Whitehorse Sustainability Plan Monitoring Report 2018

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 and other activities.

While livability criteria have been defined by many organizations on a more generic level, the task is to define what would increase Whitehorse's livability, and identify appropriate indicators. The Whitehorse Sustainability Plan sets a foundation for livability criteria.

Target 2
Increase downtown population

Downtown is the heart of Whitehorse. Encouraging a thriving, diverse population helps ensure the vibrancy of downtown and supports a compact city. The downtown population increased by 3.48% from 2017 to 2018, though it comprises

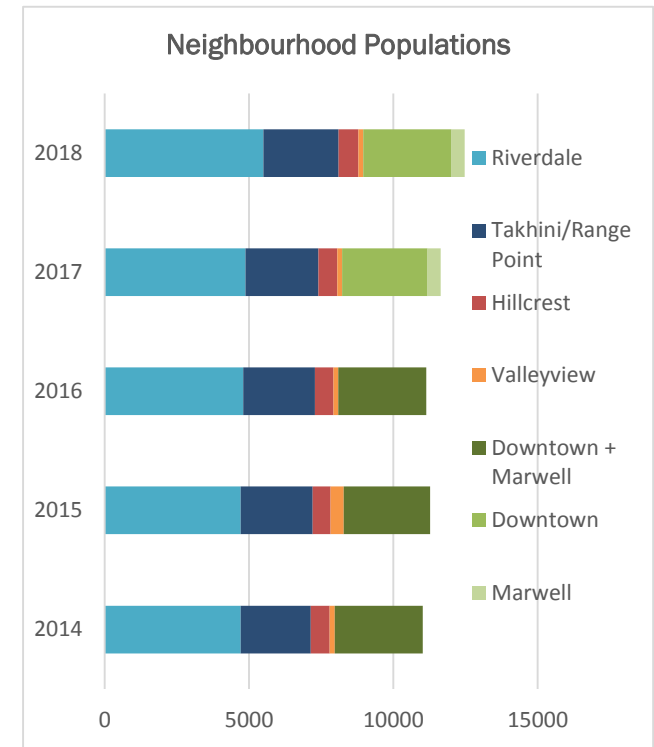the same percentage of the overall Whitehorse population[1].

The City completed the Downtown and Marwell Plans and the Downtown Parking Management Plan in 2018. The Community Economic Development Strategy also contains many recommendations regarding downtown vitality. Implementation on that plan continues.

Target 3
Increase population of downtown and the neighbourhoods closest to downtown

The Whitehorse Sustainability Plan 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 new housing in the next 20 years will be in Whistle Bend, strong central neighbourhoods support a thriving core.

By 2018, these core neighbourhoods had increased in population by 13.2% over 2014, and comprise 44% of the total population, an increase of 1.5%. Whitehorse's older neighbourhoods remain popular and attractive, and the population will likely continue to rise through increases in secondary suites, infilling, and occupant density, although their share of the overall population will drop due to growth in Whistle Bend.

Neighbourhood Populations

Legend: Riverdale, Takhini/Range Point, Hillcrest, Valleyview, Downtown + Marwell, Downtown, Marwell

Years: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

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[1] Before 2017, Yukon Bureau of Statistics included Marwell residents in the downtown population included, so comparisons to figures before 2017 is not possible.

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 previously tracked the number of days where there was more particulate matter in the air than specified by the standard. This metric has not been available since 2015.

Number of Days Air Quality in Whitehorse Exceeded the Yukon Standard
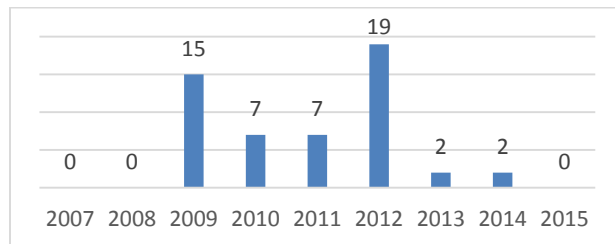
City of Whitehorse, Government of Yukon and Health Canada have been collaborating on air quality monitoring in Whitehorse since 2015. An 18-month study in 2016-2017 showed that levels of particulate matter (PM2.5) exceeded the threshold in the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards in four Whitehorse neighbourhoods. The project partners are working to reduce PM2.5 in these neighbourhoods.

Target 5
Reduce per capita water consumption

Water consumption data is derived from City water plant data and the stats bureau population data. These figures represent the gross consumption, not the actual individual consumption, which would only be reflected by household metering. Whitehorse's population grew in 2018, but the total amount of water treated did not, resulting in 416 litres per day per person, slightly below the national average of 447 litres, reported by Stats Canada in 2015.[2]

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. These areas have remained unchanged since the 2010 OCP review. Further direction will be provided through park management plans and in the revised OCP.

Target 8
Retain or increase the area of regional parks

The 5 regional parks identified in the OCP remain at 126.55 km[2], 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 human-wildlife conflicts

Reducing human-wildlife conflicts can be achieved through better design, more education, and more attentive practices, such as reducing attractants and minimizing risk. This target refers to the number of human-wildlife conflicts attended to by a Yukon Conservation Officer, which does not include wildlife sightings.

Year over year data on wildlife conflicts are not yet available from the Department of Environment.

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[2] Survey of Drinking Water Plants 2015. https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/171101/dq171101b-eng.htm

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 (TDM) 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.

Data is based on the Census, which asks how people usually get to work, selecting the mode that accounts for most of the travel distance.

Recent work by the City of Whitehorse towards modal shift includes:

* Completing the Bicycle Network Plan
* Completing the Transit Master Plan
* Hosting the Yukon Rideshare app for carpooling in partnership with Government of Yukon
* Surface improvements that improve travel for pedestrians and cyclists

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.

2011 Mode Share

2016 Mode Share

Legend: as driver, as passenger, transit, AT, other
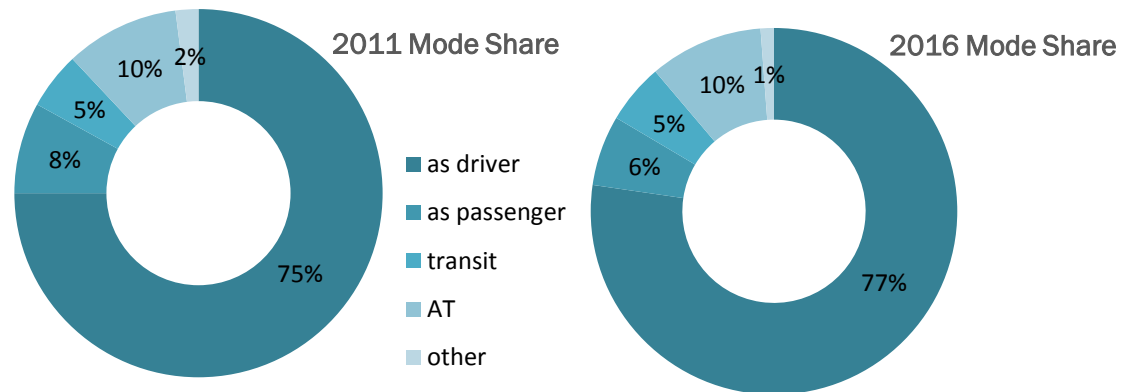
Green Buildings and Infrastructure

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, scheduled for occupancy in late 2019 and early 2020, has been modelled at 80% better than the NECB. A new fire hall modelled at 70% better than the NECB is also under construction.

Target 13
Make building retrofits with a 20 year or longer lifespan 30% more efficient than the NECB

The City's next major renovation project will be City Hall expansion, for which this standard will be applicable. This project is expected to improve one of the City's most energy-intensive buildings.

Target 14
New buildings in Whitehorse to be 30% more efficient than the NECB, the National Building Code, or achievable comparable EnerGuide ratings

Buildings in Whitehorse must meet the standards set in the NECB and National Building Code. Many new homes exceed those specifications in order to receive Yukon government incentives.

Target 15
Manage all infrastructure, buildings, and natural assets in an asset management system

The City continues to make progress towards meeting this requirement. Asset management remains an important and effective way of ensuring that assets are maintained and accounted for, allowing the City to continue offering services and pursuing goals.

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

Construction of a new operations building is underway and included in the design is a 400 kW photovoltaic array. Full operation is expected in 2020.

Target 17
**Reduce City GHG emissions from 2014 levels**

GHG emissions are tracked through fuel consumption from buildings and vehicles. Emissions from certain sources are not reflected in that data, including:

- decomposition of waste and wastewater
- private vehicles
- commercial travel
- refrigerants and fire suppression chemicals
- paper
- lubricants

Target 18 & 19
Reduce per capita and total GHG emissions from 2014 levels

Targets 18 and 19 are to reduce community GHG emissions per capita and in total, respectively. If Whitehorse's population grows by 1% by 2020, a per capita reduction of 6% per year would result in a 0% reduction in total emissions. Community emissions are currently not available for Whitehorse due to the difficulty of extracting city-specific data from territory-wide data.

Corporate GHG Emissions in tonnes of CO_2e
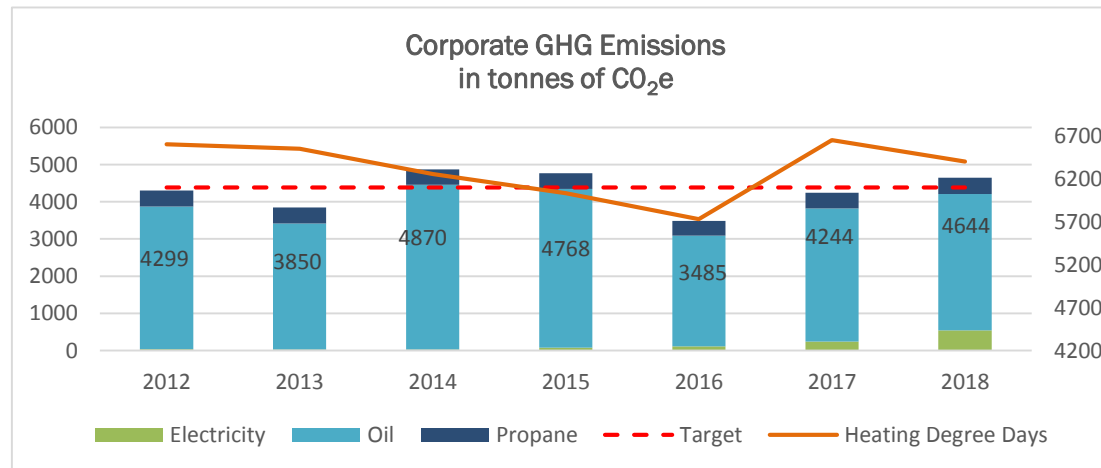
# Dynamic and Diverse Culture, Heritage, and the Arts

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.

Some grants made in 2018 are for events in 2019, so totals are typically not available until the end of the year.

Event Participants

Year	Participants
2014	41,040
2015	39,262
2016	43,337
2017	47,758
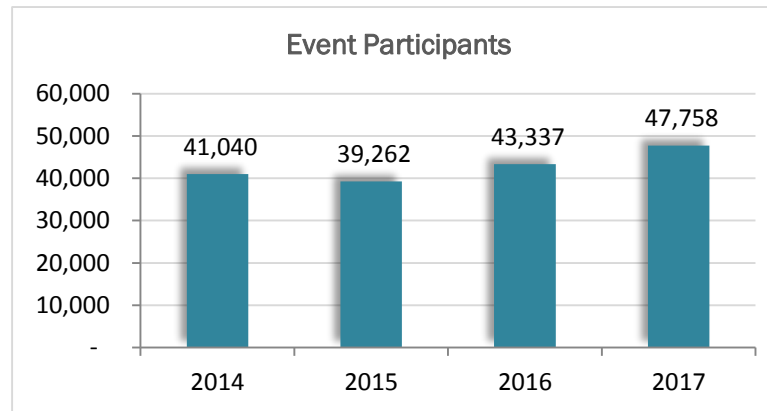
Social Equity, Affordable Housing and Poverty Reduction

GOAL

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

The City of Whitehorse has been making progress towards the goal of social equity. The City collaborated on the 2017 project Safe at Home: A Community-based Action Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness. The plan identifies actions to reduce homelessness through expanded housing options, access to programs, community support, and improved data. The Downtown Plan builds on this theme and recommends a collaborative working group to foster social wellness and inclusion.

Target 21
Reduce percentage of households spending more than 30% of total before-tax income on shelter costs[3]

Housing affordability in Canada is often gauged by how much household spending goes towards shelter[4]. According to Statistics Canada, 19% of Whitehorse households spent more than 30% of their household income on shelter in 2016, a slight decrease from 2011. A higher percentage of renters (33.7%) than owners (12.6%) are spending more on shelter.

Target 22
Reduce income disparity between the top and bottom 20% of income earners

The income gap between bottom earners and top earners has increased in the reporting period. According to the 2016 census, the bottom 20% of

income earners report less than $15,000 per year, while the top 20% earn $80,000 and upwards. The median, while not a target, has remained consistently within the $45-49,000 income bracket.

Target 23
Increase number of City-led and City-supported projects, programs, and services that directly address the needs of low-income and special needs groups.

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. Examples of such programs include the Food for Fines program, the Senior Utility Charges Rebate, and the purchase of accessible wellness equipment at the Canada Games Centre.

2014: 14 programs, projects, services
2015: 15
2016: 19
2017: 20
2018: 20

[3] 2012 to 2014 figures are based on Canada Revenue Agency data, as reported by Yukon Bureau of Statistics.

2015 figures are based on the 2016 Census reported by Statistics Canada.

[4] https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/inpr/afhoce/afhoce_021.cfm

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.

The City of Whitehorse continues to seek and nurture partnerships with groups, individuals, and governments. In 2017 and 2018, the City collaborated with Government of Yukon on a process to understand and improve its public engagement processes. Work continues to implement recommendations from that process.

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 is marked as in compliance with regulations. There are 22 neighbourhoods identified by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics.

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. In 2018, the City had 45 such partnerships. A year-over-year comparison is not available.
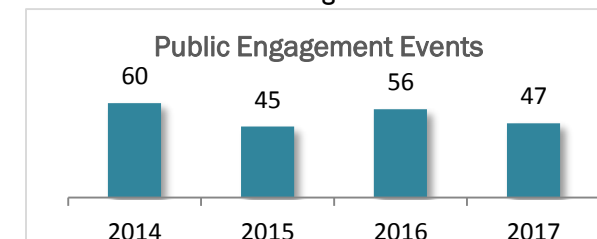
Target 26
Increase percentage of population that regularly volunteers

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.

Community Associations

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
5	5	8	7	5
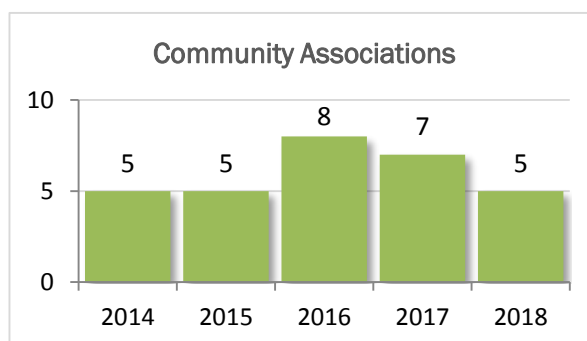
Target 27
Increase number of new, unique or annual opportunities of public participation

The City does a good deal of communication and engagement with the public, both formal or informal. Previously, this target was measured by counting any public engagement opportunity that was communicated to Council. This figure was tracked through 2017, but changes in how information is communicated from departments to Council has made this target difficult to track.

Public Engagement Events

2014	2015	2016	2017
60	45	56	47

Target 28
Increase direct engagement with hard-to-reach audiences

The City aims to reach all residents with its public engagement activities because an actively engaged community is a more sustainable one. The City continues to host its annual Seniors' tea and participate in the interagency working group on vulnerable people. In 2018, work towards this target focused primarily on the interagency "Safe and Home" project. In 2019, Official Community Plan outreach has been held in as many locations as possible, and there has been a focus on engaging with youth and First Nations residents.
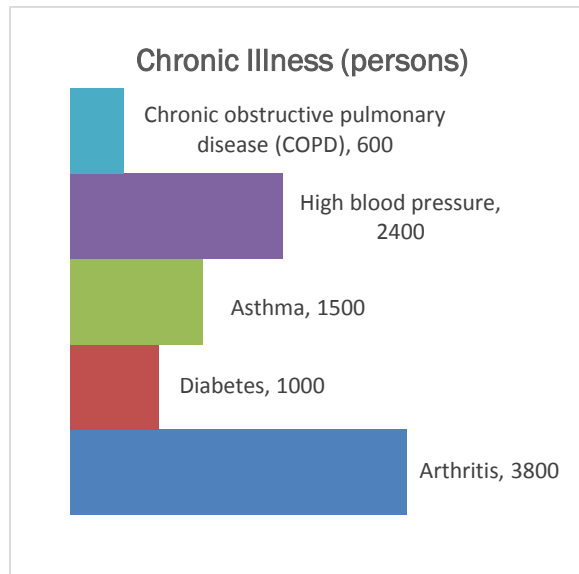
Safe and Healthy Community

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

Selected chronic illnesses are tracked by Statistics Canada. At this time, a year-over-year comparison is not possible due to discrepancies in reporting.

Chronic Illness (persons)

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), 600

High blood pressure, 2400

Asthma, 1500

Diabetes, 1000

Arthritis, 3800

Target 30
Increase the use of trails, pedestrian pathways, and commuter routes

This target is monitored through trail counters on the Millennium Trail. These counters are vulnerable to vandalism.

2015: 769,564
2017: 496,208
2018: 497,569

Pedestrian and cyclist counters on the Robert Campbell Bridge were installed in 2016. The counters ceased operating due to technical issues in 2017.

Target 31
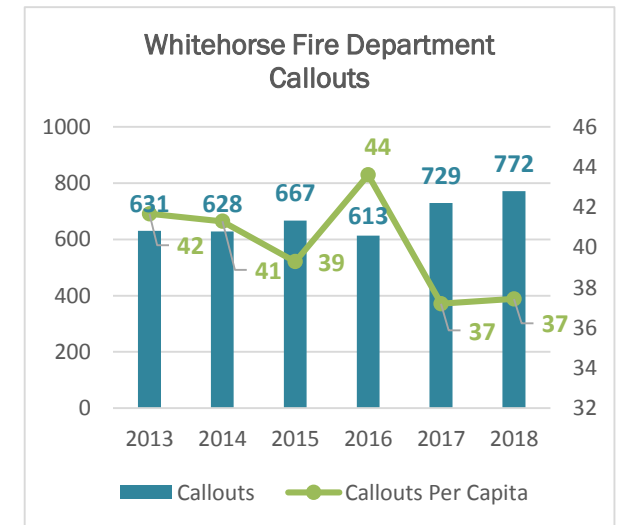**Decrease the number of traffic collisions**

The number of collisions in Whitehorse is provided by Government of Yukon. Figures are not yet available for 2017 and 2018.

Whitehorse Collisions

	2014	2015	2016
Non-highway	423	453	428
Highway	33	22	73
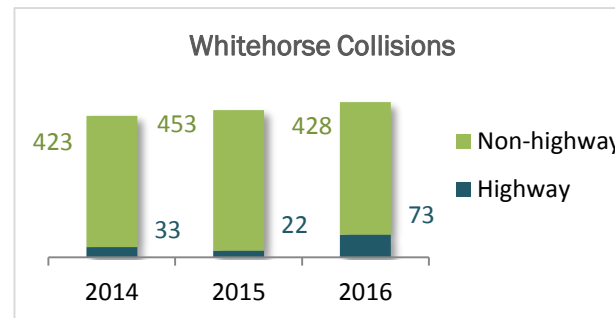
Target 32
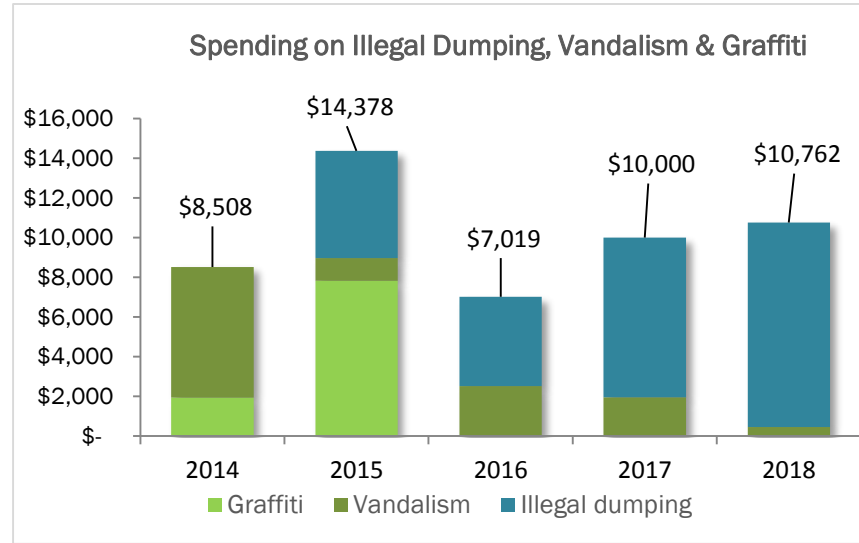**Number of fire department callouts per capita decreases**

The Fire Department responds not only to fires, but various other critical incidents, so is therefore a good indicator of community safety.

Whitehorse Fire Department Callouts

Year	Callouts	Callouts Per Capita
2013	631	42
2014	628	42
2015	667	39
2016	613	44
2017	729	37
2018	772	37

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. In 2016, spending on illegal dumping was added to this target. In 2018, a campaign was launched to encourage citizen reporting of illegal dumping.

Spending on Illegal Dumping, Vandalism & Graffiti

Year	Amount
2014	$8,508
2015	$14,378
2016	$7,019
2017	$10,000
2018	$10,762

Legend: ■ Graffiti ■ Vandalism ■ Illegal dumping

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

Long term financial planning is a process that helps municipalities assess its financial capacity to meet its service and capital objectives.

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 diversity northern economies. Figures are not available after 2015.

Northern Economic Diversity Index		
	Yukon	Canada
2012	88.08	93.04
2013	87.67	93.06
2014	87.97	93.01
2015	88.73	92.99

Target 36
Increase the number of business licences

All businesses operating within Whitehorse are required to have an annual license. The chart below shows the total number of licenses valid in a calendar year, as well as the 5-year rolling average.
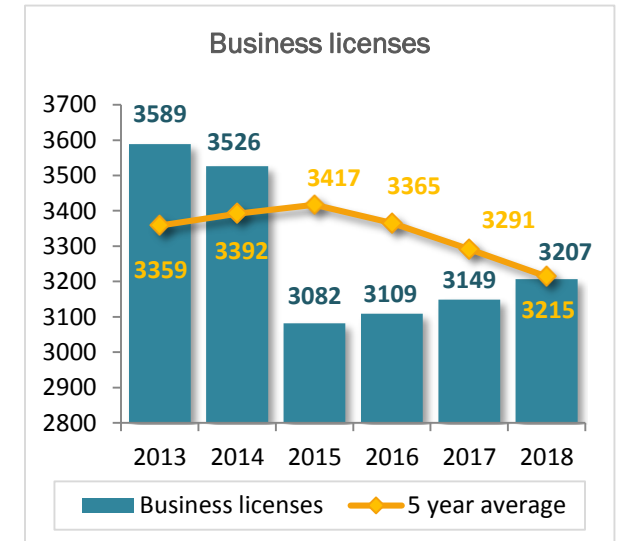
Zero Waste

GOAL

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

Target 37
Increase Waste Diversion

The diversion rate refers to what percentage of waste is being recycled, reused, or otherwise diverted from the Waste Management Facility. The diversion rate continues to improve. In 2017, the F.H. Collins School demolition resulted in significant waste. Changes to the organics program in 2018 is expected to increase diversion over the next several years.

Waste Diversion Rate

Year	Rate
2012	19%
2013	23%
2014	26%
2015	34%
2016	32%
2017	27%
2018	30%
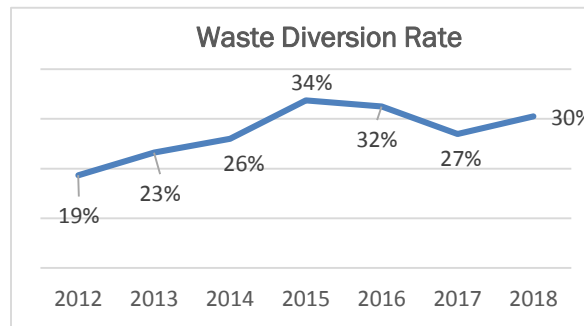
Resilient, Accessible Food Systems

GOAL

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

The City of Whitehorse has been working to complete a Local Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy, a comprehensive strategy for increasing the production and consumption of local food within our City.

Target 38
Increase consumption of local food

Consumption of local food was selected as a target over production of local food because much of the area's local food is produced outside the City. This target has proven difficult to track. There is limited agriculture and food-related data specific to Whitehorse, and little data on consumption patterns.

Target 39
Increase number of community garden plots

Community gardens refer to garden spaces shared by a number of residents of an area, or clientele of an organization. The operation of these gardens varies, but all have some component of shared space, labour and resources. The gardens are located in Valleyview, Downtown, Riverdale, and at the Whitehorse Food Bank and the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre.

Target 40
Increase amount of finished compost produced each year

The tonnes of organics handled at the Waste Management Facility continues to increase. New requirements for food service business to divert organics, combined with a household outreach campaign will increase the organics diversion rate and compost production.

Organics Processed at Compost Facility (tonnes)

Year	Tonnes
2012	2,117
2013	2,267
2014	2,222
2015	2,758
2016	2,517
2017	2,316
2018	2,739