

Yukon Climate Action Network
Questions for Whitehorse Mayor and Council Candidates
October 2024

Answers from Jenny Hamilton

Question 0: What is your name and what position are you running for in this municipal election?

Jenny Hamilton and I am running for seat on Council

Question 1: Please provide your level of agreement with the following statement:

"Municipalities should consider costs to the climate for all budget items being considered. This would mean inclusion of the following considerations for each budget item: Will it help reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Will it increase greenhouse gas emissions? If yes, efforts must be made to minimize GHG impacts."

Strongly agree

Question 2: The Council of Canadians Yukon Chapter has released a Climate Emergency Declaration, which has been endorsed by a number of businesses, organizations and individual residents. It can be found here: <https://www.cofcyukon.org/declaration> Would you commit to acting in alignment with the Declaration if you are elected?

Yes. I am open to current and new science based facts and actions that will allow us to move forward as a society causing less to no harm on our environment.

Question 3: Is there a role for regional or municipal food policy to play in addressing the climate crisis and if so, what does it look like?

Yes. I do not know at this time the complete picture of how food policies are addressing the climate crisis, or how they are not, but I am invested in learning. I am invested in making changes. What I do know is that our territory has a large amount of food waste, that contribute to emissions and that is something a municipality can work to change. If that work has begun and it is moving in the correct direction, I am invested in continuing that work.

Question 4: Please provide your level of agreement with the following statement: "As Whitehorse, "The Wilderness City", faces more wildfires, landslides, erosion and flooding, due to climate change, subsequently forcing hungry bears into urban areas, we must act. By

becoming a Bear Smart Community, as in 18 other Bear Smart communities in BC and Alberta, which includes adopting better waste management practices and educating residents in affected communities, we can reduce human-bear conflicts, keep residents safe, and prevent the killing of bears drawn to our city center neighborhoods and the city's wilderness edges."

Strongly agree

Question 5: The City of Whitehorse is in the process of developing its Climate Action Plan. What work would you do as part of Whitehorse City Council to ensure its success? What actions related to climate mitigation or adaptation do you think deserve the highest priority?

The plan speaks to many ideas, but I do believe the City should focus on its aging infrastructure as well as any new infrastructures being built with the best environmental considerations. Clean water is a priority, as is waste water treatment. We all have a right to clean water and we all want waste water treated properly. The South access road by the clay cliffs is a huge concern and need to be a priority. It needs to be fixed correctly and once. Environmental impacts to this fix need to be at the forefront. The plan is a great start and a comprehensive read to the issues. The fixes and answers to these problems are the next part. This is where climate mitigation and adaptation need to be in the forefront, as these fixes must be long term. Think generational fixes, not just a few years.

Question 6: The City's draft climate action plan (see <https://www.engagewhitehorse.ca/climate-action-plan>, page 7) shows that Whitehorse emissions have only kept rising since the City declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. Furthermore, the science behind climate change indicates that change is happening faster than previously predicted. Do you believe that the Whitehorse Climate Action plan should commit to aggressive greenhouse gas reduction goals with clear timelines that reflect the increasing urgency of the climate crisis?

I believe any information given in an aggressive way is never heard. Citizens are open to change if not forced to change. The Action plan uses word such as encourage, invest and improve. These are good words that will help inform citizens and words the Municipality can actually put into action.

There are things a Municipality can do and provide for it's citizens. Transportation that is actually used because it is safe, clean and comprehensive. This is something that still needs work because it is far from any of those things.

Changes within the city's own operational and administrative buildings. A change in the city's fleet vehicles, which has begun; I see there are some City EV cars. This should continue.

There are many more things a city can do, and the plan touches on many of them.

I do agree deadlines should be made and met. They need to be realistic though. I would encourage yourself and the new Mayor and Council to have discussions about all of this, so we can work together. So we can meet collective goals on time. Yes I say we, because elected or not I am a part of this community.

Conversations that move us all forward, are open and honest about all our barriers as a city, will be the quickest and most effective way to lead to action.

We can't fix everything right away but if we have the environment and future generations in the forefront of our minds, real change can be possible.