

FOR RELEASE
February 18, 2016

New biomass strategy to open development of local biomass energy sector in Yukon

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon announced today the adoption of the Yukon Biomass Energy Strategy which will guide the development of a biomass energy sector in the territory.

"Using biomass is a cost-effective and environmentally sustainable solution for heating in the territory," Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Scott Kent said. "The Yukon Biomass Energy Strategy will also create good opportunities for investment in Yukon."

The strategy provides opportunities for generating new energy for heating from local renewable energy sources. Biomass energy is energy derived from organic matter. In Yukon the most commonly available biomass resource is wood, which is the main focus of the strategy.

There are six key action areas found within the strategy:

- using biomass energy for government infrastructure;
- developing regulations, policies and programs for a biomass energy industry;
- managing air quality to protect public and environmental health and safety;
- facilitating the development of a biomass energy industry in Yukon;
- ensuring a sustainable timber supply; and
- ensuring biomass fuel quality and security.

The City of Dawson's wastewater treatment plant uses a biomass fuel boiler for generating heat in a cost-effective way using locally produced wood chips. The Whitehorse Correctional Centre is into its fourth full heating season operating the facility's renewable energy biomass system.

"Over time the Yukon government aims to encourage the adoption of modern, clean-burning wood-heating technologies and optimize the use of local wood resources in the production of heat to deliver adequate energy during our long, cold winter months," Kent added.

The Yukon Biomass Energy Strategy joins the recently adopted Independent Power Production policy and the Micro-generation policy as part of Yukon government's broader efforts to increase renewable energy and to achieve energy self-reliance as per the Energy Strategy for Yukon and Climate Change Action Plan.

Learn more

Yukon Biomass Energy Strategy

-30-

Contact:

Dan Macdonald
Cabinet Communications
867-393-6470
dan.macdonald@gov.yk.ca

Jesse Devost
Communications, Energy, Mines and Resources
867-667-5307
jesse.devost@gov.yk.ca

News Release #16-057



Stay up to date with the latest Yukon government news by subscribing to our RSS feed here:
<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/rss.html>. Or follow us on Twitter @yukongov.