

STRATEGIC SUSTAINABILITY PLAN HIGHLIGHTS 2011 & 2012 SUMMARY



INTRODUCTION



The City of Whitehorse has been operating under the guidance of the Strategic Sustainability Plan since 2009. The plan consists of a broad vision, which encompasses seven key principles and 53 specific actions.

Progress on these actions was previously reported up to 2010. This summary contains excerpts from a longer document highlighting progress in the period 2011 to the end of 2012.

To read the Strategic Sustainability Plan, or to read the full highlights report, visit www.whitehorse.ca.

THRIVING ENVIRONMENT

Thriving Environment refers to stewardship of the natural environment and recognition of its intrinsic value and importance for quality of life.

The City has moved forward on all actions under the theme of Thriving Environment. Progress was primarily in the form of planning, so the challenge for the City will be to finalize and implement these plans. Where regulation or policy has been enacted, compliance is now required.

Highlights: Progress on the Wellhead Protection Plan, Solid Waste Action Plan, and Green Procurement Policy.

Future work: Implement plans and monitor progress towards targets; renew the anti-idling administrative directive; and focus on the efficiency of the City's fleet.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In the SSP, the term community development refers to the goal of integrating decisions on development, land use, infrastructure, energy and transportation in a manner that minimizes our ecological footprint.

The City continues to move forward in encouraging sustainable land use through zoning and incentives. Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure is being improved incrementally but consistently. Transit has seen a major schedule change and several campaigns to increase ridership. While progress has been made on climate change adaptation planning, the next challenge will be to improve and implement decision making based on climate change knowledge.

Highlights: Amendments to the Zoning Bylaw; bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure upgrades; and a transit schedule overhaul.

Future work: Integrate climate change knowledge into decision making; and increase transit ridership.

LEADERSHIP

The City envisions itself as a community leader that is true to the principles of sustainable development and global responsibility.

The City has made some progress towards becoming a leader in sustainability, mainly in the area of core service provision, but also through project-specific sustainability initiatives. The challenge in coming years is to improve the City's own operational performance, and to standardize the methodology around community engagement.

Highlights: New energy tracker database; numerous partnerships focused on district energy; and ongoing and consistent consultation on all processes affecting the public.

Future work: Develop new strategies for improving the sustainability of all City practices.

STRATEGIC SUSTAINABILITY PLAN: GROWING A SUSTAINABLE WHITEHORSE

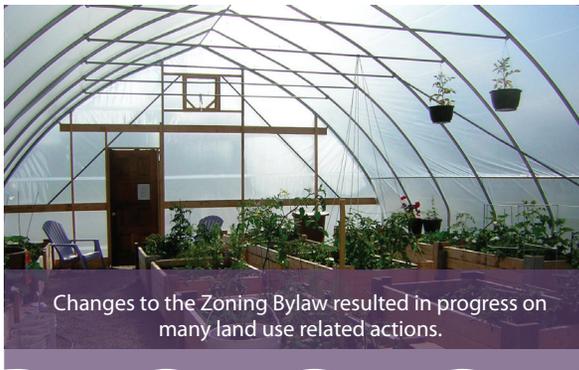
DIVERSE LOCAL ECONOMY

The SSP envisions a vibrant, diverse local economy that encourages self-sufficiency, uses resources efficiently, and creates inter-generational wealth.

Yukon was recently named one of the top 10 places to visit in 2013 by Lonely Planet. A challenge for the City will be to capitalize on this endorsement by finding appropriate ways to support private enterprise. An organizational review of City structure created a new position focused on promotions and an economic development position funded by Government of Yukon.

Highlights: Agricultural uses permitted in the Zoning Bylaw; support given to small-scale local agricultural projects; and continued promotion of Whitehorse as a business and tourism destination.

Future work: Find appropriate ways to support private enterprise and self-sufficiency.



Changes to the Zoning Bylaw resulted in progress on many land use related actions.

EQUITY

The SSP envisions equity, fairness and inclusiveness in our community relationships.

The City has made modest gains in pursuing accessibility and equity actions, particularly in the area of zoning. Transit buses remain fully accessible, and bus stops are being upgraded incrementally. The Municipal Services Building remains a challenge in terms of public accessibility, but the design for a potential new MSB will incorporate best practices in universal design.

Highlights: New zoning requirements for accessible units in multiple housing and hotels; and ongoing excellent active living programming.

Future work: Incorporate universal design into the new MSB and in other areas of operation and decision making.

CULTURAL IDENTITY

The SSP recommends celebrating Whitehorse's cultural diversity. The City has made progress in the area of planning and encouraging development in the downtown core. Other notable activities include continued engagement of the public in year-round planning and stewardship of trails.

Highlights: Planning and infrastructure work in the downtown core; ATV and Snowmobile bylaw amendments; and trail task force participation.

Future work: Continue to foster new and existing partnerships in promoting diversity of all types.



The City has made progress on trail and green space planning and implementation.

EDUCATION

The SSP recommends empowering every generation to entrench sustainability in education with the benefit of shared northern knowledge.

The City continues to use every project as an opportunity for public involvement and education. The City supports environmental education through partnerships with other organizations, and direct funding through the Environmental Grant and Recreation Grant.

Highlights: Ongoing public education in all areas of operation and innovation in project-specific consultations

Future work: Find new opportunities for sustainability education and for integrating sustainability knowledge into operations and decisions.