



# Whitehorse Sustainability Plan Monitoring Report 2016

Report on 2014-2015 progress towards targets

WWW

[Whitehorse.ca/SustainabilityPlan](http://Whitehorse.ca/SustainabilityPlan)



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The Whitehorse Sustainability Plan was adopted by Council in May 2015 as an update to the 2008 Strategic Sustainability Plan.

The plan consists of 12 community-wide goals, with 40 associated targets, which serve as a measure of progress towards goals. This report is a summary of monitoring efforts to date.

Monitoring is still in its early phases. In general, data that is reliable, available, and specific to Whitehorse is limited. Obtaining good information, both pertaining to City operations and in partnership with other data collectors for topics outside City jurisdiction, remains an important task.

For more details on City actions toward these goals, please contact the Environmental Sustainability department.

# Strong Downtown and Livable Neighbourhoods



## GOAL

**A moderately more dense and livable city, especially downtown, with all neighbourhoods having access to low-impact transportation, diverse services and varied housing options.**

### Target 1

#### Increase livability of all neighbourhoods

Livability refers to how well a neighbourhood allows people to meet the needs in their life—living, working, shopping, going to school. Before reporting on this target, the City must identify criteria for measuring livability and its progress. This future activity will be of interest to all City departments and citizens.

### Target 2

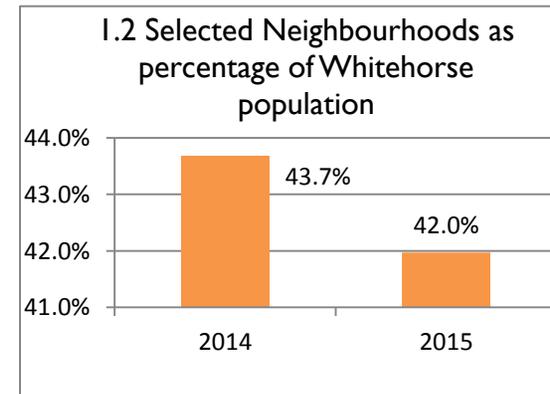
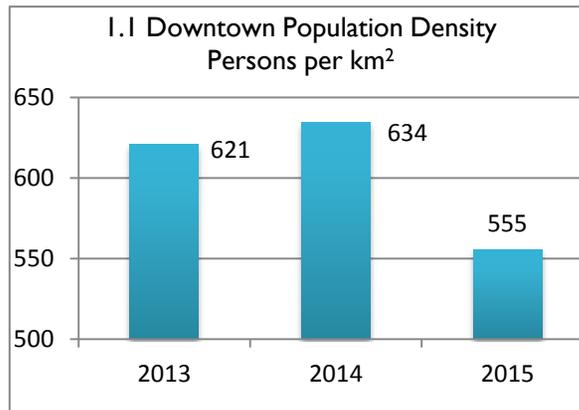
#### Increase downtown population density

Downtown is the heart of Whitehorse. Encouraging a thriving, diverse population helps ensure the vibrancy of downtown and supports a compact city. A density target is used rather than overall population because it allows comparison between other parts of Whitehorse, and other cities. See figure I.1.

### Target 3

#### Increase population of downtown and the neighbourhoods closest to downtown

The WSP recognizes that compact development and full-service neighbourhoods are priorities, which includes its oldest and most popular neighbourhoods: Takhini, Range Point, Valleyview, Hillcrest, and Riverdale. Although most growth will be accommodated elsewhere, these neighbourhoods should continue to see some growth, in order to foster strong neighbourhoods.



# Healthy Environment and Wilderness



**GOAL**  
Clean air, water, and soil;  
healthy habitat; and a sense  
of wilderness.

## Target 4

**Reduce number of days when air quality does not meet the Yukon air quality standards**

The Yukon Ambient Air Quality Standard was developed under the Yukon Environment Act and is the standard for acceptable emissions from developments, both proposed and existing. Environment Yukon tracks the number of days the standards is exceeded, meaning more particulate matter is in the air than specified by the standard. This target tracks these days on a 10-year average.

2013: 7.3 days

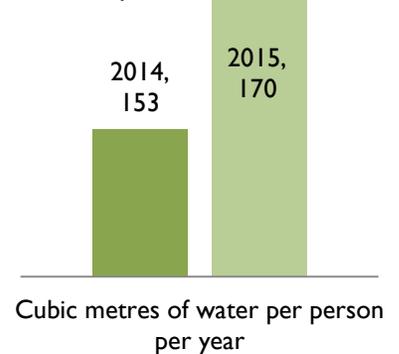
2014: 6.2 days.

## Target 5

**Reduce per capita water consumption**

Water consumption data is derived from City water plant data and the stats bureau population data. See I.3.

I.3 Water Consumption



## Target 6

**Meet the national standard for drinking water quality**

Whitehorse continues to meet national drinking water quality standards.

## Target 7

**Maintain current wilderness areas as identified in the Official Community Plan**

The Official Community Plan contains three designations related to green space: Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Green Connections, and Recreation Areas. The next OCP review is likely to happen in 2018.

## Target 8

**Retain or increase the area of regional parks**

The 5 regional parks identified in the OCP remain at 126.55 km<sup>2</sup>. Park areas are changed through an OCP review. Increases could happen by adding areas, for example, through brownfield reclamation. Park management planning is underway.

## Target 9

**Reduce the number of reported human-wildlife conflicts**

This target refers to the number of human-wildlife conflicts attended to by a Yukon Conservation Officer (does not include wildlife sightings).

2014: 100 incidents

2015: not yet available

# Efficient, Low-Impact Transportation



## GOAL

Efficient movement of people via transit, cycling, walking, and multi- and single-occupant vehicles.

### Target 10

#### Increase active transportation and transit mode share

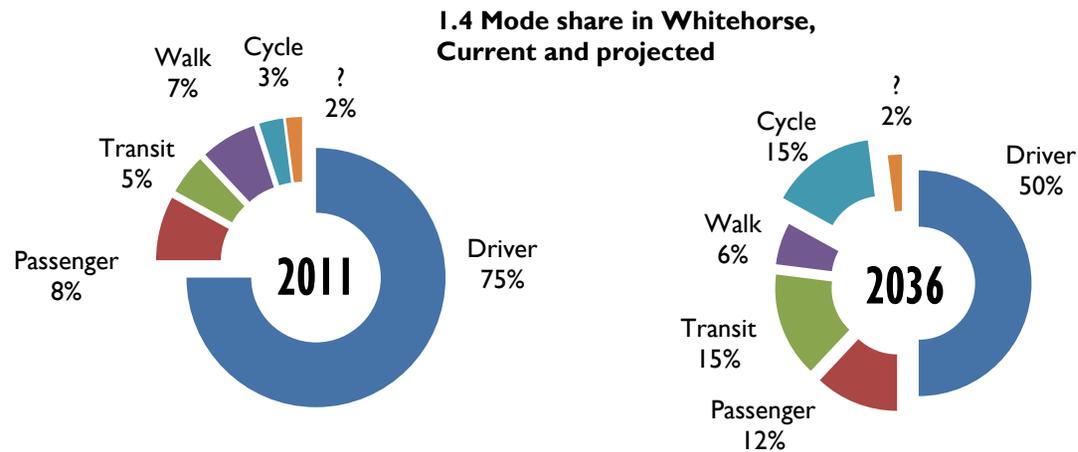
This target was set in the Transportation Demand Management Plan, which has a goal to decrease the percentage of people who drive in a single occupant vehicle from the current 75% to 50%. The TDM plan outlines a community strategy for achieving this.

The most recent data on this target is from the 2011 National Household Survey. The next data will be available with the release of 2016 census results

### Target 11

#### Maintain congestion levels at current standard

This target commits to keeping Level of Service (LOS) standards at current levels. Level of Service standards are a way that engineers represent levels of congestion. Higher levels of congestion encourage alternative modes of transportation. Currently, the standard is LOS D for major intersections for all movements, and LOS E or F for peak period low volume movements. The City rarely exceeds the standard.



# Green Buildings and Infrastructure



**GOAL**  
Reduce environmental impacts of private and City-owned buildings and infrastructure.

## Target 12

**For City-owned buildings: make new buildings 50% more efficient than the National Energy Code (NECB)**

The new Operations Building is targeted to be 80% better than the NECB.

## Target 13

**Make building retrofits with a 20 year or longer lifespan 30% more efficient than the NECB**

The new Operations Building remains the current priority, but this target will be a factor as renovations to City Hall proceed.

## Target 14

**New buildings in Whitehorse to be 30% more efficient than the NECB, the National Building Code, or achievable comparable EnerGuide ratings**

## Target 15

**Manage all infrastructure, buildings, and natural assets in an asset management system**

The City continues to make progress towards meeting this requirement.

# Energy and Greenhouse Gas Reduction

**GOAL**  
Increased renewable energy, reduced GHG production, and operational cost savings.

## Target 16

**Increase renewable energy production by the City of Whitehorse**

The City currently does not produce any renewable energy, though options will be explored for the new Operations Building.

## Target 17

**Reduce City GHG emissions from 2014 levels**

Fuel consumption from buildings and vehicles is being tracked through fuel bill data, though the City is not yet reliably tracking all its emissions.

## Target 18

**Reduce per capita GHG emissions from 2014 levels**

Emissions data for Whitehorse as a community are not yet available.

## Target 19

**Reduce total GHG emissions from 2014 levels**

Emissions data for Whitehorse as a community are not yet available.



# Dynamic and Diverse Culture. Heritage, and Arts

## GOAL

Rich and diverse visual arts, built heritage, cultural landscapes and community activities.

## Target 20

**Increase community participation rates in local arts, culture and heritage events, including First Nation initiatives**

This target is measured through Festivals and Special Events grant reporting. These events represent a cross-section of Whitehorse events and include established events at their peak, as well as those that are growing or waning in participation.



2014: 41,040 participants  
2015: 39,262 participants

# Social Equity: Affordable Housing and Poverty Reduction



## GOAL

Programs and initiatives to equitably provide for basic needs of the entire community.

## Target 21

**Reduce percentage of households spending more than 30% of total before-tax income on shelter costs**

According to Statistics Canada, 21% of Whitehorse households spent more than 30% of their household income on shelter costs in 2011. The figure varies between renters (37.6%) and owners (14%).

## Target 22

**Reduce income disparity between the top and bottom 20% of income earners**

Income statistics are expressed as the number of people in an income bracket. Currently, the bottom 20% of individuals who report income earn less than \$20,000 per year, while the top 20% earn \$80,000 and upwards. Statistics vary between the National Household Survey and Yukon Bureau of Statistics, but the gap is consistent at \$60,000.

## Target 23

**Increase number of City-led and City-supported projects, programs, and services that directly address the needs of low-income citizens.**

While originally referring to low-income citizens, this target has been expanded to track one-time or ongoing projects and programs aimed at specific groups of people such as seniors, children, special needs, with an aim to increase equity.  
2014: 14 programs, projects, services  
2015: 15

# Connected, Engaged, Participatory Community



**GOAL**  
Citizens are involved in decisions that affect them; act as stewards of the environment; and are responsible to each other, the environment, and their government.

## Target 24

**Increase number of neighbourhoods with active and engaged community associations**

The criteria for measurement is whether an association is registered as a society with Corporate Affairs and has not been struck from its list. There are 22 neighbourhoods identified by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics.

2014: 9 associations  
2015: 9

## Target 25

**Increase number of City partnerships on special events and joint projects**

The City works with other organizations and other governments regularly. This target refers to partnerships where there is a benefit to both the City and a partner, but does not include fee for service arrangements and grants.

2014: 35  
2015: 33

## Target 26

**Increase percentage of population that regularly volunteers**

The City currently has no method of measuring volunteerism in Whitehorse. For interest, Statistics Canada surveyed Yukoners in 2007 and 2010 and the average annual number of volunteer hours was 176 and 131 respectively.

## Target 27

**Increase number of new, unique or annual opportunities of public participation**

The City does a good deal of communication and engagement with the public, not all of which is formally tracked. The measure for this target is any public engagement opportunity that was communicated to Council.

2014: 59  
2015: 46

## Target 28

**Increase direct engagement with hard-to-reach audiences**

Finding new and alternative ways to engage a broad segment of citizens remains an important endeavour for the City. The second intergovernmental forum between the City and KDFN was held in 2016.

2015: 2 events

# Safe and Healthy Community



## GOAL

Physical and mental health and safety from hazards such as fire, crime, and traffic.

### Target 29

#### Decrease percentage of the population with chronic illness

Data specific to Whitehorse is difficult to obtain for this target. However, the Yukon Health and Social Services reported the following based on the 2011 Canadian Community Health Survey:

Percentage of Urban Yukoners with:

- High blood pressure: 11%
- Diabetes: 5.3%
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD): 3.1%
- Heart disease: 2%

### Target 30

#### Increase the use of trails, pedestrian pathways, and commuter routes

This target is monitored through trail counters on the Millennium Trail. The City installed new pedestrian and cyclist counters on the Robert Campbell Bridge in 2016. 2014: 6062 users per week 2015: 5576 users per week

### Target 31

#### Decrease the number of traffic collisions

The number of collisions in Whitehorse is provided by Government of Yukon. 2014: 453 collisions (32 highway, 423 non-highway) 2015: 475 (22 highway, 453 non-highway)

### Target 32

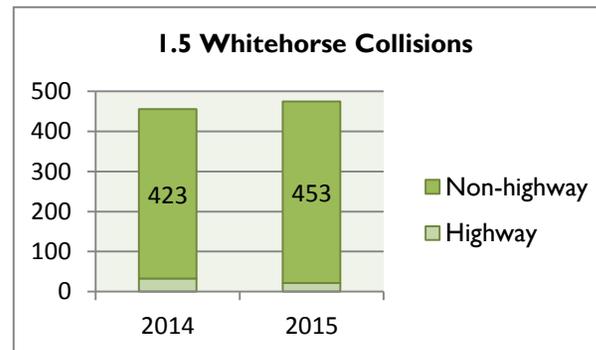
#### Number of fire department callouts per capita decreases

Fire department callouts represent not only fires, but various other incidents to which the fire department responds. 2013: 631 2014: 628 2015: 667

### Target 33

#### Decrease number of vandalism reports to the City.

The measure for this target is the amount spent by the City responding to vandalism and graffiti: 2014: \$7819 2015: \$8959



# Diverse Local Economy



## GOAL

A stable, diverse economy that is resilient to global change and features a strong labour force, a healthy municipal corporation, and a supportive environment for entrepreneurs and local businesses.

## Target 34

**Maintain a Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and process for the City of Whitehorse**

## Target 35

**Increase the economic diversity index**

The Northern Economic Diversification Index is a measure of diversity. A higher number means greater diversity, which is good for a strong economy. It is used as a performance indicator for CanNor, whose mandate is to strengthen and diversify northern economies.

## Target 36

**Increase the number of business licences**

Business licences are reported on a rolling average to show an overall trend, rather than focus on individual years.

2014: 3078.8

2015: 3420

Northern Economic Diversity Index

	Yukon	Canada
2012	88.08	93.04
2013	87.67	93.06
2014	87.97	93.01
2015	88.73	n/a

# Zero Waste



## GOAL

Minimize waste generation and maximize resource recovery through reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting.

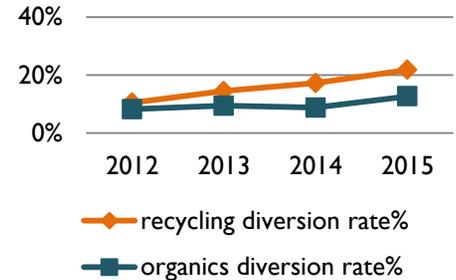
## Target 37

### Increase Waste Diversion

Whitehorse has a target to increase the percentage of waste created that is diverted from the landfill to either compost or recycling. The City has a Solid Waste Action Plan that outlines the strategy in detail.

2012: 19%  
2013: 23%  
2014: 26%  
2015: 34%

1.6 Diversion 2012-2015



# Resilient, Accessible Food Systems



## GOAL

Production, processing, distribution, and sales of local, healthy food to all residents.

## Target 38

### Increase consumption of local food

This target has proven difficult to track, due to the limited agriculture and food-related data specific to Whitehorse.

## Target 39

### Increase number of community garden plots

2014: 2  
2015: 3

## Target 40

### Increase amount of finished compost produced each year

The measure for this target is the tonnes of organics handled at the Waste Management Facility.

2012: 2117 tonnes  
2013: 2267  
2014: 2222  
2015: 3256