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### **AEA Question of the Month**

#### **What are greenhouse gases (GHG) and why should we aim to reduce emissions?**

**Question:** The AEA encourages NWT residents to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions but one E-News reader asks for a definition of GHGs – and why should we reduce our emissions?

**Answer:** Many greenhouse gases occur naturally, such as water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone.

Human activities have caused a dramatic increase in the amount of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere. CO<sub>2</sub> traps the sun's heat, warms the atmosphere and changes our climate.

Since about 1750, the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> has risen from about 280 parts per million by volume (ppmv) to reach 383 ppmv in 2007 — a value that has likely not been exceeded during the past 20 million years.

Examples of impacts likely to occur during this century if GHG emissions are allowed to continue rising unchecked include:

- Sea levels rise sufficiently to flood Arctic coastal areas and communities such as Tuktoyaktuk,



*Click on the Carbon Neutral North logo to learn how you can take action on climate change.*

- Unpredictable ice conditions are make hunting dangerous for hunters,
- Climate change will have negative impacts on polar bears, ringed seals, Arctic foxes, caribou, musk oxen, narwhals, bowhead and beluga whales and many other Arctic species,
- Thawing permafrost in the Arctic has damaged houses, roads, airports and pipelines, and caused landscape erosion, slope instability, and landslides,
- A decline in the extent of sea-ice around the North Pole in summer by more than 50 per cent will threaten the cultural survival of some Arctic communities, and
- Reduced water quantities from the Great Lakes to the Rockies.

## AEA Announcements:

### **AEA opens regional office in Inuvik, welcomes three new staff members**

The Arctic Energy Alliance opened a regional office in Inuvik in September – the first of three regional offices being planned for the next few years.

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The Inuvik regional office is being run by Inuvik Regional Energy Pathfinder and lifelong Northerner Russell Noksana who is originally from Tuktoyaktuk. The office will serve the communities of Fort McPherson, Inuvik, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Tuktoyaktuk, Tsiigehtchic and Ulukhaktok.

The AEA also recently welcomed two other new staff members in Yellowknife: Community Energy Planning (CEP) Coordinator Kelsey Chegus, and Energy Management Specialist Trace Grunerud.

For more information about the AEA's services in the Inuvik region, please contact Russell:

Aurora Research Institute Building  
P.O. Box 1450  
191 Mackenzie Road  
Inuvik NT X0E 0T0



*Russell Noksana*



*Kelsey Chegus*



*Trace Grunerud*

### **AEA Residential Energy Management Specialist certified for MURB training**

AEA Residential Energy Management Specialist Mike Stuhec attended a "Train-the-Trainer" workshop for EnerGuide for New Homes (EGH) evaluations of Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURBs) in September in Ottawa. This means that Mike is now certified to train and certify other EGH advisors to conduct MURB evaluations.

### **AEA increases assistance with Community Energy Planning in the NWT**

The deadline for NWT communities to complete a [Community Energy Plan](#) (CEP) as part of the requirements to receive federal Gas Tax Funding is fast approaching: March 31, 2010.

Considering that more than half of the communities have not completed their CEP, AEA is working towards providing:

- Updated Energy Profiles. An energy profile is a picture of how energy is currently being used in a community. Completing all the energy profiles is dependent on whether AEA can get the required data, therefore, we cannot be sure that all communities will receive an energy profile.
- A list of recommended renewable and efficient energy actions that could be included in a CEP.

AEA is also offering to make at least two visits to each community that has not started on their CEP. The first visit will be to help determine the vision of the community's CEP, to gather some information for the energy profile, and to see what projects the community is already planning. The second visit

will be to bring and explain the energy profiles, and the recommended energy efficient and renewable energy action.

Communities will need a liaison person to coordinate the efforts of the community to complete the CEP. A completed CEP can be used to start and complete projects that successfully reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

The information that AEA is planning to provide will not be as comprehensive as the work being done through consultants or a community energy coordinator. Communities who have hired a consultant and/or a community energy coordinator are encouraged to continue their efforts. AEA is open to providing further assistance as necessary to all communities who are already working on developing a CEP.

For more information, contact [Dean Green](#) or [Kelsey Chegus](#).

### **Community Energy Planning and Town Open House in Hay River**

The Arctic Energy Alliance congratulates the Town of Hay River for hosting a highly successful community open house on September 22, 2009.

Hay River community members went to the open house to share their ideas for the town's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP).

The ICSP includes a Community Energy Plan (CEP), as well as three other community plans related to human resource planning, strategic planning, and capital planning.

Hay River also has a dedicated Community Energy Planning Committee which organized a special facilitated discussion in the evening focused on the Community Energy Plan.

If you have questions or would like to share what your community is doing to complete a



*Hay River residents discuss their Community Energy Plan.*

community energy plan, please contact CEP Manager Dean Green at (867) 920-3438 or CEP Coordinator Kelsey Chegus at (867) 920-3488. You can also call toll free at 1-877-755-5855 and can contact [Kelsey](#) or [Dean](#) by e-mail.

### **Climate Justice Event in Yellowknife on October**

The NWT Climate Justice Collective is organizing an event in Yellowknife as part of International Day of Climate Action on Saturday, October 24. The event aims to raise awareness about the UN Climate Negotiations in Copenhagen in December of 2009. Everyone is invited to take part! Watch for more details to be advertised around Yellowknife closer to the day of the event. For more information, contact AEA Executive Director [Andrew Robinson](#).

## AEA releases NWT Community Wood Pellet Study – Part I

Which NWT communities are best suited for increased use of wood pellets for space heating? The AEA study concludes that bulk wood pellets represent a cheaper and less polluting heating source than fossil fuels in all communities with road access.

[Go To Study](#)

## Professional opportunities with AEA

The AEA is currently advertising for the following professional opportunities:

- [Residential Energy Advisors](#). This is an ongoing business opportunity for contractors.
- [Community Energy Planning \(CEP\) Coordinator](#). Closes Friday, Oct. 9 at 5:00 p.m.

## “Upcoming Courses & Events”

### October 2009

- Oct. 8: Free ***Burn It Smart*** workshop at the Ptarmigan Inn in Hay River, 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. No registration but please bring a log to test the moisture content of your firewood.
- Oct. 16-17: Arctic Energy Alliance will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Wood Pellet Fair at the Greenstone Building in Yellowknife on Oct. 16 from 12:00 - 3:30 p.m., and on Oct. 17 from 11 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more info, contact Energy Management Specialist [Nick Dennahower](#).
- Oct. 26-27: Community Based Social Marketing workshop with Doug McKenzie-Mohr. For more information, contact AEA Communications Manager [Brad Heath](#).
- Oct. 28: An introduction to the AEA’s Community Energy Planning Toolkit will be held in the AEA Boardroom from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday October 28, 2009. Registration is free but limited to 10 people. For more info call 920-3333 or toll free 1-877-755-5855.
- AEA’s Certified Energy Advisors to Fort McPherson, Inuvik, Sachs Harbour, Tsiigehtchic, Ulukhaktok, Fort Simpson, Wrigley, Jean Marie River and Fort Liard.

### November 2009

- AEA’s Certified Energy Advisors to Hay River, Kakisa, Fort Providence, Behchoko, Lutselk’e, Fort Resolution and Fort Smith. Registration deadline is October 23, 2009.
- 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](mailto:info@aea.nt.ca).
- Nov 23-26 AEA will offer training for facilitators. The best Community Energy Plans include ideas from many people in the communities. Getting people to work well together requires good facilitators. Space is limited and priority will be given to people who are working with

communities. The cost is \$500. The courses will be based on the “Meetings that work” and “Group Facilitation” modules offered on the ICA website: <http://ica-associates.ca/>

## December 2009

- Certified Energy Advisors to Inuvik and Fort Smith. 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](#).
- Certified Energy Advisors to Hay River, Hay River Reserve and Enterprise. Registration deadline is December 18, 2009.

## “Energy & Climate Change in the North”

### **Climate change brings lush lawns to Kuujjuaq: “Part and parcel of climate change”**

If you want to see how the Arctic is heating up, come to Kuujjuaq where the temperature on Sept. 10 reached 22.1 C, reports the *Nunatsiaq News*.

At the end of the afternoon, clouds moved in, and warm rain fell on the newly-mown grass around Kuujjuaq — sights and sounds which are more usually associated with warmer places than a community located on the 58th parallel.

[Go To Article](#)

### **Record temperatures in Yellowknife this September**

Yellowknife’s high of 24.1 Celsius on Monday, September 14 blew the previous temperature record for that day (22.2 Celsius in set in 1966) out of the water, reports the *Yellowknifer*. “My gosh, we’re talking about temperatures that are 15 Celsius warmer than they should be this time of year,” said David Phillips, senior climatologist for Environment Canada. The temperature on Sunday, September 13 also broke the 1996 record for that day of 21.1 Celsius with a high of 22.5 Celsius.

### **Arctic warming effects spread: study**

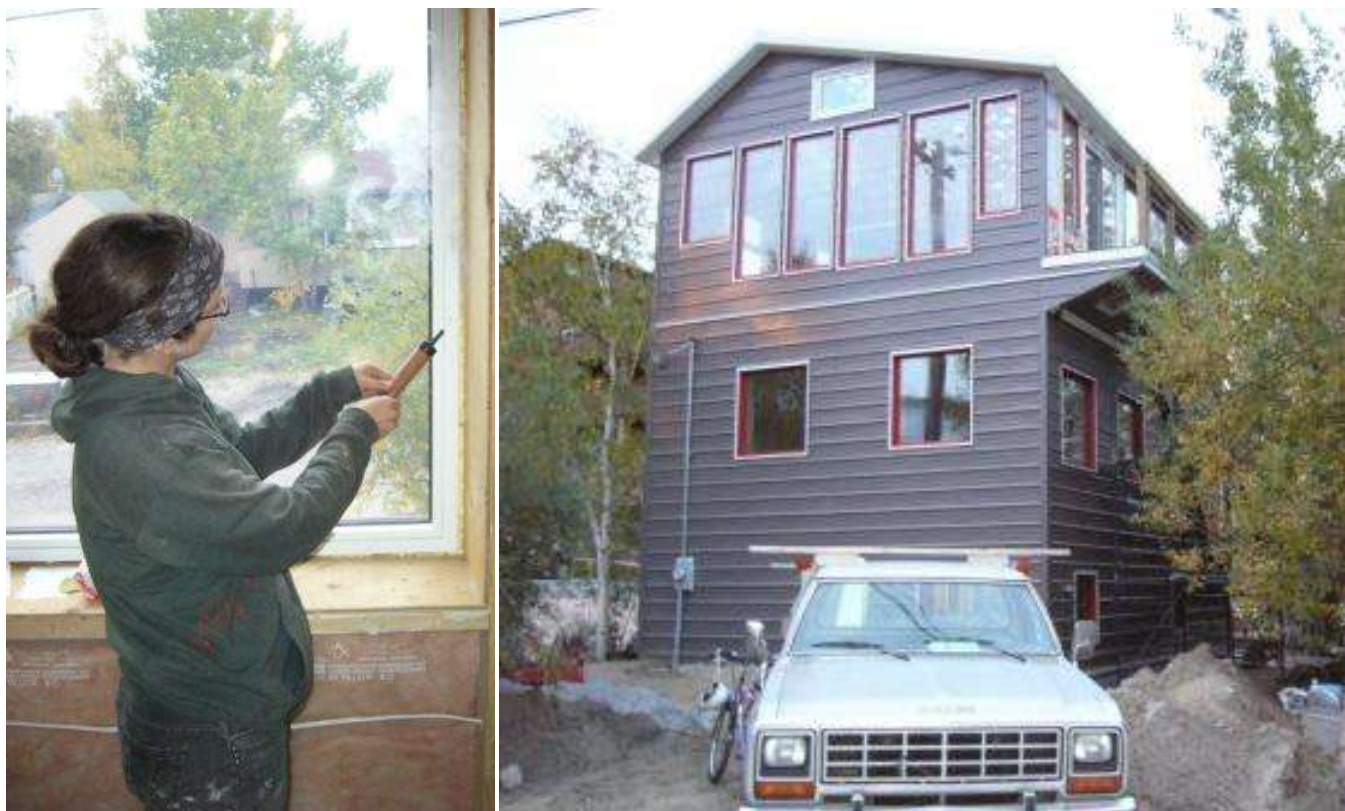
Researchers studying the impacts of climate change report that the Arctic is warmer than it has been in 2,000 years – even though it should be cooling because of changes in the Earth’s orbit that cause the region to get less direct sunlight, reports *CBC North*.

“The Arctic as we know it may soon be a thing of the past,” says Eric Post, an associate professor of biology at Penn State University.

[Go To Article](#)

**Energy Efficiency Incentive Program: Northerners taking action!**

Arctic Energy Alliance congratulates the following Northerners for taking action through the Energy Efficiency Incentive Program (EEIP): Brian Battist of Yellowknife, Cory Forsyth of Fort Simpson, Clare Holloway of Yellowknife, and Yellowknife Catholic Schools. In addition to lowering their heating and/or energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions – they'll also be receiving cash rebates for their energy efficiency, renewable energy purchases!



Mary Kelly (left) checks for air leakage around windows. An outside view of the energy efficient home.

**Yellowknife couple building first LEED home North of 60**

Dwayne Wohlgemuth and Mary Kelly of Yellowknife are building the first house North of 60 to be accredited with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, reports *Northern News Services Ltd.* Dwayne said their goals in building the house were to: grow most of their own food; keep the trees around the house; build small; achieve EGH 85.5; obtain LEED Platinum, and have a house close to work and services. "We didn't want just a typical house," he said. "We wanted a small house that is energy efficient and has good air quality and one that is durable and going to last a long time."

[Go To NNSL Article](#)



*Yellowknifers braved the rain on September 21 to sound a wake-up call on climate change!*

### **Northerners join global wake-up call to climate change**

Northerners joined concerned citizens around the world on September 21, 2009 in a global wake-up call on climate change. Yellowknife participants filled out pledge sheets with promises to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Some of the actions they promise to take include:

- Wash clothes in cold water,
- Eat as much local food as possible and grow as much food as possible,
- Work to encourage more sustainable transportation options,
- Get involved with social groups working towards change,
- Buy carbon offsets to compensate for their carbon emissions,
- Take shorter showers,
- Take the bus and cycle more often, and
- Turn down the thermostat!

## **“Communities & Governments Taking Action”**

### **NWT could develop biomass energy industry from harvest to electricity production**

Members of the Legislative Assembly’s Joint Committee on Climate Change have released the findings of a fact finding trip to Denmark, southern Sweden and southern Finland on April 25 to May 7, 2009. They found that reliable and economical biomass technology is available, and could be considered to meet the NWT’s local energy needs. The use of biomass could also provide local employment and investment opportunities.

[Go To Report](#)

## “Funding Programs Available”

**Climate Change Adaptation Program** – The CCAP supports Aboriginal and Northern communities, organizations and territories that are working to develop and implement concrete adaptation projects. CCAP is committed to empowering Northern and Aboriginal communities to increase their adaptive capacity through regional assessments and community planning. For more information contact [adaptation@ainc-inac.gc.ca](mailto:adaptation@ainc-inac.gc.ca) or go to their [website](#).

## “Energy Tips”

**Improve Your Energy Efficiency** – If your windows leak really badly, consider replacing them with newer, more efficient ones. Keep in mind, however, that replacing windows can be expensive and that it could take you quite a while to recover your costs from the energy savings alone. But new windows also provide other benefits, such as improved appearance and comfort. And don't forget about rebates for home renovations through the Energy Efficiency Incentive Program. [More Tips!](#)

**Use Renewable Energy** – Simple passive solar design techniques can make a big difference to energy consumption in the home. Facing a house south to capture the maximum daylight increases the effects of natural solar gain and natural lighting during the day, and can help reduce your energy consumption. [More Tips!](#)

**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 own a 2009 Toyota Highlander Hybrid 4WD and drove it 40,000 kilometres this year, it would cost you \$267.52 to offset 7.39 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.**



*The AEA's monthly 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 next issue of E-News will be distributed on Wednesday, November 4, 2009.*

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