

Kluane First Nation Celebrates One Year of Wind Power

Press Release

Burwash Landing, Yukon [Sept. 10, 2025] – Kluane First Nation (KFN) is proud to celebrate the first full year of wind energy generation on the Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay electrical grid. After more than a decade of vision, planning, and persistence, the Lhù'ààn Mân N'tsi (Kluane Lake Wind) Project is a reality.

Located along the shores of Lhù'ààn Mân (Kluane Lake), the 900 kW wind turbine and 500 kW battery storage system began operating in 2024. Today, it's projected to replace nearly half of the diesel previously needed to provide electricity in Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay.

“When we first set out on this journey, we knew it wouldn't be easy or quick,” said KFN Kwanathi Inlj Robert Dickson. *“But we knew that patience and determination, the gifts of our Elders, would carry us through. For Kluane First Nation, wind power is more than just clean energy; it's one more step in taking back control of our future, reducing our dependence on diesel, and is proof that even a small Nation can lead with vision and strength.”*

Developed in response to a desire to reduce dependence on diesel and restore energy sovereignty within KFN's Traditional Territory, this project has pushed the boundaries of renewable energy integration on isolated electrical grids. The Lhù'ààn Mân N'tsi Project is the first community-owned grid-scale wind project in Canada that allows for “diesel-off” conditions, meaning the local grid can run fully on renewable wind energy. It represents a major achievement in both technological innovation and Indigenous-led climate leadership, and it demonstrates what is possible for other Northern and remote communities.

Instrumental funding for this project was provided by Natural Resources Canada through its Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities Program (CERRC), as well as other Federal and Territorial funders who worked closely with KFN to ensure the project reflected KFN's leadership and values.

Kluane First Nation will officially celebrate the infrastructure installation with a special community event on Friday September 12 in Burwash Landing, YT.

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Project details following.

Media Quick Facts:

- Forecast annual output: 1,140,000 kWh of clean electricity.
- Forecast diesel displacement: 310,000 litres per year, or 52% of diesel currently used.
- Forecast emissions reductions: 835 tonnes CO₂ each year, equal to 16,700 tonnes over the 20-year life of the project.
- Location: 2 km north of Destruction Bay, along the Alaska Highway.
- Turbine: EWT DW54-900, manufactured in the Netherlands; 27-metre blades; 50-metre tower; designed for extreme cold with black blades, internal heating, and ice detection system.
- Battery: 500 kW energy storage system and micro-grid control operated by ATCO, allowing full diesel shutdowns during high wind generation
- Expected operating life of wind turbine: approximately 20 years
- The project's total capital cost is \$17.9 million.
- Canada is the primary funder through NRCan's Clean Energy for Remote and Rural Communities Program (\$13 M); CIRNAC's Northern REACHE Program (\$1.5 M); and Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada's Arctic Energy Fund (\$2 M).
- Additional contributions were provided by Yukon Government, Kluane First Nation Government, and ATCO Electric Yukon.