

Biannual Public Report

Our Clean Future Policy Implementation Committee

Fall 2023

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* strategy as well as actions indirectly related to OCF.

OCF Updates:

Next annual OCF report: Ministers relayed that it is currently anticipated to be released in Fall 2023 and is going through approvals now.

OCF #H3: *Provide low-interest financing to support energy efficiency retrofits to homes and buildings beginning in 2021 (Better buildings program)*

Ministers shared that 4 clients have received funding so far in Whitehorse, and the department is working with additional clients. External factors such as inflation and construction prices have created challenges in the retrofit sector, however the Department anticipates increased uptake on the program as those factors lessen.

OCF #H11: *Assess options for financial support for actions to improve the climate resiliency of homes and buildings by 2023.*

The Yukon NDP asked for more details on what this would look like, Ministers shared that work is now underway with a contractor to provide detailed analysis regarding the design of a climate resiliency program for homeowners in the Yukon, set to be completed by January 2024. This program would likely provide support for preventative actions related to floods, fires, and permafrost thaw.

OCF #L4: *Incorporate greenhouse gas emissions and energy efficiency into the process for identifying and prioritizing Government of Yukon building retrofits and new construction projects by 2023.*

Ministers shared that in 2021, the Department of Highways and Public Works developed and implemented a building retrofit project prioritization methodology to select projects based on greenhouse gas reduction potential, energy cost savings, operational improvements, local economic benefits, and demonstrating leadership. They have applied this methodology to over 80 energy assessments since 2021. They are currently pursuing the projects that have the highest impact.

OCF #P11: *Expand monitoring of concentrations of particulate matter in the air from biomass burning and forest fires to all Yukon communities by 2023.*

Ministers shared that all 15 Yukon communities now have an air monitoring station, and this item is complete.

OCF #P12 – Identify existing buildings in communities that can be used as clean air spaces to protect public health during wildfire smoke events and if necessary improve existing air filtration systems by December 2023.

Ministers relayed that this action was changed from “purchase a moveable clean air shelter by 2021 that can be set up in communities to protect public health during wildfire smoke events” to “identify existing buildings in communities that can be used as clean air spaces to protect public health

during wildfire smoke events and if necessary improve existing air filtration systems by December 2023.” The revision of this action was done for several reasons: decrease carbon intensity of the project, increase the impact of the action, and decrease the response time for cleaner air spaces to be available across Yukon.

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.*

Work is currently underway for this legislative commitment.

OCF #T25: *Complete a climate change vulnerability study of the road transportation network by 2023 to inform the development of standards and specifications*

Ministers relayed that this study is now underway, due to be complete in March 2024.

Other discussions:

YCLC Report: the OCFIC discussed the report produced by the Yukon Climate Leadership Council (YCLC), which was commitment 4.2 (a) of the 2021 Confidence and Supply Agreement. Ministers relayed the current strategy of incorporating these recommendations into Our Clean Future, which will be included in the next annual OCF report.

Reaching 45% reduction: Ministers relayed that a critical component of reaching this goal is working with Yukon Energy to update their current resource plan. They relayed that this goal will be ongoing through future iterations of Our Clean Future.

Whitehorse Battery: the Ministers shared that contractors are currently on site preparing for installation and the batteries are now in transit on their way to the Yukon. Work is likely to conclude this Spring, followed by period of commissioning and it is anticipated that the battery project will be fully operational by next winter.

Atlin Hydro: the OCFIC discussed the status of the Atlin Hydro Project. Work is underway through an interdepartmental working group of federal officials, representatives from the British Columbia government, and the Proponent (Tlingit Homeland Energy Limited Partnership) to address the funding gap. Ministers also relayed that they have raised this issue at the political level on trips to Ottawa and at Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers meetings.

Rented Diesels: the OCFIC discussed the current cost and efficiency of rented diesels in Whitehorse. Ministers relayed that they are always considering the question of cost/benefit when it comes to diesels, however the current approach to rentals remains the more efficient option. Current actions being taken by YEC to improve efficiency include enhanced winterization upgrades and avoiding mobilization and demobilization costs by standing units through the off season.

Short term energy projects: the Yukon NDP asked if there are any short-term energy projects currently planned to replace rented diesels. The Ministers relayed that this is closely dependent on the updated resource planning currently underway at YEC. The Ministers also updated the Yukon NDP on projects that are recently finished or underway, including the solar array grader station projects on the Klondike highway, the Haeckill Hill wind project and the Kluane wind project.

Moon Lake Project: Ministers updated the table that discussions are ongoing with CTFN on this project. In the meantime, Yukon Government is seeking partners on other pumped storage projects as it is an important part of Yukon's renewable energy path.