

## LEGISLATIVE RETURN



SUBMITTED BY: Hon. Nils Clarke, Minister of Highways and Public Works

1. On [date], [MLA]

- ☐ asked the following question during the Oral Question Period at page(s) [page numbers] of *Hansard*
- ☐ submitted the following written question – WQ No. #
- ☐ gave notice of the following motion for the production of papers – MPP No. #

RE: [subject]

OR

2. This legislative return relates to a matter outstanding from discussion with Lane Tredger, Member for Whitehorse Centre on March 27, 2023 related to:

Bill No. # 208

☐ Second Reading ☐ Third Reading

☒ Committee of the Whole: Vote 55 Highways and

Public Works

Motion No. #

RE: Our Clean Future, H30

at page(s) 3299 of *Hansard*.

The response is as follows:

### Question:

One of the items in Our Clean Future, H30, is: "... contribute to net 30 per cent greenhouse gas reductions from the Government of Yukon's building portfolio." That actually encompasses a couple of other items — one being retrofits for more energy efficiency and the other is switching over heating systems.

1. What, to date, has the greenhouse gas reduction from Government of Yukon's building portfolio been?
2. What is the projected impact of the next year of projects?
3. What would be the reduction as of the end of last year?
4. What are we predicting the reduction to be by the end of next year?

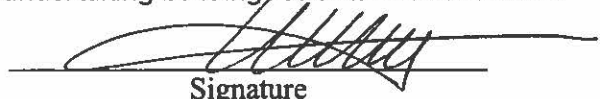
### Response:

1. Since Our Clean Future's launch in 2020, we have been developing a plan to reach our 30 per cent greenhouse gas reduction target by 2030. This includes conducting certified energy assessments in more than 80 buildings to identify meaningful energy retrofits, and evaluating the technical feasibility for renewable energy systems at over 50 sites across the Yukon. We have also developed ambitious energy performance requirements for new buildings to minimize their emissions.

As highlighted in the report published by the Department of Environment last fall, Government of Yukon buildings' emissions in 2020 were 8 per cent higher than in 2019. Emissions were higher than expected due to exceptionally cold temperatures and insufficient hydro (clean) power availability. The report also showed 2020's greenhouse gas emissions from buildings to be 21 per cent higher compared to 2010 levels. While these numbers may look concerning, it was expected and already modeled into the department's plan.

Highways and Public Works established the Yukon Green Infrastructure Program in 2020 which, among other initiatives, is focused on undertaking building retrofits and renewable

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projects to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions. Our current model is showing that 30 per cent reductions by 2030 is achievable.

2. Highways and Public Works will be completing several renewable projects next year. This spring, the installation of a new biomass heating system at Elijah Smith Elementary School in Whitehorse will be complete. This fall, we are expanding the biomass heating system at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, and constructing two solar array systems at Klondike and Ogilvie off-grid grader stations. Collectively, these projects will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by almost 800 tonnes each year, which is equivalent to approximately 280,000 liters of heating oil. We will also begin construction on the Yukon University roof retrofit project, which will reduce the building's greenhouse gas emissions by 7 per cent.
3. In 2022, we completed 11 building energy retrofits to improve the energy efficiency and extend the life of our buildings, while also improving occupant comfort. These retrofits are estimated to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 175 tonnes. We completed the replacement of the Andrew A. Philipsen Law Center Skylight which improved the building's thermal performance and reduced our greenhouse gas emissions by 23 tonnes per year.
4. Total emissions for 2023 could vary dramatically based on many factors (e.g. weather and temperature effects on heating of buildings), and, as such, it is difficult to predict total emissions for 2023. However, by the end of 2023 the department will have undertaken several actions that will have reduced overall emissions from government buildings by almost 1000 tonnes since 2020.

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