed the committee that additional communities have signed up for the Better Buildings program. Yukoners are encouraged to start considering how this program could support their home improvement efforts.

T13 – Continue to incorporate active transportation in the design of highways and other Government of Yukon transportation infrastructure near communities.

The Government committed to continue to work on active transportation projects and is very open to discussing active transportation options with Yukon communities, such as the trail paving project completed in Haines Junction this past summer.

C2 - Develop flood probability maps for all Yukon communities at risk of flooding by 2023 that incorporate climate change projections.

The committee discussed which flood maps would be ready for this coming spring. The Southern Lakes mapping project is expected to be complete by the end of 2023. In the meantime, there are many preliminary maps that can be used as final maps are completed.

H25 – Analyze and compare the climate benefits of different types of biomass harvesting and use in Yukon by 2021 in order to identify recommended forest management practices to guide sustainable and low-carbon biomass use.

The conversation about biomass is ongoing. The Government signaled a preference to use biomass that is created after other clearing efforts (highway right of way or agricultural clearing are two examples) as opposed to clearing new area solely for biomass.

E8 – Increase the limit of the Standing Offer Program under the Independent Power Production Policy from 20 gigawatt hours (GWh) to 40 GWh by 2021 to support additional community-based renewable energy projects on Yukon's main electrical grid.

E10 - Continue to deliver the Micro-Generation Program in collaboration with Yukon's public utilities, targeting 7 megawatts (MW) of installed renewable electricity capacity by 2030.

The Government expressed an interest in other storage options as well as considering off-season/high-season power generation incentives.

The OCFIC discussed the report produced by the Yukon Climate Leadership Council (YCLC), which was commitment 4.2 (a) of the 2021 Confidence and Supply Agreement. The report was publicly released on September 28, 2022, and outlined a set of recommendations to support the Yukon to reach its 45 per cent greenhouse gas emission reduction target.

The OCFIC members reviewed the report and met with the Council co-chairs in advance of the report's release.

The Yukon government's *Our Clean Future* working group will review and consider these recommendations. It will advise the government on what would be involved in adopting the recommendations as part of the Yukon's *Our Clean Future* strategy.

In discussion about the YCLC report, the NDP raised concerns about when the work on the recommendations might start. The NDP also recommended that the Minister share this information with the committee members and public prior to the next scheduled OCF update, which will come out in Fall 2023. Minister Streicker noted that work on climate reduction efforts will continue, and are not strictly tied to the timeline of the OCF updates.

The YCLC's hard work and dedication to this complex task was noted by the Implementation Committee members. All three members expressed appreciation for the effort invested in developing this report.

This is the final OCFIC report as committed to under the 2021 Confidence and Supply Agreement.