

Whitehorse Climate Change Adaptation Project



Whitehorse is expected to be affected by climate change more than most communities across Canada. The WhiteCAP project will prepare us for that change. Some things are clear and we'll find out more during the project. Some aspects of climate change will remain uncertain and we will need to prepare for that uncertainty.



How will Whitehorse be affected by climate change?

Average temperature has gone up and will keep going up at about twice the average for Canada. Annual precipitation may not change much, but more of it may fall as snow. Also, the rain and snow patterns may intensify giving us more wet and dry seasons. This will affect flooding, buildings, wastewater infrastructure, fire prevention, etc.



How will we respond to climate change?

In order to address the causes of climate change, we look for ways to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. However, we know that this process is going to take decades and that we will be impacted by climate change in the meantime. So the WhiteCAP project is designed to help us plan for and adapt to climate change. We work with other planning processes to reduce our vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. Our goal is to contribute to a more resilient and sustainable Whitehorse.



Who will be affected by climate change?

Climate change affects everyone. For this reason WhiteCAP is intended to be a community-based project. WhiteCAP will collaborate with the City of Whitehorse, Yukon Government, Kwanlin Dün, Ta'an Kwäch'än, non-governmental organizations, businesses, the research community and others to ensure that all aspects of climate change are considered and the best possible response is generated. Interested community members will be invited to participate in a workshop in the fall of 2009.



What will the WhiteCAP project achieve?

- A better understanding of climate change impacts today and in the future
- A look at where the community may be vulnerable and where there are opportunities
- A strategy to respond to climate change
- The implementation of pilot projects that increase the resilience of the community
- More community capacity to address climate change in the future