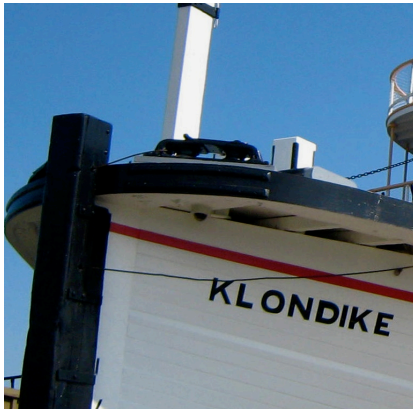


WhiteCAP Newsletter

Whitehorse Climate Change Adaptation Project



WhiteCAP Draft Plan - Ready September 1st

After a year of community input, technical meetings, trends, projections, and scenarios we have a draft plan for the WhiteCAP project. Here are some of the highlights!

- Whitehorse climate has been changing and more change is projected (warming, especially in winter, more and more variable precipitation, more wind, earlier spring, later fall).
- At the same time the community is projected to grow. The economy and growth will likely be dominant in shaping the direction of the community, but climate change will be significant.
- Climate change is complex and dynamic. We will need to continue to monitor it. Even though we have incomplete information about future change to adapt now. We have more than enough information at present to incorporate it into planning processes.
- We have considered a range of possible futures for Whitehorse (without assuming one is more likely than another). Even the scenario with the most modest projection of change, still has climate change impacts which are significant.
- Priorities should be placed on areas that the community has identified as higher risk and where we have lower capacity.
- Major concerns are natural hazards (especially an increased risk of forest fire), and pressure on infrastructure (snow loading, storm water drainage capacity, basement flooding, wind-throw onto power lines).
- Agriculture is seen as a potential opportunity.
- The community does not want to ignore the causes of climate change when we address how to respond to it.
- Many types of adaptations have been identified. It is important to work with existing programs, i.e. to mainstream adaptation into current and ongoing planning processes.

The draft plan will be open for comment starting September 1, 2010. You can find a copy of the draft here: www.taiga.net/nce/adaptation/whitehorse.html

We welcome your input!

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What will the future history of Whitehorse be?

Because we are trying to make decisions today which will serve us for many decades to come, it is important to know what the future will look like. This task is important, but difficult.

Rather than try to know exactly what the future will be, we identified a range of probable changes considering both climate and growth of Whitehorse. A range of possibilities assists decision-makers in addressing variability and uncertainty. For example, some climate change impacts

occur in each of the different scenarios and are thus very likely to occur.

But what is a future history? A future history is a way of developing a fuller scenario. Rather than describe the future, we imagine that we are already in the future. The date is 2050 and we recount the past 40 years. By doing it this way, we create a fuller and more complete image of how the climate will interact with the economy, the environment and the community. And this helps us

to develop strategies to deal with change and even to help shape the future we want.

We have developed a draft future histories report. This report summarizes our discussions with the community of Whitehorse on how the community may change over time and how we might respond to that change.

The report can be found on the NCE website, or feel free to contact us if you would like to read or review the report.

WhiteCAP Recap!

The Whitehorse Community Climate Change Adaptation Project (WhiteCAP) is an initiative led by the Northern Climate Exchange (NCE) to help Whitehorse prepare for climate change that we are now experiencing and that we project in the coming decades. A major goal of the plan is to enhance the sustainable well-being of the community. We are now one year into the project and we have a draft plan available for comment. Over the next year, we will focus on pilot adaptation projects and on refining the WhiteCAP plan.



Announcements

WhiteCAP

WhiteCAP is calling for public proposals to move the community of Whitehorse forward on adaptation. See page 4.

NCE

The Northern Climate ExChange has many projects to assist communities to prepare for climate change. This year, we are mapping geological hazards in Mayo and Pelly, and then examining how these hazards may be affected by climate. We are also working in Atlin, B.C. to develop an Adaptation Plan based on climate hazards. The Dawson adaptation plan has just wrapped and Mayo is now starting.

Climate Change Priorities for Whitehorse

Through our community workshop this past January, we identified hundreds of concerns (impacts) and even more potential responses (adaptations) to the change we are already experiencing, or expect to be experiencing from climate change. We organized these into nine distinct sectors.

Next we asked our technical experts and our local advisory panel to rank these sectors in terms of importance using risk assessment. We use three

questions to determine the risk:
 How likely are the impacts? How severe will those impacts be?
 How prepared are we for the impacts already (or as we call it What is our adaptive capacity)?

Our priority sectors are those where climate change impacts are likely, where the impacts are more severe and in those areas where we are not well prepared. It makes sense for us to put more emphasis on our higher priority sectors.

High	Natural Hazards (including forest fire, flood, etc.) Infrastructure
Medium	Environment Energy Food Security / Agriculture
Low	Economy People (lifestyles, culture, etc.) Health Education

Meet our Local Advisory Council

In order to get solid direction for our project, we have drawn together an excellent Local Advisory Council. This is a community plan, so it is important to us that we get a good cross section of representation providing advice. Thanks for all of their effort!

Whitehorse	Shannon Clohosey	Sustainability
Whitehorse	Clive Sparks	Fire Chief
Ta'an Kwäch'än	Simon LaPointe	Lands
Kwanlin Dün	John Mickle	Lands & Policy
Yukon	Dan Boyd	Community Services
Community	Lewis Rifkin	Conservation Society
Yukon College	John Streicker	Climate Change

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Call for Adaptation Proposals

WhiteCAP is calling for public proposals to move the community of Whitehorse forward in adapting to climate change. We have \$120,000 to allocate toward adaptation projects this year only. If you have a proposal or would just like more information, please contact us to get a full package.

Projects can range from building local resilience (e.g. greenhouses) to building capacity (e.g. working with emergency planning to review fire risk assessment). Or from monitoring (e.g. groundwater) to

integration into existing projects that help us to adapt (e.g. the Strategic Sustainability Plan). Any organization or individual is eligible to apply. Per project

funding is \$10,000 to \$50,000. Projects will be assessed by the WhiteCAP Local Advisory Council according to costs, benefit, priority and fit. The proposal

deadline is Friday 1-October, 2010 and all of the projects must be completed by next summer.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Our contact info is below.



Northern Climate Exchange

independent information, shared understanding, action on climate change

WhiteCAP Contact Info

Community Adaptation Project Manager

Ryan Hennessey
867-668-8874
rhennessey@yukoncollege.yk.ca

Whitehorse Adaptation Coordinator

John Streicker
867-335-0965
john.streicker@gmail.com

The mandate of the Northern Climate Exchange (NCE) is to promote an increased understanding of, and to identify appropriate responses to, climate change. NCE facilitates two-way communication between communities and governments, and builds community capacity to address climate change in Yukon and northern Canada.

Guiding Principles:

- Recognize that community participation in research and decision making is essential to long term resource, environmental and cultural sustainability in the North;
- Acknowledge that an the exchange of knowledge and expertise can strengthen links across northern Canada and among circumpolar nations; and
- Ensure that an appropriate emphasis is placed on the collection of local information and scientific knowledge in order to best reflect northern insights and needs.