The Climate Policy Landscape in the Northwest Territories

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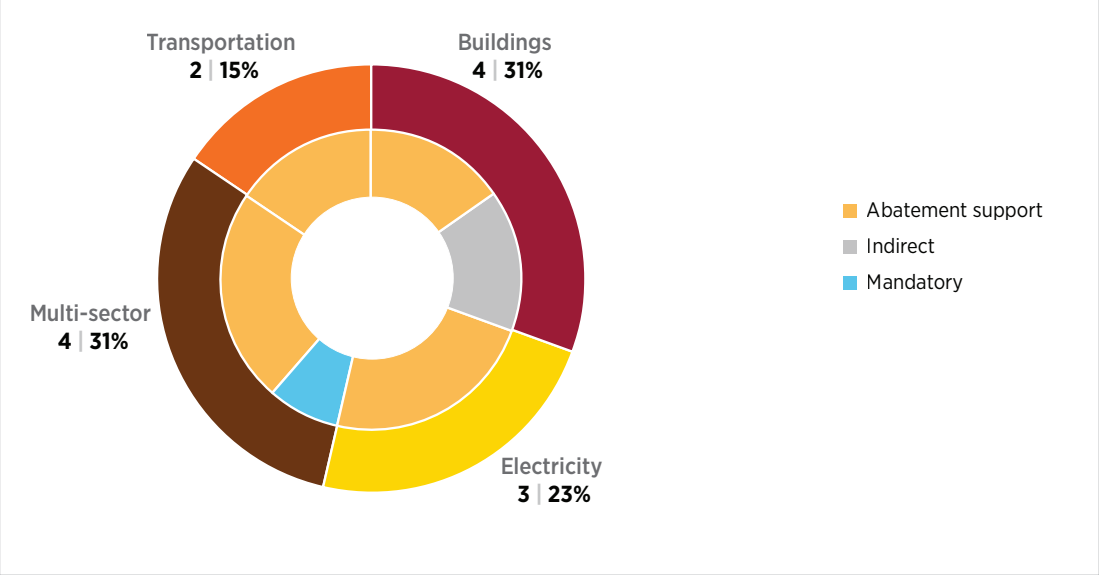
Of the 359 total emissions-reduction policies in the **Canadian Climate Policy Inventory**, Northwest Territories has 13 active policies (four per cent) and two inactive policies. The Government of Canada has the largest number (74 active policies).

Figure 1 shows the active policy instruments employed by the Government of Northwest Territories, categorizing them by sector. The inner ring highlights the share of instrument types — abatement support, indirect or mandatory — by sector, while the outer ring indicates the percentage of total policies targeting each sector.

Policies are classified by instrument type based on how they reduce emissions: mandatory, abatement support, and indirect. Mandatory policies impose a compulsory requirement on regulated parties (e.g., regulation). Abatement support policies incentivize voluntary adoption or development of lower emissions processes or products (e.g., consumer subsidies). Indirect policies do not require or directly incentivize abatement but nevertheless contribute to emissions abatement (e.g., enabling legislation and information). Mandatory policies are generally considered to be more effective in reducing emissions than opt-in abatement support or indirect policies. Active policies are those currently requiring compliance or providing support, including policies that are proposed or announced. This category also includes abatement support policies (e.g., consumer subsidies) that are fully subscribed but still have ongoing projects. Inactive policies are those that have concluded as scheduled, or have been suspended or cancelled.

Figure 1: Policy Instruments Employed by the Government of Northwest Territories by Sector



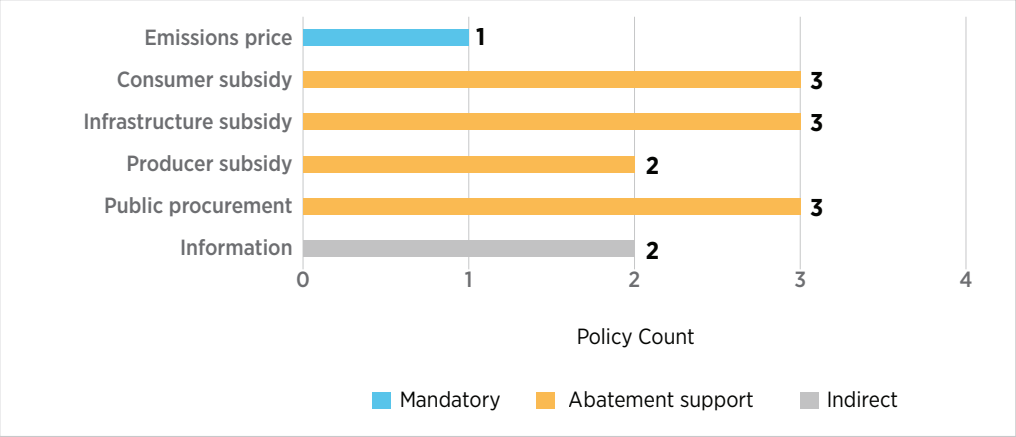
Source: Canadian Climate Policy Inventory, Version 6.
Note: This figure does not include inactive (cancelled, concluded, or suspended) policies.

KEY FACTS

- In Northwest Territories, carrots (abatement support) dominate instrument type compared with sticks (mandatory action). Carrots: e.g., Arctic Energy Alliance rebate programs. Sticks: Carbon tax for large emitters.
- There are 12 implemented policies in Northwest Territories. One policy has its funding allocated.
- Since publication of the first version of the C2P2 database in **August 2024**, one policy has changed from implemented to funding allocated, one policy has concluded, and one policy has been suspended. One new policy has been added.
- There are 72 active federal policies that apply in Northwest Territories (10 mandatory, 58 abatement support, and four indirect policies).
- Most policies reduce emissions through improving energy efficiency and end-use fuel switching.
- Three sectors are targeted by sector-specific policies: buildings (4), electricity (3), and transportation (2). Four policies target multiple sectors.
- Northwest Territories has a mix of broadly applied policies covering multiple sectors (e.g., carbon tax for large emitters) and narrowly scoped policies that are technology or project-specific (e.g., GHG Grant Program for Buildings and Industry).

Figure 2 displays the number of policies by the policy instrument applied to mitigate emissions.

Figure 2: Number of Policies by Instrument



Source: Canadian Climate Policy Inventory, Version 6.
Note: Abatement support policies can be implemented using a combination of instruments, making the total number of instruments greater than the total number of Northwest Territories policies. This figure does not include inactive (cancelled, concluded, or suspended) policies.

ABOUT C2P2

The Canadian Climate Policy Partnership (C2P2), led by **Dr. Jennifer Winter**, provides publicly accessible information on Canadian climate policies, supporting effective strategies to adapt and mitigate climate change, improving resilience, and helping Canada meet its net-zero emissions target.

Partners and funders include the Alberta Real Estate Foundation, the Canadian Climate Institute, CIRANO (Centre Interuniversitaire de Recherche en Analyse des Organisations), the Government of British Columbia, the Government of Canada's Environmental Damages Fund, Mitacs, Quebec Net Positive, Royal Roads University, the Smart Prosperity Institute, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Office of the Vice-President (Research) at the University of Calgary, and the School of Public Policy at the University of Calgary.