

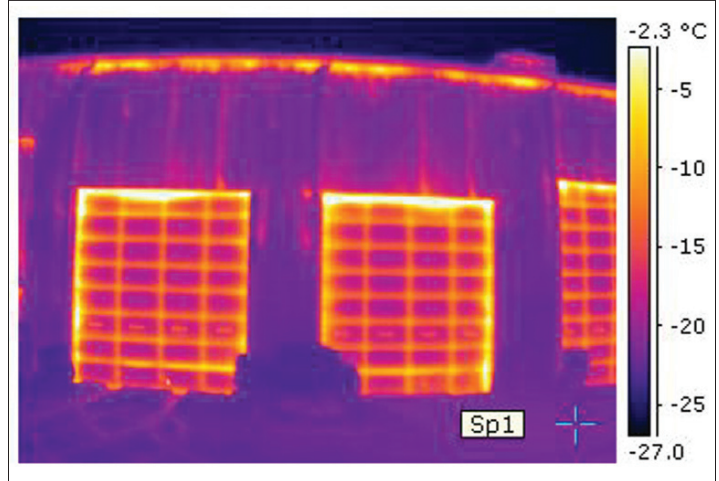
The Transporter

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER



CELEBRATING *Energy efficient efforts*

Audits Seek Alternative Energy Sources for Remote Camps Arctic Energy Alliance set to Examine Department Facilities and Provide Tips on Reducing Usage



Left: A photo of the garage bay doors at the Hay River maintenance garage. **Above:** This infrared image, part of a study undertaken by the Department of Public Works and Services, shows the same garage bay doors. The infrared technology shows where the garage building is losing the most heat.

This is the second in a series of articles on energy efficiency within our department. Have you made efforts to reduce emissions or save energy? The Transporter wants to hear about it.

looking at is energy efficiency,” says Senior Energy Management Specialist at AEA, Mike Buchanan. “We check to make sure that the operating procedures are conducive to the best possible

of these renewable technologies will be measured with a software tool called RETScreen developed by Natural Resources Canada.

“The idea of using renewable energy technologies at remote

projects and ideas that can be turned into real energy savings,” says South Slave Regional Superintendent and project representative for this audit, Art Barnes.

Department of Transportation facilities across the North will receive a thorough examination of their energy efficiency starting in April.

The Arctic Energy Alliance has been contracted to perform energy audits on department facilities to identify potential energy savings and alternative energy options.

The first audits will take place at the James Creek highway maintenance camp before it shuts down for the season, followed this summer by assessments of ferry camps at Peel River, Tsiigehehic, N’Dulee, Fort Liard and Fort Providence. Also on the list of facilities to be audited will be the Norman Wells Air Terminal Building and Combined Services Building, and the Hay River fleet storage building/repair shop.

“The first thing we will be

“We are hoping that these energy audits will provide tangible projects and ideas that can be turned into real energy savings”

Art Barnes - Superintendent, South Slave

energy use. Then we check the buildings, to see if they need any physical improvements.”

After the audits are complete Mike will take all the data he has collected and make recommendations for solutions to reduce energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions. One of the other aspects of this project is trying to identify the potential for using renewable energy sources at some of these facilities.

The renewable sources could range from solar panels to energy generated by wind. The feasibility

of these renewable technologies will be measured with a software tool called RETScreen developed by Natural Resources Canada.

“These technologies will help in meeting the Government of the Northwest Territories commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

On average an energy audit like this can identify potential for a savings of 15-20 per cent annually with an initial investment that will pay itself off in five years time.

“We are hoping that these energy audits will provide tangible

With seasonal sites and remote ferry and highway camps drawing most of their energy from diesel generators Art is hopeful that some alternatives can be found. With an abundance of sun in the summer AEA believes there is some real potential for some of these seasonal camps to benefit from innovative solutions.

“These audits coupled with the studies that have already been undertaken by Public Works and Services will give us a better understanding of our energy usage,” says Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation, Daniel Auger.

“Once we know more about where and how we use energy we can find ways to reduce our consumption and improve our facilities and energy use habits to operate at a more environmentally friendly standard.”

SAFETY TIP *North American Occupational Health & Safety Week*

Brought to you by Occupational Health & Safety

This year North American Occupational Health and Safety week will be celebrated May 6 – 12. The slogan for 2007 is “Safety and Health: A Commitment for Life” and the theme is “Start Today.” This year’s key messages emphasize being alert and practicing safe habits at work, at home and at play.

Corporate Services along with the regional offices will be recognizing NAOSH week by hosting safety video lunches in Hay River, Inuvik, Fort Simpson and Yellowknife

There will be a topic featured at each lunch and a door prize draw.

Inuvik - Monday, May 7, Alex Moses Building

Hay River - Wednesday, May 9, Riverview Cineplex Theatre, 2nd floor Rowe Building

Ft. Simpson - Tuesday, May 8

Yellowknife:

Tuesday, May 8, Centre Square Tower 3rd floor meeting room

Wednesday, May 9, Centre Square Tower 3rd floor meeting room

Thursday, May 10, Centre Square Tower 3rd floor meeting room

Inuvik Airport Hosts Student; Tradespeople Share Skills



Kristen Dick, a student at Samuel Herne Secondary School, spent 125 hours at the Inuvik Airport learning about the work of Airfield Maintenance Technicians, including the operation of equipment like this grader.

Staff at the Inuvik airport shared their skills with grade 11 student Kristen Dick during a work placement program that took place during February and March.

Through a partnership between the Schools North Apprenticeship Program, administered by the Department of Education Culture and Employment, and Department of Transportation staff in Inuvik, Kristen was able to spend 125 hours at the Inuvik airport learning about the work of Airfield Maintenance Technicians.

Before her placement began Kristen had to get familiarized with standard workplace safety practices and first aid techniques.

After successfully completing the introductory requirements Kristen chose to be placed at the Inuvik airport.

“Over the course of her stay Kristen reviewed a number of training modules on safety and heavy equipment operation,” says Inuvik Airport Manager, Karen King.

“She spent some time shoveling out runway lights and doing jobs around the shop and rode in equipment while the runways were being maintained.”

The Airfield Maintenance Technicians at the Inuvik airport were welcoming to Kristen and shared their knowledge with her about the job and the techniques and equipment used to keep the runways clear and safe.

During her work term Kristen learned a lot and had a good time doing it.

“Kristen seemed to really have enjoyed herself,” says King.

Technology Helps Make YZF Fire Hall More Efficient



Lee Stroman holds some log books and files. The new SharePoint site at the YZF Fire Hall lets staff focus on the job at hand and less on sifting through paper work.

The Yellowknife Airport Fire Hall has been experiencing a new level of efficiency since they implemented a dedicated SharePoint site in February.

After having the site up and running for one month, Acting Manager of Safety and Security, Lee Stroman says work has become easier and more streamlined.

“It started as a place for us to keep all of our Standard Operating Procedures and other documents so fire hall staff would have access to them,” says Lee.

“Out of that grew the opportunity to do everything: work colanders, announcements, events, and work orders as well as general discussion about ongoing projects.”

Not long ago staff at the fire hall spent their mornings flipping through log books and old e-mails trying to get information on projects and jobs that needed to be done.

Now everybody who works at the fire hall has their internet home pages set to the SharePoint site where all the information they need can be found quickly.

“It has led to a huge savings in work hours because everyone is more efficient and focused on the job at hand,” says Lee.

“And its easy to use, the technological barriers have been broken. Anyone who can use a windows program can operate this system with ease.”

Business Planning



Transportation Minister Kevin Menicoche, gives a presentation to staff at this year's business planning meeting, while Deputy Minister Russ Neudorf and Assistant Deputy Minister Daniel Auger look on.

The 2008-2011 business planning meeting took place in Yellowknife on April 25 and 26.

Departmental representatives from across the North attended. Presentations were given outlining business plans and goals for the next three years and everyone went

home with some valuable knowledge.

If you or anyone in your division is looking for copies of the Blue Book or other presentation materials to share with staff please contact Angela Keats by e-mail or at (867) 920-3459.

DM's Dues



This month I would like to acknowledge the following employees for their hard work and contributions:

Dave Richards, Eleese Scott and Kelley Merilees-Keppel and the staff from Road Licensing and Safety should be commended for their hard work in updating the Driver Manuals. These new manuals are very professional and are more informative than ever.

I would also like to recognize Jim Martin, Angela Keats, Eric Baecker and Karen Decker-Brien for organizing the 2007 business planning meeting. Al Kaylo and Art Barnes also worked with Corporate Services to organize an agenda, thanks to David Maguire for producing materials for the meeting.

Thank you to everyone who presented and participated at the meeting, your contributions to the discussion were appreciated. Everybody in attendance took home some valuable knowledge that we hope they will share with staff.

Human Resources Updates

Farewell:

Bryan Peterson
Geotechnical Engineer

Robin Sutherland
Senior Systems Analyst

Wayne Vielhauer
Fire Fighter

Welcome:

Mary Howard
Supervisor, Licensing Services

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