

## Seniors for Climate Potluck and Conversations at Rotary Park, June 15, 2026

What a wonderful gathering of 30+ people sharing a delicious meal, climate actions and hopeful projects, lessons, and advice. Thank you to everyone for showing up and making such positive contributions, supporting each other and signing on to continue the conversations, take action, and be part of upcoming work on a climate-social justice zine. We truly appreciated Yellowknife MLAs Shauna Morgan, Julian Morse and Kate Reid for joining us, sharing thoughts, and supporting collective action on climate.



### Main Take Aways

Climate action is social action. Climate action reverberates throughout the social, environmental, economic and political spheres. We are all connected; every action is connected.

Coming together to talk and hear each other are increasingly rare occurrences but creating spaces like this gathering encourage and inspire collective action and community cohesion.

Affordability of basic needs along with the general state of the economy are top of mind for most people rather than climate. So MLAs aren't getting a lot of direct feedback that climate change matters. It is not surprising that climate change is disappearing from conversations and public policy or that it has become a point of divisiveness, fear and trauma. But even though people are not talking about climate, Northerners are living with the impacts of climate change.

The path forward is to focus on positive, successful, common sense, and relatable local actions that have visible socio-economic, employment and environmental benefits. There are lots of examples - renewable energy projects like the solar cooperative, district heating systems, urban farms, emissions free transportation, and energy efficient homes.



Small, simple solutions add up and have huge benefits over time and are

### Plug-in Balcony Solar for the NWT

Support this campaign <https://pluginsolarpower.ca/northwest-territories>

empowering. Plug-in solar is something everyone can do. Every community is unique and has its own responses but by championing visible and positive benefits, others can be inspired too.

It's time to celebrate positive, successful climate actions in Yellowknife and elsewhere in the NWT that connect people and benefit local communities. This is one purpose that the upcoming zine on climate and social justice can serve. Local food projects including community gardens and energy production like a solar farm and wind are themes that could inform the zine. Local/territorial politicians and decision makers could learn from success stories to ensure that policy and legislation keep pace with climate actions.

Conversations and celebrating local successes should be encouraged to target garden collectives, social and environmental groups.

Shauna Morgan will follow-up with the City regarding the current details related to financing energy upgrades. Collective or cooperative approaches work best so Michael Nabert will look into possibilities for a wind energy collective. There are currently legislative gaps related to this energy source.



We will plan to meet at Makerspace in mid-August to work on the climate-social justice zine. Laurie Sarkadi will look into the possibility of using *The Edge* digital infrastructure for distributing this first zine. We still plan to work on a zine with the high school green teams sometime in the fall.

### **Notes to Self and Community (from the post-it notes)**

- Keep it up. These meetings are where the action starts.
- Spread positivity. Lots of people are already making a difference.
- Reduce the polarization attached to 'climate change' by finding common grass-roots actions that empower individuals to act collectively e.g. community gardens, etc.
- Have a regular column in Cabin Radio, CBC, Yellowknifer to spread awareness.
- Focus on the economics of renewable energy rather than the climate change mitigation aspect to bypass the doubters. Talk \$\$.
- We are starting a micro-recycling initiative at Makerspace so we can recycle (some) plastics locally to make cool things.
- Focus on visual, impactful actions in Yellowknife as well as in NWT communities.
- How-to workshops!!
- How can we add bits of advocacy and collective action outreach during existing community events to get more people aware?

### **Notes to Leaders and Decision Makers (from the post-it notes)**

- Lobby NTPC/GNWT for a solar farm (the pre-feasibility was positive).
- Find out more about wind feasibility at Snare Hydro and advocate for implementation.
- Keep meeting, maybe now with a focus on a particular action.
- Let's preserve water and keep the North clean.
- The proposed road to Nunavut goes right through the heart of the Bathurst calving ground.
- The climate crisis is political which means every social issue is a climate issue. There are so many inroads for bringing people into the climate conversation.
- Highlight positive experiences of people who took advantage of subsidies for solar panels and ebikes and use these stories to lobby for further subsidies.
- We say climate crisis or climate emergency but we're not acting the way good governments act during a crisis or emergency. Let's take this seriously and act with the same urgency. Our descendants will be deeply ashamed of us if we don't.
- How can we collectively encourage the Prime Minister to honour his climate action promises?
- Maybe have a letter writing campaign on federal environmental and climate laws/policies?

