

## About the YRITWC

The Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council is an Indigenous grassroots organization dedicated to the protection of the Yukon River Watershed. Created in 1997 by Indigenous communities from Yukon Territory, Canada and Alaska, USA, the YRITWC signatories now include 70 Tribal and First Nation governments. Throughout the Watershed and across the international border, the leadership and staff of the Watershed Council work together with communities and supportive partners to clean and protect the water, species, and communities of the Yukon River Basin.

The YRITWC is an international organization with 501(c)3 nonprofit status in the United States and Societal Status in Canada.

## Support the YRITWC

The YRITWC relies on the support of diverse partners and grant programs to conduct our service delivery and advocacy efforts. As we continue to expand the scope and impact of our programs, we are always looking for new opportunities for collaboration and support.

To donate to the YRITWC, please visit our website or send a check to:

YRITWC Donations  
725 Christensen Dr., Suite 3  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

To discuss further support and collaboration, please contact the YRITWC Alaska Region Director:

Jon Waterhouse, Alaska Region: (907) 258-3337

[www.yritwc.org](http://www.yritwc.org)



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Energy Photo Credit: Craig Wessner



### Mission Statement

*We, the Indigenous Tribes/First Nations from the headwaters to the mouth of the Yukon River, having been placed here by our Creator, do hereby agree to initiate and continue the clean up and preservation of the Yukon River for the protection of our own and future generations of our Tribes/First Nations and for the continuation of our traditional Native way of life.*

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# Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

## BACKHAUL & SOLID WASTE



Has removed over ten-thousand tons of abandoned vehicles and equipment in four years of backhaul while training solid waste technicians in villages to remove and recycle fuels, chemicals,

and electronics.

## SCIENCE

Collects and analyzes water quality data in collaboration with USGS and trained village technicians in an effort to create a baseline dataset of the entire watershed. Through standardized protocols, uses science to effectively assess impacts of climate change and identify contamination sources while incorporating local traditional knowledge of the Yukon River's cycles.



## CAPACITY BUILDING



Strengthens community resources by facilitating administrative and financial management trainings and offering guidebooks and one-on-one consultation in accounting practices, audit preparation, and strategic planning.



The Yukon River flows from the Yukon Territory in Canada across the great State of Alaska. The entire watershed spans over 330,000 square miles.

## 50 Year Vision:

***“To be able to drink water directly from the Yukon River”***

Each Department strives to achieve this vision through the guidance of elders and leadership, the expertise of our partners, and a focus on youth engagement and education.



## SUSTAINABLE LANDS

Conducts brownfield site inventories in communities, provides assessments to high-priority sites, and builds local capacity through training and education to address contaminated sites within the watershed.



## ENERGY



Assists Tribes and First Nations with education, training, and implementation of renewable energy, conservation, and efficiency programs. In July 2008, in partnership with the Tribe, City, and local utility in Ruby, AK, installed the first successful hydrokinetic river turbine in the United States, producing electricity directly from the Yukon River with no dams or water diversions.

## ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

Engages communities in ongoing issues of interest, strengthens opportunities for youth environmental education, and ensures that the Indigenous peoples of the Watershed have a voice in policy and resource development decisions affecting the region.

