

Questions and Responses to Questions Posed by Ecology North
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Date: September 19, 2011

Q1. In your view, what are the most pressing environmental issues facing the NWT?
How do you propose to address these environmental issues?

A1. There are a number of pressing environmental issues facing the NWT, some of the most significant are:

1. Impact of climate change on major infrastructure: Innovative use of materials and construction modalities, while energy wise improved building standards
2. Minimizing waste in total and special removal and treatment of hazardous and toxic wastes in landfills: Develop awareness; provide logistics and technical support for separation and movement of wastes to treatment facilities.
3. High amount of GHGs due to shipping/travel/energy generation: Become an early adopter of guidelines that may result from discussions relating to trading of carbon credits.

Q2. Dependence on fossil fuels and the emissions produced as a result are leading contributors to our changing climate. How can the GNWT reduce our dependence on oil?

A2. There are a number of ways that the GNWT can work on its own and partner with industry to reduce the NWT's dependence on fossil fuels. Some of the ways are:

- Introduction of lighter than air vehicles to move industrial materials and equipment.
- Alternative heating sources – more reuse of waste heat, innovative solutions like high burn incineration e.g wood gasification, natural gas in communities along a future pipeline or near other sources
- Increased use of hydro generated electricity for residential and commercial heating.
- Expansion of Hydro generation and transmission towards development of an NWT energy grid.

Q3. Waste management is a serious environmental and health issue in northern communities. What more can the GNWT do to help communities manage solid waste?

A3. The GNWT should provide communities guidance on specific waste management issues. The requirements for the separation, storage and removal of hazardous wastes from community landfill sites requires standards as well as the build out of logistics to move materials to safe certified treatment sites. Personally, as Vice Chair for the Smart Communities Society, I am leading the development of a pilot for storage and removal of e-waste.

Q4. What does adapting to climate change mean to you? What are the major costs to adapt to climate change in the NWT? How do you propose that the GNWT helps communities to deal with the costs of climate change?

A4. The NWT economy is largely diesel based. Making the changes necessary to transit to an economy less reliant on diesel will take time. For example the fragility of the winter road season and the affects that has on industry and local shippers requires alternatives; Building designs need to reflect the new realities with more emphasis on density, joint use facilities that can use centralized district heating, alternative high efficiency systems for heat and energy. Increased research and study of best practices in community design, and construction of residential and commercial accommodation would ensure future construction takes advantage of the wealth of knowledge already available.