



Media Release

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Climate Emergency – Getting the NWT Off Diesel!

Alternatives North Report finds cost effective ways of reducing NWT GHG emissions by 50%

A feasibility study looking at the cost of a rapid and effective response to the Climate Emergency says the NWT could reduce its net-GHG emissions by 50% quickly and at low cost.

Recent protests by youth in the NWT and around the world have demanded that governments treat the global warming caused by rising Greenhouse Gases as a “Climate Emergency”.

"The measures taken to combat COVID-19 show that our Government knows how to respond to an emergency. We expect the government to respond to the Climate Emergency in the same way, with focus, urgency, and effectiveness." says study co-author Andrew Robinson. "This study takes the first step."

The study estimated the cost of investing in rapid and effective emissions reductions, using off-the shelf technologies. Key findings included:

- The GNWT could invest in community infrastructure by installing *Community Wood pellet Boilers* to heat buildings and homes through district heating systems. These systems would generate a net income over 20 years while also reducing emissions and the cost of heating
- The NWT could reduce emissions by 50% within a single year by investing \$15 million in *Carbon Offsets*
- The GNWT could replace more than 50% of current diesel fuel usage with *Renewable Diesel*, a direct replacement for diesel that is made from plants, within 5 years with a \$65 million per year subsidy

Any of these options would be far less costly than the current multi-billion dollar plan to build an underwater transmission line across Great Slave Lake. The study also casts doubt on claims that such a transmission line and expansion of the Taltson Hydro facility would actually produce cheaper electricity or guarantee emissions reductions.

A webinar presentation is planned for April 29th at noon. It will review the results of the study in more detail – please register by emailing info@alternativesnorth.ca

“Climate Emergency – Getting the NWT Off Diesel” - was prepared for Alternatives North by Andrew Robinson and Lachlan MacLean. Robinson is a former Executive Director of the Arctic Energy Alliance; MacLean is a former Chief Mechanical Engineer at Dominion Diamond's Ekati Mine. MacLean and Robinson are renewable energy consultants, based in Yellowknife, NWT.



Combined, they have 25 years of experience in asset management and analysis of renewable energy solutions for the communities and mines of Canada's Northwest Territories.

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