

Biannual Public Report

Our Clean Future Policy Implementation Committee

Fall 2024

The 2021 Confidence and Supply Agreement between the Yukon Liberal Caucus and the Yukon NDP Caucus requires the establishment of 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 Lane 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. The 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement continues the work of the 2021 CASA Agreement.

The OCFIC continues to receive updates on the progress of government actions identified in the Yukon's Our Clean Future (OCF) strategy as well as actions indirectly related to OCF.

General OCF Update:

- Our Clean Future: Yukon's Strategy for climate change, energy and a green economy was released in September 2020 and is a 10-year strategy. It contains 178 actions designed to support the Government of Yukon's climate goals to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change impacts.
- 42 new actions were introduced in December 2023. New actions respond to advice from the Yukon Climate Leadership Council, the Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change, analysis from Navius Research and the Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment.
- An annual report is released each year, documenting the progress made towards these important goals.

OCFIC Discussions

OCF #E1 – Legislative amendments regarding 93% of grid energy from renewable sources

Minister Streicker provided an update on this item, confirming that it is delayed. Cabinet made the decision to delay as there is critical research outstanding related to feasibility and cost. This action is intended to be practical rather than aspirational, and further due diligence is required to ensure it can be an achievable goal.

OCF #H1 - Conduct retrofits to Government of Yukon buildings to reduce energy use and contribute to a 30 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030

Minister Clarke updated the committee and shared that Highways and Public Works (HPW) has completed 31 retrofits so far. These projects are estimated to reduce 225 tonnes of GHG emissions per year. A large project that is currently underway is the replacement of the Yukon University roof which will reduce GHG emissions by 137 tonnes per year. The Yukon Government (YG) has prioritized approximately 100 government buildings for retrofits.

OCF #H5 and H6 - Continue to provide financial support for municipal and First Nations energy efficiency projects; Continue to work with Yukon First Nations to retrofit First Nations housing to be more energy efficient

These actions are ongoing. The first iteration of the First Nation Energy Efficiency Program has now concluded, following expiration of the federal Low Carbon Economy Fund this past March. Over \$2.3 million in funding to seven Yukon First Nations governments was approved to support energy retrofits, and assessments within their housing stock. These funds were committed in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

YG is anticipating the next years' funding to be confirmed by the federal government in the coming months.

OCF #T5 - Provide rebates to support the installation of smart electric vehicle charging stations at residential, commercial and institutional buildings in collaboration with Yukon's public utilities beginning in 2020

Minister Streicker provided the update that this program is currently fully funded through the Energy Branch's Good Energy programs. Currently 64 EV charging stations have been installed, aiming for 200 by the end of the fiscal year.

OCF #T7 – Draft legislation by 2024 that will enable private businesses and Yukon's public utilities to sell electricity for the purpose of electric vehicle charging

Minister Streicker confirmed that there is now a regulation in place to allow charging of fees for use of EV chargers. He is not aware of any businesses that are currently charging a fee. A current barrier to businesses charging fees is the free fast chargers through YG. Work is underway to implement a fee that is consistent with the market.

OCF #T25 – Complete a climate change vulnerability study of the road transportation network.

Minister Clarke confirmed that this study is now complete. A report is expected to be released publicly in Fall 2024.

OCF #T28 - Continue to conduct climate risk assessments of all major transportation infrastructure projects above \$10 million, such as through the federal Climate Lens assessment.

Minister Clarke shared that six large projects have been assessed through HPW, along with many other smaller projects throughout government in departments such as Community Services. All projects receiving federal funding through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) are required to undergo a climate assessment.

Other Updates

The OCFIC also discussed matters outside of updates on specific Our Clean Future commitments. These included:

- Independent Power Production program: discussion focused on an upcoming call for partners to come forward with proposals.
- Microgeneration Program: Minister Streicker shared that work is underway to gather data this summer, for review in the fall.
- Energy Project Updates: discussions are ongoing with First Nations about potential pumped storage projects as well as small scale hydro.

- Recommendations from the Yukon Climate Leadership Council: Ministers shared an overview of how the YCLC commitments are being implemented, including:
 - o New actions incorporated into OCF as a result of YCLC: 16
 - o Actions already completed through OCF: 8
 - o YCLC recommendations with analysis ongoing: 35
 - o YCLC recommendations not proceeding: 6