



Government of Yukon

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NEWS *release*

FOR RELEASE #10-124
June 29, 2010

New green procurement practices support Climate Change Action Plan

WHITEHORSE – The Government of Yukon is supporting its Climate Change Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gases by adopting a green procurement policy that will change how the government makes purchasing decisions for goods, construction and services.

The new green procurement policy is a basis for the government to consider environmental performance when making purchases. Most Canadian manufacturers are adding green products and Yukon suppliers will be consulted before new standards are adopted. The standards will, where practical, address the cradle to grave life cycle of goods, which considers the use of raw materials for development to final disposal.

"This initiative is part of a coordinated approach to addressing climate change," Highways and Public Works Minister Archie Lang said. "The green procurement policy outlines how standards affecting purchasing practices will be adopted and provides a framework for 'greening government purchasing decisions' while ensuring a fair and competitive environment for suppliers."

The Department of Highways and Public Works is home to the Fleet Vehicles branch and has already adopted the Total Cost of Ownership model for its vehicles, which considers fuel consumption in the procurement decision. The department's Supply Services branch already purchases:

- photocopiers that may contain recycled components;
- office and school supplies with high recycled content;
- computer equipment meeting the highest standards for energy efficiency; and
- janitorial products packaged in bulk, instead of consumer size, to reduce waste.

Supply Services currently specifies products that meet standards set by recognized certification agencies including Energy Star® for appliances, EPEAT® for computer equipment, and EcoLogo™ and Green Seal® for janitorial products.

Improving energy and water efficiency, reuse and recycling and the use of renewable resources in government offices are all part of "greening" government operations. These actions will help the government implement the Climate Change Action Plan.

For more information about Highways and Public Works visit www.hpw.gov.yk.ca.

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