

FOR RELEASE
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Popularity of pilot programs demonstrates Yukoners are eager to save energy and money

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon's Residential and Commercial Energy Incentive pilot programs are proving highly popular with Yukon residents and businesses, and are contributing to substantial energy and cost savings in Yukon.

"By improving their energy efficiency, Yukon homeowners and businesses have increased the comfort of their homes and buildings and made significant and lasting changes to help lower energy use and costs for all Yukoners," Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Scott Kent said.

Launched in April 2015, the Commercial Energy Incentive Program offers incentives for improving energy use in multifamily dwellings and commercial buildings through building retrofits or lighting system upgrades.

To date, the lighting systems in 22 commercial buildings, including hotels, community sports clubs, cultural centres and small businesses have been upgraded to LED fixtures and lamps. The participants are benefitting from an average annual savings of \$3,000 in energy costs and 25,000 kWh in energy use per building upgrade.

Launched in January 2015, the Residential Energy Incentive Program offers incentives for improving insulation and air sealing to existing homes as well as installing EnergyStar® windows and doors and heat recovery ventilators (HRVs). New homes meeting the EnerGuide 85 rating or greater also qualify for this incentive.

Response to the Residential Energy Incentive Program exceeded expectations. In its first year, 650 rebates were issued to 500 Yukon households with a total cost savings to the participants of \$98,346 in energy costs and 583,446 kWh in energy use. Of those households, 99 qualified as super-insulated new homes, greatly exceeding the original estimated participation rate of 17.

"As a local construction company, we support the Residential Energy Incentive Program which is very beneficial and necessary for us to continue to deliver high quality energy efficient homes to Whitehorse," Evergreen Homes and Construction director Joseph Glynn said. "We look forward to our continued work with the Energy Solutions Centre in participating in this invaluable program."

The annual savings from both programs are estimated at \$268,000 in client electricity costs, 1,997,000 kWh in energy use and 86 tonnes in avoided greenhouse gas emissions.

Another highlight from the Residential Energy Incentive Program is the incentive offer for installing a renewable energy system to generate electricity. To date, 36 renewable energy systems have been installed with a total generative capacity of 193 kW.

"The Government of Yukon's investments in the incentive programs create jobs within skilled trades, construction, retail sales and professional services that help enhance our shared quality of life in Yukon," Kent added.

These energy efficiency incentive programs are part of the Government of Yukon's broader efforts in realizing its commitments within the *Energy Strategy for Yukon* and *Climate Change Action Plan*.

Learn more:

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