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Solar Panel Project Demonstrates New Technology

WHITEHORSE – The Government of Yukon is demonstrating the northern application of solar power with the installation of a grid-connected photovoltaic (PV) system atop the Yukon Government Administration Building in Whitehorse.

“The solar panel installation on the Yukon Government Administration Building is a demonstration project that will provide the opportunity for Yukoners to learn more about the application of this technology in our unique northern climate,” Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Brad Cathers said.

The 24 solar modules mounted on the roof face south and are arranged in three parallel strings of eight modules each. Designed by Carmanah Industries, this system has the potential of generating four kilowatts of power depending on the duration and intensity of available sunlight.

The Energy, Mines and Resources department’s Energy Solutions Centre, in partnership with the Highways and Public Works department’s Property Management Division, is using this project to educate and inform residents, building operators, inspectors, trades people and students in an effort to encourage renewable energy in Yukon.

“Grid-connected photovoltaic systems work by producing electricity for the building while allowing the balance of the building’s power to be delivered via the local electrical grid,” Cathers said.

To optimize the educational value of the project, the installation includes an interactive kiosk located in the main lobby of the Administration Building. Through a real-time energy information display, visitors to the kiosk can view information about various aspects of the system including how solar energy works and how much power is generated from the solar panels.

The kiosk will be linked via a web connection to a similar system at Yukon College, so the performance of both the Administration Building PV system and the Yukon College renewable energy demonstration system can be monitored.

To view real-time data from both renewable energy systems, and for information on the Energy Strategy for Yukon, visit the Energy Solutions Centre website at www.esc.gov.yk.ca.

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Contact:

Roxanne Vallevand
Cabinet Communications
867-633-7949
roxanne.vallevand@gov.yk.ca

Mark Roberts
Communications, Energy, Mines & Resources
867-667-5307
mark.roberts@gov.yk.ca



Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Brad Cathers with the photovoltaic solar panels atop the Yukon Government Administration Building