

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

**Answers from Marta Rogers**

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

**My name is Marta Rogers and I am hoping to be elected as a councillor.**

**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.**

**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?

**I believe we need to encourage more local food production, we need more education on growing in the North. When we are connected in a community minded way that in the way I hope to promote I believe chickens are a wonderful source of food and we should encourage people to keep their own for eggs and speedy composting. There could be an option developed for wintering chickens together to cut down on electricity and individual responsibility in the winter.**

**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."

**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?  
**I believe we need to start looking into the way we manage waste. We need to encourage businesses to have staff trained and to make spaces within their business for easily accessible/affordable repairs. Shoes? Clothes? Zippers? Electronics/appliances? Toys? Furniture? We need to train more skilled people to reduce the waste. We also need to look at how other countries are developing/investing in the technology/equipment to utilize their garbage products as a heat source.**

**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?

**Aggressive is a word I would stay away from. I believe we need to absolutely educate people on how they can shift their lifestyles to be apart of the solution without imposing hardship. We also need to acknowledge the detrimental impacts of deforestation while mining for lithium for these batteries. Solar panels are also not recyclable, so ensuring they are built in ways that last and holding the producers accountable is important.**