



Alternatives North

Robert R. McLeod, Premier
Government of the Northwest Territories
Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

16 June 2017

Dear Premier McLeod:

On February 7th, 2017, Alternatives North sent you (as chair of the Ministers’ Coordinating Committee on Energy and Climate Change) a written submission as part of the consultations on the Climate Change Strategic Framework and the Energy Strategy.

We did not receive a response from you at that time and we now note that our submission has not been included in the “What we heard” document that has just been released by Environment and Natural Resources¹.

Could you please confirm that our submission was received and passed along to the appropriate people? For your convenience we have attached our original submission.

We applaud the GNWT for releasing a “what we heard” document. This is an example of what people expect when they say they want to see more openness and accountability from the GNWT.

However, “what you heard” does not correspond to “what we said”. We encourage you to re-read our submission and ensure that our position is reflected in the final draft of the document. Perhaps the document should include a section “3.3 – Written Submissions” that could summarise all written feedback received. Some of our key points included:

1. An NWT society running on 100% Renewable Energy is technically feasible using commercially available technologies. We expect that the Energy Strategy will focus on finding the most affordable pathways to achieving that long term goal.
2. That climate science demands that we all must rapidly switch to renewable energy.
3. That NWT targets should be 80% renewable energy by 2025 and 100% by 2050.
4. That renewable energy credits / carbon offsets offer a temporary way to rapidly take action, and should be considered “the right thing to do” in the same way that recycling is viewed by many people.
5. That GNWT energy initiatives must be rigorously evaluated to prove that they are the most cost effective way of achieving the transition to renewable energy.
6. That the GNWT itself should go carbon neutral immediately, by purchasing carbon offsets on the volunteer market.
7. That the GNWT ban fossil fuel development in the NWT and re-allocate the resources currently allocated to promoting and regulating oil and gas activities.

¹ *Summary of Joint Engagement Activities*, received June 8, 2017



8. That the GNWT separate “Carbon Pricing Policy” from “Energy Cost of Living Policy” by implementing a price on carbon and designing programs to make sure people can adapt to a lower carbon economy.
9. That the Energy Strategy consider the following measures to promote renewable energy:
 - a. Finance Renewable Energy Systems through Local Improvement Charges (LICs)
 - b. Require large industry to use renewable energy
 - c. Increase renewable electricity generation and electrify local transportation
 - d. Develop a Territorial Energy Building Code and the capacity to enforce it
 - e. Invest in Renewable Energy infrastructure
 - f. Make GNWT Technical Capacity available to everyone in small Communities
 - g. Create an Energy Revolving Fund
 - h. Create Renewable Energy Cooperatives

Given the importance of energy and climate change, it is entirely appropriate that the GNWT requested input into the creation of this new Energy Strategy. We collectively put in many hours of volunteer time to write and review our submission. While the GNWT may not adopt all our suggestions, we would appreciate seeing our efforts acknowledged in a way that shows we have been heard and understood.

Regards,



Ben McDonald
For Alternatives North

- c: All Members of the Legislative Assembly
Paul Guy, Chair, Deputy Minister's Coordinating Committee on Energy & Climate Change
Rob Marshall, Senior Advisor, Climate Change, ENR
John Vandenberg, Assistant Deputy Minister, PWS
Andrew Stewart, Director Energy Solutions, PWS
Robert Sexton, Director Energy Policy & Planning, PWS
Emanuel DaRosa, President, NTPC
Abigail Alty, ENR
