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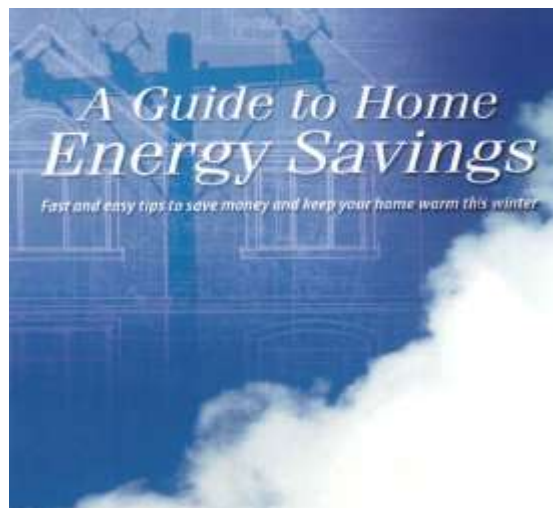
AEA Question of the Month**Will reducing my electricity use lower my greenhouse gas emissions?**

Question: Can Yellowknifers reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by using less electricity?

Answer: Reducing your consumption of electricity is always a good thing – however, Yellowknife residents cannot lower their GHG emissions by reducing their electricity consumption. That's because Yellowknife's electricity is produced by a hydro-electric dam and not from burning diesel or natural gas.

The same holds true for the communities of Behchoko, Dettah, Enterprise, Fort Resolution, Fort Smith, Hay River, and the Hay River Reserve. People in these communities can, however, reduce their power bills if they reduce their consumption of electricity. The AEA website lists numerous [tips for saving electricity](#).

People in hydro communities can best reduce their GHG emissions by making sure their homes are not leaking heat. This will reduce the amount of home heating fuel that they burn – and will save even more money!



Click on above image for do-it-yourself projects that will make your home more energy efficient.

A [Home Energy Evaluation](#) by the AEA will identify repairs and renovations that will keep the heat in your home – and your money in your wallet.

Next month: What about people living in communities whose electricity comes from burning diesel or natural gas?

AEA Announcements:**E-News distribution list updated & expanded to nearly 1,500 names!**

The Arctic Energy Alliance has updated and expanded the distribution list for the E-News. It now contains nearly 1,500 names! However, if you would like your name removed from the list, please send an email to [Brad Heath](#).



The Greenstone Building lobby, left, was the site of the AEA's second annual Wood Pellet Fair on Oct 16-17, 2009. Right, AEA Energy Management Specialist Trace Grunerud cooks up smokies on the AEA's wood pellet BBQ. Photos by Bill Braden.

AEA Wood Pellet Fair shows Northerners interested in switching to pellets

Although home heating fuel prices have dropped from their record highs last year, Yellowknifers are still interested in switching to wood pellet heating appliances – which they demonstrated by shaking off the snowy weather to attend the Arctic Energy Alliance's 2nd annual Wood Pellet on Oct. 16-17.

A questionnaire shows that 27 per cent of Wood Pellet Fair attendees already own a wood pellet stove or boiler, 51 per cent are interested in installing a wood pellet stove, while 21 per cent are considering a wood pellet boiler. The reasons people are considering wood pellet heating: reduce costs – 64 per cent; reduce GHGs – 48 per cent; renewable source of fuel – 41 per cent; positive reviews from friends or family – 24 per cent, and reduce risk of fuel spill – 22 per cent.

Winners of the Wood Pellet Fair draws were Jennifer MacLellan (\$500 towards the purchase of a wood pellet appliance or wood pellets) and B. Jones (a Bradley Burner which allows you to burn wood pellets in a conventional wood stove). Congratulations!

Energy Planning for Northern Communities webinar

Northern communities face unique challenges and opportunities when it comes to energy use. A community energy plan that includes energy efficiency and renewable energy options can help municipalities reduce costs, keep more money in the community, improve public health by reducing pollution, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To help meet these goals, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is organizing a webinar entitled *Energy Planning for Northern Communities* on Wednesday, December 2nd from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. MST.

AEA Executive Director Andrew Robinson, Yellowknife City Councillor Mark Heyck and City Energy Coordinator Mark Henry are the webinar speakers. The AEA will present its Community Energy Toolkit, a resource designed to address the specific needs of Northern communities. The City of Yellowknife will share the process through which it developed its successful energy plan.

For more information or to register for this free webinar, go to the [FCM website](#).

AEA, ICA Associates to hold “Meetings that Work” and “Group Facilitation” workshops

Arctic Energy Alliance has contracted ICA Associates to provide two facilitation courses (“Meetings that Work” and “Group Facilitation”) to be held in Yellowknife on November 24-27. These two-day courses are eligible for use towards certification as a professional facilitator.

The examples used in the courses will be based on Community Energy Planning content but the facilitation skills can be used in any other situation. There are still 15 seats available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The cost is \$500 per participant for the full four days. Attendees are responsible for their own travel and accommodation.

For more information, go to the [ICA Associates website](#). To reserve a seat, phone Dean Green by Tuesday, November 10 at 1-867-920-3438 or call toll free 1-877-755-5855.

Professional opportunities with AEA

The AEA is currently advertising for the following professional opportunity:

- [Residential Energy Advisors](#). This is an ongoing business opportunity for contractors.

“Upcoming Courses & Events”

November 2009

- AEA’s Certified Energy Advisors are travelling to Hay River, Kakisa, Fort Providence, Behchoko, Lutselk’e, Fort Resolution and Fort Smith this month.
- Nov. 16: [Burn It Smart!](#) Workshop, Fort Providence, Community Hall, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.
- Nov. 18 & 19: HOT2000 software training. This course is a prerequisite for Home Energy Evaluator training. Registration fee is \$500. (*See registration info below.*)
- Nov. 23-27: Certified Energy Advisor training course. Registration is free. HOT2000 is a prerequisite for this course. For more info or to register, phone 920-3333 or toll free 1-877-755-5855, or write info@aea.nt.ca.
- Nov. 24-27: Meetings that Work, and Group Facilitation. (*See above article.*)

December 2009

- Dec. 2: Energy Planning for Northern Communities webinar, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. MST

- Certified Energy Advisors to Deline, Fort Smith, Inuvik and Norman Wells. Registration deadline is November 20, 2009.

January 2010

- Jan. 6: Deadline for nominations for the *2009 Energy Action Awards*. Nomination form is available on the Arctic Energy Alliance [website](#).
- Jan 19-21: AEA will host a one-day Introductory Workshop in Yellowknife on RETScreen4 Renewable Energy Technology feasibility analysis software on Jan. 19. This will be followed by a two-day workshop on using RETScreen4 for energy auditing and feasibility analysis of energy efficiency projects. The Introductory Workshop is strongly recommended for anyone who intends to participate in the two-day energy efficiency workshop, but is not familiar with RETScreen. There is no registration fee for this workshop, but space is limited. The registration fee for the two-day energy efficiency workshop is \$250 (plus GST) and space is limited to 15 participants. The final date to register for either of these workshops is January 8, 2010. These workshops may be cancelled if there is insufficient enrollment by the registration cutoff date. Details of these workshops and registration forms will be posted on the Arctic Energy Alliance website. For more information, call Mike Buchanan at 873-7729 or John Carr at 920-3389, or call toll free 1-877-755-5855.
- Certified Energy Advisors to Hay River, Hay River Reserve and Enterprise. Registration deadline is December 18, 2009.

February 2010

- Feb. 2-4: HRAI Residential Mechanical Ventilation Installation Level I Training: This workshop, to be held in Yellowknife, is based on the National Building Code and the CSA F-326 Standard “Residential Mechanical Ventilation Requirements.” It is a prerequisite for the Residential Mechanical Ventilation Design – Level II course which will be offered by the Arctic Energy Alliance in the fall or winter of 2010. The registration fee for this three-day workshop is \$256.75 (including GST) for HRAI members and \$398.50 (including GST) for non-HRAI members. Travel subsidies may be available for participants from outside of Yellowknife. The final date to register for this workshop is January 4, 2010. The workshop may be cancelled if there is insufficient enrollment by the registration cutoff date. Details of this workshop and a registration form will be posted on the Arctic Energy Alliance website. For more information, call Mike Buchanan at 873-7729 or call toll free 1-877-755-5855.

“Energy & Climate Change in the North”

Current Arctic heat wave as rare as any in 200,000 years

The Canadian Arctic is experiencing a heat wave that has seldom been matched in the past 200,000 years, says a new scientific paper based on the study of sediments found at the bottom of a remote lake on Baffin Island.

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Multiyear Arctic ice is effectively gone: expert

The multiyear ice covering the Arctic Ocean has effectively vanished, a startling development that will make it easier to open up polar shipping routes, reports David Barber, Canada's Research Chair in Arctic System Science at the University of Manitoba.

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“Northerners Taking Action”



Inuvik's Maung Win proudly displays his hybrid SUV. Photo by Russell Noksana, AEA Inuvik

Arctic Energy Alliance salutes Inuvik's one-and-only hybrid SUV taxi driver

Russell Noksana, the Arctic Energy Alliance's Inuvik Regional Energy Pathfinder, recently interviewed Inuvik taxi driver Maung Win who drives a 2009 Toyota Highlander Hybrid – Inuvik's only hybrid taxi.

1. **Why did you buy your 2009 Toyota Highlander Hybrid?** For the cost savings on fuel, and to reduce greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere. I've always wanted to promote more use of renewable energy.
2. **So what kind of cost savings are you seeing now?** An average fuel savings of 50 per cent, or \$1,200 per month. That's based on 250 kilometres per day during a 12-hour day. On average, I fill up every four days or 700 kilometres – that's compared to my old minivan which I filled up daily at \$60 per day.

3. **Has your business picked up since purchasing the hybrid?** Yes, by 50 per cent. People want to know how the vehicle runs, and how much I save on gas and how many kilometres I can get on one tank of gas.

An article about Maung Win also appeared recently in the Inuvik Drum: [Go To NNSL Article](#)

Northerners taking action on climate change in October 2009

The Arctic Energy Alliance congratulates the following Northerners for taking action on climate change through the Energy Efficiency Incentive Program (EEIP) in October:

- Clare Holloway of Yellowknife purchased an Energy-Star fridge and received a \$100 rebate,
- Bill and Susan Warren of Hay River bought a wood pellet stove and received a \$500 rebate,
- Brian Battist of Yellowknife bought an outboard motor (CARB three-star certified) and received a \$500 rebate.

The AEA received the following pledges of action on climate change this month:

- I will use/print on double-sided paper.
- I will take the bus/train when I go south.
- I will get a quote on a wood pellet furnace for our condo association.



“Dream home” one of the most energy-efficient in the NWT!

Little did Vince Sharpe of Inuvik know when he built his dream home on Shell Lake Road that it would be one of the most energy-efficient homes in the NWT, reports *Northern News Services Ltd.*

An energy efficiency evaluation by the Arctic Energy Alliance shows the house has an EnerGuide rating of 82.

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“Businesses & Institutions Taking Action”

YK business owner joins growing list of certified WETT technicians

Bob Fitzgerald of Fitzgerald Carpeting in Yellowknife has joined the growing ranks of certified Wood Energy Transfer Technology (WETT) technicians and system advisors in the Northwest Territories.

WETT Inc. is a non-profit training and education association that promotes the safe and effective use of wood burning systems in Canada through professional training and public education.

[Find a WETT Certified Technician](#)

BHP cuts costs, reduces energy consumption to extend Ekati life

BHP Billiton is cutting costs to ensure that its Ekati diamond mine is around for longer than people might expect, reports *Northern News Services Ltd.* This includes reducing its energy consumption.

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“Communities & Governments Taking Action”

MLA Bromley calls on all levels of government to take action on climate change

Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley stated in the Legislative Assembly of the NWT that: “It is time for governments to set ambitious science-based targets for greenhouse gas reductions in the NWT and Canada. The federal position on combating climate change is an embarrassment to Canada and an immediate threat to the safety and security of northern citizens and indigenous people in particular. Science shows that Canada and the world must reduce greenhouse gas production by 25 per cent by 2020 from 1990 levels if we are to avoid disastrous and accelerating consequences.”

[Go To MLA's Statement](#) (Page 3473)

Energy efficient Denmark should make Canada green with envy

While much of the world talks about the problem of climate change, the Danes are finding solutions, reports the *Globe & Mail*. The Danes use about the same amount of energy today as they did in 1980. But over that same period of time, the country's economy has grown by 70 per cent. From 1990 to 2007, economic activity in Denmark grew by 45 per cent while carbon-dioxide emissions were reduced by more than 13 per cent.

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“Funding Programs Available”

EcoEnergy Retrofit – Homes: Increase the energy efficiency of your home and reduce energy consumption with the support of [Natural Resources Canada Grants](#). Matching rebates are provided through the [Energy Efficiency Incentive Program](#) (EEIP). To qualify for these grants, you first need a Home Energy Evaluation. The Arctic Energy Alliance has Certified Energy Advisors available to conduct your evaluation. NWT homeowners can register on-line for a [Home Energy Evaluation](#).

“Energy Tips”

Improve Your Energy Efficiency – Install foam gaskets behind electric outlet and switch plate covers. Aluminum tape wrapped around joints in heating and cooling ducts can help reduce costly air leakage. Adjust or replace weather stripping, door sweeps, and thresholds as necessary. Make sure that they haven't warped, cracked, or broken and that they're still blocking the space between the window or door and the frame. [More Tips!](#)

Use Renewable Energy – Heat with a certified wood or pellet stove. They burn longer, cleaner and more completely. Wood and pellet stoves, boilers and furnaces use a renewable fuel. Funding is available through the [Energy Efficiency Incentive Program](#) and for community funded and non-profit organizations through the [Energy Conservation Program](#). Support and funding is available through the [ecoEnergy for Aboriginal and Northern Communities](#) 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.



The AEA's monthly E-news is a service of the Arctic Energy Alliance. If you would like your name removed from our mailing list, please e-mail [Brad Heath](#). The next issue of E-News will be distributed on Wednesday, December 2, 2009.

***Arctic Energy Alliance: Taking Action on High Heating & Power Bills,
High Transportation Costs, and Climate Change!***