

# 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 26, 2024 related to:

Bill No. # 212

Second Reading  Third Reading

Committee of the Whole: Vote 55 Highways and

Public Works

Motion No. #

RE: Total CO2 YG Building Emissions

at page(s) 4926 to of *Hansard*.

The response is as follows:

**Question:**

In 2020, the greenhouse gas emissions from buildings were 21 percent higher when compared with 2010 levels. Can the Minister give me an update on the building portfolio for Highways and Public Works' greenhouse gas emissions as of perhaps 2022? When did those models show that we should be decreasing below 2010 levels as opposed to it being over 2010 levels? What I am trying to understand is whether the rate at which we are doing those projects is fast enough to meet our goals.

**Response:**

Greenhouse gas emissions are published by the Government of Yukon every year. The latest report was published in 2023 with figures current to 2021 emissions. This report communicates the Government of Yukon's total greenhouse gases in 2021, including identifying major emission sources and providing an analysis of the factors that have influenced emissions over time.

However, I am happy to provide a general update until the Yukon government-wide report for 2022 is ready to be released later this year— Highways and Public Works is taking actions to reduce the emissions from buildings by taking bold, innovative steps to achieve the targets in Our Clean Future. We are decarbonizing our buildings by completing energy retrofits (Action H1), installing renewable energy systems (Action H17, E4) and implementing other operational improvement projects. We have completed 81 certified energy assessments on our high-emission buildings to date and we recently awarded a tender for the remaining 36 Yukon sites that are high-emitting government buildings. 31 building retrofits have been completed since 2019 to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

According to the most recent report, the Government of Yukon building portfolio emitted 24.1 kilotonnes of greenhouse gas emissions in 2021. This is an 8.5% increase compared to 2020, and a 19.3% increase compared to 2010.

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The building portfolio includes all Yukon government departments. Emissions from the building portfolio are not divided up by departments as some buildings house multiple departments. However, as a rough estimate the specific HPW building portfolio is 7.05 kilotonnes.

The department is anticipating substantial greenhouse gas reductions in the upcoming years as we implement more building energy retrofits and renewable energy projects. Since the launch of OCF in 2020, the department has focused on conducting planning work to identify and prioritize impactful building energy retrofits and renewable energy projects that would contribute the most towards our greenhouse gas reduction targets.

Aside from the 81 energy assessments completed and the 36 energy assessments underway, we have also completed renewable energy feasibility studies for 66 buildings across the territory. Thanks to this work, we now have a long list of decarbonization projects that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our buildings. Some of these projects have already been completed or are underway. For example, last year we completed the construction of the Elijah Smith Elementary School biomass system and partnered with Teslin Tlingit Council to heat Khàtinas.àxh Community School with biomass heat. These systems are anticipated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 259 tonnes per year. We are also constructing solar and battery systems at Klondike and Ogilvie highway maintenance camps, and the expansion of the biomass district heating system at Whitehorse Correctional Centre. These projects are scheduled for completion in 2024.

2/5/24  
Date



Signature