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AEA Question of the Month**Are blower door tests best conducted in the winter?****Question:**

Since NWT homeowners are concerned about keeping cold air out of their homes (and warm air in), is it best to schedule a Home Energy Evaluation for the winter so that the blower door test is done in cold weather?

Answer:

The Arctic Energy Alliance's Certified Energy Advisors conduct the blower door test as part of every Home Energy Evaluation. The blower door depressurizes the home and tests its air tightness.

The test will show how many times the air in the home is exchanged every hour. One Yellowknife homeowner was surprised to learn that the air in her home – heated by expensive fuel oil – was being exchanged eight times every hour. Think of how many home heating dollars are continuously seeping out of those leaks in the long NWT winter!

Although the blower door test is designed to help you keep the heat inside your home, it does not need a cold winter's day to do its job properly. In fact, it can be argued that spring or summer are the best seasons for a Home Energy Evaluation because it leaves you more time for repairs before winter arrives again!



Certified Energy Advisor Stephen Fancott, left, and Steve Goldberg, who conducts quality assurance of AEA advisors for Natural Resources Canada, use a door blower to test the air tightness of a Yellowknife home.

AEA Announcements:

AEA's Certified Energy Advisors are on the road again

The Arctic Energy Alliance's Certified Energy Advisors are on the road again and conducting Home Energy Evaluations in every community in the NWT from August '09 to January '10. The complete [Travel Schedule](#), including deadlines for registering for an evaluation, is posted on the AEA website along with a brochure explaining [how and why](#) to book a Home Energy Evaluation.

Non-Profit Organizations can now register for CBSM Workshop

Non-profit/non-governmental organizations can now register for Doug McKenzie-Mohr's Community Based Social Marketing workshop on October 26 and 27, 2009 at the reduced rate of \$250 per person. Twenty seats have been reserved for non-profit organizations but there are still five seats available for the private and public sector at the full rate of \$500 per person.

For more information, contact [Brad Heath](#). To learn more about social marketing visit Doug McKenzie-Mohr's [website](#) or check out [What Is CBSM?](#)

NEW DATE – Yellowknife's second annual Wood Pellet Fair

In response to continuing interest in wood pellet heating in Yellowknife, the Arctic Energy Alliance is once again hosting a Wood Pellet Fair in Yellowknife this fall and we're looking for people interested in exhibiting their wood pellet products, services or projects.

The Wood Pellet Fair will be held **Friday, October 16** from 12 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and on **Saturday, October 17** from 11 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the atrium of the Greenstone Building (315 -5101 50th Avenue, Yellowknife).

If you're interested in participating as an exhibitor or would like more information, contact [Nick Dennahower](#) at 920-3453 or toll free at 1-877-755-5855.

Professional opportunities with AEA

The AEA is currently advertising for the following professional opportunities:

- [Regional Energy Pathfinder – Inuvik](#) Application deadline extended until August 18, 2009.
- [Residential Energy Advisors](#). This is an ongoing business opportunity for contractors.

“Upcoming Courses & Events”

August 2009

- August 13: Learn how to do pre-feasibility analyses of clean energy projects using RETScreen software. Arctic Energy Alliance is offering this one-day course to provide an overview of RETScreen version 4 with specific emphasis on the use of the Solar Water Heating and Photovoltaic modules. The course is free but participants must be familiar with Microsoft Excel and bring their own laptop with Excel and RETScreen installed. RETScreen is free for downloading from [NRCan](#).
- Aug. 17-20: Arctic Energy Alliance staff will participate in the Young Leaders Summit on Northern Climate Change in Inuvik.

September 2009

- Arctic Energy Alliance will offer HOT2000 software training. Dates to be announced. \$500 registration fee for this two-day course. For more information, contact Residential Energy Management Specialist [Mike Stuhec](#).
- Arctic Energy Alliance will offer Home Energy Advisor training for contractors. Date to be announced. Advisors successfully completing this five-day EnerGuide for Houses (EGH) course and 10 files will be reimbursed the \$500 registration fee. **HOT 2000 is a prerequisite for this course.** For more information, contact [Mike Stuhec](#).
- Sept. 12-13: Arctic Energy Alliance will have a booth at the Hay River Business, Home and Leisure Show.
- Sept. 18-19: Arctic Energy Alliance will host the 2nd annual Wood Pellet Fair at the Greenstone Building in Yellowknife. For more information or to register as an exhibitor, contact Energy Management Specialist [Nick Dennahower](#).
- Sept. 22-24: Arctic Energy Alliance will have a booth at the NWT Aboriginal Business Conference in Yellowknife.

October 2009

- Oct. 26-27: The Arctic Energy Alliance and the City of Yellowknife will host a Community Based Social Marketing workshop with Doug McKenzie-Mohr. For more information, contact AEA Communications Coordinator [Brad Heath](#).

January 2010

- Jan. 6: Deadline for nominations for the *2009 Energy Action Awards*. Nomination form is available on the Arctic Energy Alliance [website](#).

February 2010

- Feb 25: *2009 Energy Action Awards* presentation ceremony at Explorer Hotel.



Ecology North’s Executive Director Doug Ritchie, right, explains the Arctic Energy Alliance’s demonstration solar hot water heater that was used to heat dish water at the Folk on the Rocks music festival in Yellowknife July 18-19.

'Balmy' Eureka broke heat record in July

Temperatures soared to record highs in the High Arctic in July, stunning Environment Canada's senior climatologist, reports *CBC News*. David Phillips said a heat record was broken last month in Eureka on Ellesmere Island. A similar record was almost broken further up the island at Alert, Canada's most northerly place. "Boy, there are some real head-shakers. I look at Eureka — I mean, it is probably almost as far north as you can get — and we saw temperatures of, you know, up to almost 21 C," Phillips told *CBC News*. "It's been just absolutely balmy."

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City of Yellowknife’s geothermal study final report

The final report on the concept study of heating the City of Yellowknife with geothermal energy from the Con Mine is now available on the city’s website.

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Hay River getting committee to analyze greener energy

Hay River is getting an energy committee to look at ways of lowering the town's carbon footprint, reports *CJCD-FM Radio*. Mayor Jean-Marc Miltenberger says the town is looking for 10 to 12 people to sit on the committee.

“We’re trying to get a broad spectrum of stakeholders in the community from the business to the residents, providers of energy, ATCO, Imperial Oil, PetroCan, Shell, all these individuals, and we’ll all be in a discussion about the town of Hay River and where we go with our energy strategy for the future.”

Mayor Miltenberger also told *CJCD-FM* that Hay River will build a central biomass plant to help bring down heating costs in the town's schools. The plant, which will use wood pellets, will be built between the town's high school and two of its elementary schools and will service them by underground pipelines.

Electricity Review Team completes public discussion phase

The review team tasked with completing the NWT Electricity Review has reported to the GNWT's Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee on the views, values and visions held by NWT residents regarding their electrical system.

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Report: [A Discussion with Northerners about Electricity](#)

“Northerners Taking Action”



Before (left) and after photos of the Northern United Place retrofit this summer.

Northern United Place gets a facelift and insulating blanket

Northern United Place, a Yellowknife landmark on Franklin Ave., received a facelift this summer when the old stucco siding was replaced with new sheetrock, building wrap and four inches of Styrofoam insulation and then covered by new siding, says Gail Leonardis of NWT Community Services Corporation. The old roof was replaced with new plywood and new roofing materials.

Gail says that NWT Community Services Corporation expects to save money on heating costs this coming winter although exactly how much is unknown at this time.

“Businesses & Institutions Taking Action”

Planetair again rated among Canada’s top offset providers

The David Suzuki Foundation and the Pembina Institute have published a guide to Canadian carbon offsetters. Planetair (the AEA’s partner in *Carbon Neutral North*) received a “strong performance” label, ranking second among Canadian offsetters. “If our annual report had already been published at the time of writing, we would have ranked first overall, but we are of course proud to have been recognized by two eminent environmental NGOs,” said Julian Lee, Planetair’s Director of Operations.

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Learn more about [Carbon Neutral North](#)

Nissan unveils prototype electric car

Nissan Motor Co. unveiled its super-quiet, zero-emission electric car late last month — a key green offering for Japan’s No. 3 automaker, which has fallen behind in hybrid technology. “Nissan will be a leader in zero-emission vehicles,” said chief operating officer Toshiyuki Shiga. Sales of Nissan’s electric vehicle are scheduled to begin in Japan and the U.S. next year. Nissan says it plans to mass produce zero-emission cars globally from 2012.

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“Communities & Governments Taking Action”

Reducing Government of Canada’s environmental footprint

The federal department of Public Works and Government Services has begun industry consultations to identify the most environmentally responsible and cost-effective approach to meeting the energy requirements for Government of Canada buildings in the National Capital Area. “Energy production is a rapidly evolving sector with many new possibilities for reducing our environmental footprint,” said Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment.

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Britain presents plans to cut emissions, add jobs

The British government has unveiled ambitious plans to cut carbon emissions substantially by 2020 with 40 per cent of the country’s electricity coming from renewable sources, reports *The Associated Press*. The proposal on fighting climate change envisions expansions in wind energy as well as continued use of nuclear power and clean coal.

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U.S. and China sign memorandum on climate change

The United States and China, the world’s largest emitters of greenhouse gases, signed an agreement last week that promises more cooperation on climate change, energy and the environment, reports *Reuters News Agency*.

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“Funding Programs Available”

Earlier this summer the federal department of Natural Resources announced the \$1 billion Clean Energy Fund (CEF). One component of the CEF is funding for demonstration projects in Renewable Energy and Clean Energy Systems. The scope includes the integration of these systems into the built environment. Innovative community-scale projects are included in the scope. Projects can be funded up to 50 per cent of eligible costs, with a minimum CEF contribution of \$2.5 million and a maximum of \$50 million.

For further information, visit the [CEF website](#). Please note that full project proposals are due by September 14, 2009.

“Energy Tips”

Improve Your Energy Efficiency – If your home has a crawl space, inspect it regularly to ensure that the insulation inside is dry. When insulation gets wet, its optimal effectiveness is significantly reduced. Be sure to find the source of the moisture and replace any damaged insulation. [More Tips!](#)

Use Renewable Energy – Consider installing solar water heating – it and wood pellet heating are the most cost-effective options available to Northerners! Solar water heating reduces your energy costs by using local, renewable energy (sunlight) to heat water or antifreeze as it passes through solar collectors on your roof. This in turn helps heat the water in your hot water tank. Funding is available from the [Alternative Energy Technologies Program](#).

Go Carbon Neutral – After becoming more efficient and using renewable energy, you can eliminate your contribution to climate change by purchasing carbon offsets and going carbon neutral. Our [AEA website](#) can help you calculate your emissions and purchase Gold Standard offsets. ***For example, if you live in Yellowknife and consumed 4,000 litres of propane to heat your home last winter, it would cost you \$222.63 to offset 6.15 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.***



The AEA e-news is a service of the Arctic Energy Alliance. We focus on stories related to how energy issues are affecting NWT communities and actions that communities are taking. If you would like your name removed from our mailing list, please e-mail [Brad Heath](#).

The AEA is a not-for-profit society whose Vision is that "NWT Society will become a global leader in clean, efficient, sustainable energy practices." Our Mission is "To promote and facilitate the adoption of efficient, renewable and carbon neutral energy practices by all members of NWT society."