



Arctic Energy  
Alliance

# **Biomass is Mainstream: Investing in People and Communities**

**Wood Pellet Association of Canada Conference  
Ottawa, ON  
September 19, 2023**

# About the Arctic Energy Alliance

- Established in 1997
- HQ in Yellowknife, Regional Offices in Hay River, Fort Simpson, Behchokò, Norman Wells and Inuvik



# Presentation Outline

- Happy 😊
- Dark 😞
- Depressing 😞
- Hopeful! 😊

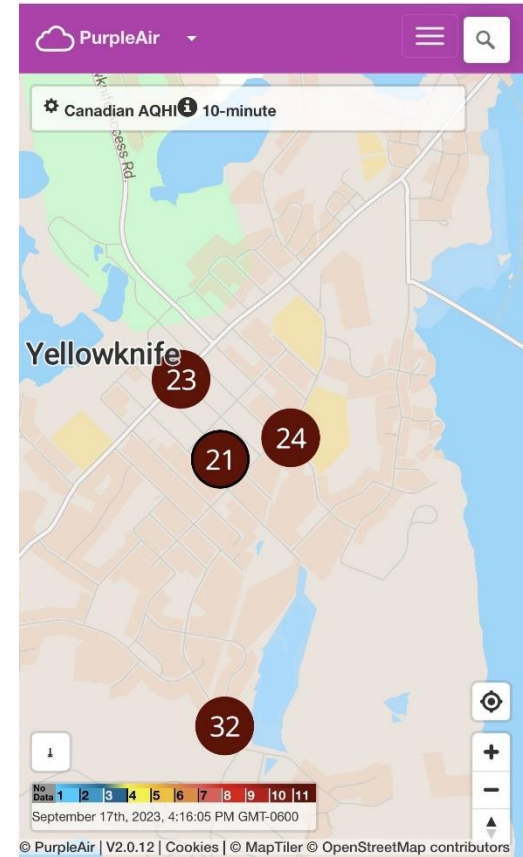
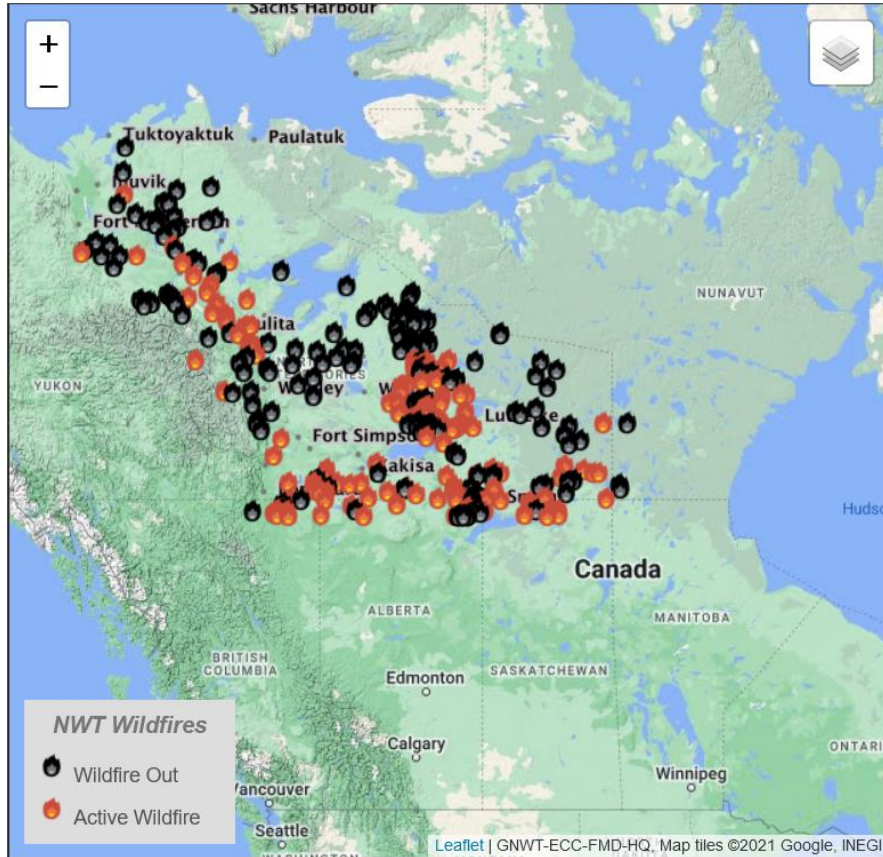
# How It Started, How It's Going



- City of Yellowknife adopted its first Community Energy Plan in 2006
- Included several studies on multiple technologies and energy saving measures
- Led to widespread adoption of biomass heating for City facilities



# Our Current Reality



# The Magnitude of our Challenge

**N.W.T. fires have released 97 megatonnes of carbon, says European agency – 277 times what its people emit**



Territory on track to beat 2014 record for how much land has burned



[Liny Lamberink](#) · CBC News · Posted: Aug 28, 2023 2:00 AM MDT | Last Updated: August 28



An aerial view of the wildfire threatening the Yellowknife area from Aug. 17. The intensity of the fire dampened over the weekend thanks to rain, lighter winds and cooler conditions. (N.W.T. Fire)

# Challenges and Opportunities



# Challenges and Opportunities





# Capacity Building

- Our people are the most critical component to achieving a clean energy transition
- Collaboration and cooperation
- Major gaps exist in the labour force to achieve our energy goals and objectives as a territory
- We need to work together to foster the next generation of energy leaders

# Promoting Biomass



Quyanainni  
Mahsi  
Thank you  
Merci

**Questions?**

[mark.heyck@aea.nt.ca](mailto:mark.heyck@aea.nt.ca)



**Arctic Energy**  
Alliance