

Quality of Life

OURWINNIPEG REVIEW – STARTING THE CONVERSATION

City Services related to this topic could include:

- Waste management
- Water quality
- Community programming
- Community gardens
- City facilities
- Parks
- Urban forestry
- Arts and culture
- Insect control
- Recreation services

Overview

People choose cities where they can prosper and where they can enjoy a high quality of life. A well-run city is an important starting point. The basics matter: public safety, water quality, wastewater infrastructure, and public amenities and facilities are the essentials to keeping people healthy.

But quality of life goes beyond the basics. Our communities need to support various lifestyles, providing a range of options for living, working, and playing. A variety of housing styles for residents to choose from are required, as are transportation choices for residents and businesses alike. The whole system has to work together efficiently and sustainably.

Environmental sustainability plays a key role in City decisions. This is reflected in policies and programs that value both natural and built environments, and protect our city's natural areas and heritage resources.

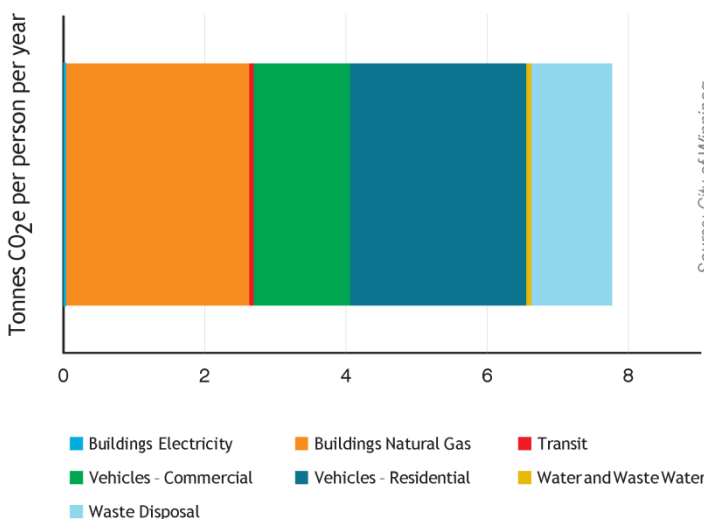
The City is in a position to be a corporate role model for social, environmental, and economic sustainability. This involves measuring and reporting on progress in key

corporate and community sustainability areas.

Beyond providing a "City that Works" (*OurWinnipeg*, Section 01) and planning for sustainability, our city needs to offer a high quality of life to be competitive.

Three important aspects of quality of life are access to opportunity, maintaining and improving healthy neighbourhoods, and being a creative city with vibrant arts and culture. All these areas include social aspects that are critical to the overall well-being of our city.

Peg Community Indicators Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions per capita (2011)



Considering this topic area, picture your ideal Winnipeg 25 years from today.

What is it like?

How close are we to this vision?

To further achieve your vision, what are the most important things the city and/or the community needs to:

Start doing?

Stop doing?

Keep doing?

Do Differently?

What do you know that would help us understand this topic better?

City Context and Initiatives

- The City operates an ongoing Water Conservation program.
- The City created a Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management, and the Environment.
- The City has developed an approach to prioritize capital investment, based on social, economic, and environmental factors. This annual prioritization is being used by departments to determine capital budget submissions.
- The City is in the process of developing a [Master Plan to manage combined sewer overflows](#) into the city's rivers.
- The number of annual water main breaks has been decreasing since 2011.
- On a per capita basis from 2011 to 2016, garbage collected has decreased 22 per cent, recycling has increased 17 per cent, and composting has increased 221 per cent.
- Since 2012, the amount of park space has remained steady, and length of park pathways and walkways has increased from 217 kilometres to 266 kilometres in 2017.
- Since 2011, the number of in-person library visits has increased from 2.69 million to 2.99 million, while the number of visits to the library website increased from 1.63 million to 14.42 million.

Emerging Trends

- The City owns or leases over 1,000 buildings/facilities totaling over 7 million square feet of space that, according to 2017 data, will require an investment of over \$500 million over the next seven years to achieve desired asset condition.
- A Climate Change Action Plan is under development that will help the City address climate change.
- A number of programs have emerged from the City's Waste Management Strategy. As a result, the percentage of waste diverted from the landfill through methods like recycling or compost, has increased from 18.6 per cent in 2011 to 32.9 per cent in 2016.
- The City is currently working on Asset Management Plans to manage City infrastructure and other assets like community centres or pools to deliver an agreed standard of service.