



# 2025 ELECTRICITY POLICY DIRECTION TO THE NWT PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

Electricity systems around the world are undergoing major transformations, with a shift toward renewable energy, electrification, self-generation, and grid modernization. The NWT is experiencing these same pressures compounded by its unique challenges, including cold climate, remote communities, lack of economies of scale, and high operating costs.

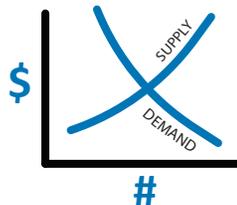
To respond, the GNWT has issued a major policy direction to the Public Utilities Board (PUB), the territorial public utilities regulator, to support renewable energy growth while protecting utilities and ratepayers. This approach aims to balance the financial impacts of self-generation with the opportunities from surplus hydroelectric and renewable energy sales.

Ultimately, the policy direction supports the NWT's transition to low-carbon electricity, helping to address climate change while promoting energy security and affordability for residents across the territories.

To support this strategic direction, the GNWT instructed the PUB to implement 11 key directives:

## 1 Integrated Power Systems Planning (IPSP)

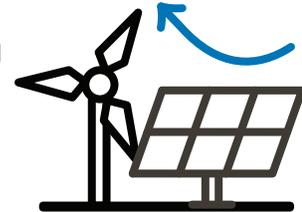
**What this means:** Utilities will work together on long-term plans to modernize the power system and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.



**Why this matters:** These plans will look at future electricity needs, new technologies that work in the North, and how climate change will affect energy use, while keeping power affordable.

## 2 Community Renewable Limits

**What this means:** Diesel (thermal) communities can now get up to 30% of their power from intermittent renewables like wind and solar.



**Why this matters:** Utilities can approve even higher levels if studies show the system can handle it and battery storage is in place. This supports cleaner energy without risking outages.

## 3 Renewable Generation Programs

**What this means:** Anyone generating renewable power and connecting to the grid must join either the Net Metering program or the Independent Power Producer (IPP) program.



**Why this matters:** It ensures every generator follows the same rules, keeps the grid stable, and makes sure rates are fair for all customers.

## 4 Compensation for Renewable Power

**What this means:** Some renewable power is currently paid at a higher rate than the actual savings it provides to the power system. New rules will make sure payments better reflect real fuel and operating cost savings.

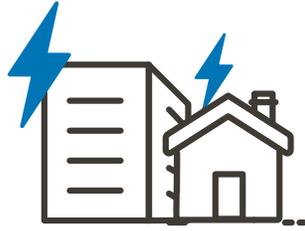


**Why this matters:** The PUB will set new compensation rules based on actual cost savings. Net Metering rates will be the same within each zone, while IPP rates may vary by community.



## 5 Net Metering Program Updates

**What this means:** Net Metering will continue as a key option for people who want to install solar or other renewables.



**Why this matters:** Homes will keep the 15 kW limit, and new limits for commercial customers will better match their energy use.

## 6 Independent Power Producers (IPP)

**What this means:** NWT based Indigenous governments, Indigenous organizations, communities, and their subsidiaries will have a clear path to develop renewable energy projects and sell power to the grid.



**Why this matters:** Projects can go beyond normal renewable limits if they include solutions to keep the grid stable and pay for those costs. Payments will match real system savings. Everyone will now have the same clear and fair rules.

## 7 Fixed Charges

**What this means:** Utilities may adjust monthly fixed charges so they better reflect the true costs of running the power system.



**Why this matters:** Any changes will be gradual and consistent across regions and will still encourage customers to save energy.

## 8 Government Rates

**What this means:** Government electricity rates in diesel communities will no longer vary by individual community.



**Why this matters:** Rates will be standardized by customer type within each zone, with a clear transition plan from the PUB.

## 9 Electric Vehicle Charging

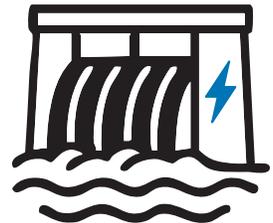
**What this means:** Utilities can include the cost of building and maintaining EV charging stations in their rates.



**Why this matters:** This ensures EV charging prices are fair, transparent, and backed by evidence, while supporting EV growth in the North.

## 10 Hydro Zone Heating Rates

**What this means:** Communities with surplus hydro power should use it to replace fossil fuels for heating and other needs.



**Why this matters:** Utilities will plan for this and create stable, incentive-based electricity rates that encourage people to switch from oil or propane to cleaner electric heating.

## 11 Fuel and Water Stabilization Funds

**What this means:** Separate funds will be created for diesel and hydro zones to help manage unexpected fuel price changes or low-water conditions.

**Why this matters:** Each fund will have limits, clear rules on how money can be used, and annual public reporting.



You can read the full PUB Directives at:  
[www.inf.gov.nt.ca/energy-policy-directions](http://www.inf.gov.nt.ca/energy-policy-directions)

