

# Yukon explorer adopts solar power

Snowline leases the solar power system from the local indigenous development company



**Infrastructure > Power-remote-power** Yukon Territory-based explorer Snowline Gold has moved to solar energy to power around 90% of its camp electricity needs, operations manager Steve Rennalls told *Mining Magazine*.

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The camp will be powered by a 64-panel system built by Yukon company Solvest, which has the capacity to generate 27kWh, Rennalls said. It also has a series of battery banks housed in a shelter along with a control unit that oscillates between solar and diesel generation.

"With our system, when the generator kicks in it operates at 100% at its most efficient, reducing the amount of diesel," he said.

The company first began to consider solar-powered energy as a replacement for diesel last year, he said.

"We were shooting the breeze while we were offloading diesel pumps and thinking of the cost involved [in diesel], as well as the sound of the generator in camp and the environmental footprint caused by consumption, both from burning the generator and using the planes to get the diesel in," Rennalls said.

st year, Snowline reached out to Solvest and set up several monitoring systems on the generator last year, which determined that it was financially viable to use solar power, he said.

actually results in a savings," he said.

The contract was developed between local indigenous development company Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Development Corporation, Snowline, and Solvest, with the development company purchasing the solar array power system and Snowline leasing it from the development company, Rennalls said.

"The community is based in Mayo, Yukon, which is where we do the majority of our launches for flights going into camp," Rennalls said. Financing the deal this way provides revenue to the development corporation, which then provides value for their community, he added.

Yukon Territory has a reputation for dark winters, but the opposite is true in the summer months, Rennalls said.

"Our exploration season is mid-May to mid-October," he said. "While people think of Yukon as dark, in summer it's the 'Land of the Midnight Sun.' There's a period of six weeks in the summer where we get no darkness at all."

Snowline Gold has been exploring Yukon Territory for the past 30 years, and has several targets across the territory. It is focusing on Valley, Gracie, and Ursa targets, with drilling planned for Valley and Gracie and a potential drilling campaign at Ursa this year.

The decision of Snowline Gold is in line with Yukon Territories' overall climate goals.

The government of Yukon has laid out its climate plans, with the aim of reducing emissions by 45% by 2030.

It also wants Yukon's main electricity grid to run on 97% renewable sources, while aiming to reduce diesel use for communities not connected to the grid by 30%.

For mining in 2022, the territorial government "will work with industry to set a target for greenhouse gas emissions from placer and quartz mining," it said in its clean energy plan.



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