



Cross-Canada Climate Champions Panel: Yellowknife's Experience with the 5 Milestone Process

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About Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

- Established in the 1930s after gold was discovered in the region; two gold mines closed permanently between 1999 and 2003;
- Current population of 20,000 residents;
- Named Canada's most sustainable small city by Corporate Knights Magazine for the past three years.



Milestone One

Create a GHG emissions inventory and forecast

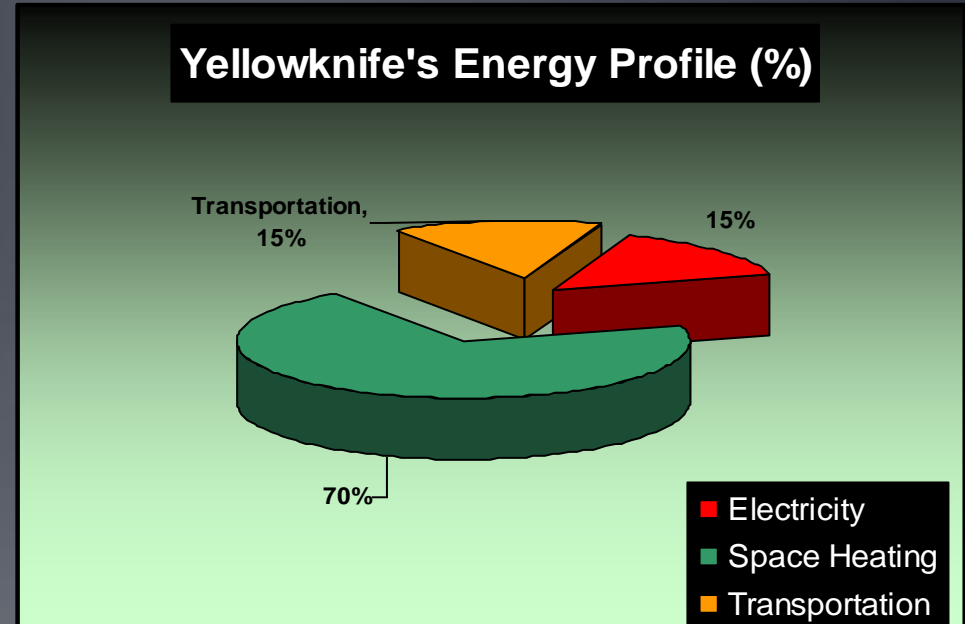
- Challenges: The 'bottom-up' approach of gathering data can be difficult. There is a need for territorial/provincial/federal governments to take the lead in data collection; issues external to the municipality can affect your inventory.
- Strategies: Take advantage of existing resources such as the Partners for Climate Protection Program and ICLEI; try to develop a consistent approach to measuring emissions.



Milestone Two

Set an emissions reduction target

- **Challenges:** Difficult to determine what is an appropriate target/timeframe. Gaining agreement from a decision-making body poses additional challenges.
- **Strategies:** Don't get hung up on what targets to choose (follow up targets in Milestone 5 will be much more important); use the resources and standard targets available to municipalities.



Milestone Three

Develop a local action plan

- **Challenges:** Balancing the need for action on both the corporate and community aspects of the plan; developing realistic timelines; navigating the decision-making process.
- **Strategies:** Committee-based process, with broad representation from all sectors in the community; assign adequate human and financial resources; take advantage of funding sources such as the Green Municipal Fund and territorial/provincial/federal funding programs.



Milestone Four

Implement the local action plan

- **Challenges:** Achieving community buy-in; ensuring the plan's continuity and ability to evolve; changing the culture at City Hall and throughout the community.
 - **Strategies:** Promote, promote, promote! Utilize the expertise and creativity that already exists in your municipal staff; ensure proper human and financial resources have been allocated; create an implementation strategy; continue committee oversight with public involvement.
 - **Corporate Initiatives:** Energy audits of all municipal facilities; review of fleet management; conversion of municipal facilities' heating systems from fuel oil to biomass; conversion of traffic and street lights to LED.
 - **Community Initiatives:** Building By-Law revised to require EGNH-80 standard for new home construction and 25% better energy performance than the MNEC for commercial/institutional buildings; anti-idling by-law; proposed geothermal district energy system.
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Milestone Five

Monitor progress and report results

- Currently conducting follow-up GHG inventory; report to be completed by the end of March.
 - Community Energy Planning Committee will revise GHG reduction targets based on new findings.
 - Benefits and Outcomes thus far:
 - Estimated 33% reduction in corporate emissions in the four years since the CEP was adopted;
 - Hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings to the municipality;
 - Has provided an excellent model for other types of planning; Yellowknife's Smart Growth Development Plan has followed this model.
 - Community emission reductions will likely remain the big challenge.
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Thank You!

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