



## **2013 Carbon Neutral Action Report School District No. 47 (Powell River)**

### **Executive Summary**

In 2013 School District 47 again made progress in reducing greenhouse gases. The largest contribution to our reduction of Greenhouse Gases was the opening of our new LEED-Gold Certified Elementary School, Westview Elementary, in the fall of 2013. The LEED certification will have substantial cost and energy savings for years to come. Furthermore, the population of a previous elementary school was moved to the new school, and the old school was sold prior to the new one's opening; therefore, we did not need add to our building portfolio or increase our energy consumption in the process.

Furthermore, 2013 also saw a reduction in the spaces the District has been leasing, as we completed the renovations on the Oceanview Education Centre, now reconfigured to house alternate and trades programs which were previously run in leased buildings. This reduction on our building portfolio will decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

The Transportation Department made some additional progress in reducing greenhouse gases with the purchase of two new, fuel-efficient buses, and the sale of four buses, thus reducing the total fleet by two large vehicles. We are currently looking into the possibility of further reducing our fleet in 2014, with the proposed elimination of school bus routes within City limits and instead collaborating with the City Transit System.

On the School level, School District 47 continues to take pride in educating the next generation to protect our future by continuing with the funding of the Sustainable Schools Committee and a half time District Sustainability Coordinator. Part of the mandate of the Board of Education is to increase awareness of and positive action in regards to reducing our carbon footprint in practical ways. Schools have further incentive to participate, as some of the financial savings have been returned to the schools to fund future projects, such as gardening programs and eco-friendly playground equipment. Other examples, on a smaller scale, are school recycling programs, which allow schools to use monies "earned" from returning beverage containers for classroom supplies. Our Sustainable Schools Committee continues to lead the work of educating and inspiring employees, providing in-service and working together with the Destination Conservation's school based teams. The Outdoor Learning Centre (OLC), completed

in 2012, is also a large contributing factor to the education of students, in both its operation and programs offered. The OLC consists of several cabins and a main lodge, run largely on solar power and maintains other environmentally friendly operating practices. Each year, the OLC offers numerous educational programs to District students, instructing them in practices such as composting, and use of renewable energy sources in a hands-on way.

Finally, in effort to reduce paper consumption and waste, most of our forms are now available online. We have seen increased use of these forms throughout 2013, and will continue to encourage staff and students to make the switch to online submissions in 2014. E-filing has also increased in popularity, with more documents being stored on shared drives rather than in print. We continue to encourage scanning documents for less printing and copying, and increasing double-sided printing and copying, when necessary. Furthermore, we have succeeded in standardizing paper purchases at minimum 30% recycled content. Paper recycling programs are also in effect district-wide, thus reducing waste.

Evidence of our efforts can be found in the maintenance of lower Greenhouse Gas Emissions than in previous years. Our **Total GHG Emissions for 2013 was 1183**, with **975 in offsets** to make us Carbon Neutral. This is a significant reduction from just two short years ago, when total emissions neared 1500, and offsets were over 1200!

We believe in the benefits of our continued efforts and look forward to seeing further reduction in offsets over the next few years. Financially, we aim to put some of the savings directly back into our schools, funding materials that continue to educate and provide awareness of how to reduce our carbon footprint. Environmentally, we aim to make our small actions have a big impact, both in present and in future, as our students take what they've learned into their adult lives, in our community and far beyond. Socially, we aim to provide awareness and collaboration, that our students would take what they've learned and share it with others. We are proud of our District, and continue to be amazed at the significant efforts from both staff and students in making positive changes that will better our world for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SH' followed by a horizontal line.

Steve Hopkins  
Secretary Treasurer

# 2013 Carbon Neutral Action Report (CNAR) - Part 2 ACTIONS

Created Monday, March 10, 2014

Updated Thursday, March 27, 2014

<https://fluidsurveys.com/surveys/cas-z/2013-cnar-form-bps-actions/37841d706b50da1f57519bab61dbf71a0dfe576d/>

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## Page 1

Please complete the following sections of the 2013 Carbon Neutral Action Report form. Save your work frequently to prevent it from being lost. You can also save a copy for your own use as either a WORD or PDF file using the buttons at the bottom of each page.

This is Part 2 of the Carbon Neutral Action Report form. This section reports on actions taken to reduce emissions during the 2013 calendar year. This information will be included in your final Carbon Neutral Action Report posted on the Ministry of Environment website.

When the form is complete press the submit button on the last page to automatically submit the information to the Climate Action Secretariat (CAS). Do not press submit before you are ready – this may result in a loss of work.

In addition to completing this survey (Part 1 2), you are required to submit your completed Overview (Executive Summary) and Self-Certification Checklist. The 2013 Overview template was included in the email sent and can also be found on the LiveSmart leaders Community.

Please ensure you meet the following reporting deadlines:

A DRAFT 2013 CNAR is due to CAS by March 31, 2014. The draft is comprised of the Overview ONLY (no executive sign-off required).

The FINAL 2013 CNAR is due to CAS by May 30, 2014. The final 2013 CNAR includes Part 1 Part 2 survey form and Overview.

The Self-Certification Checklist is due to CAS by May 15, 2014.

For more information about the Carbon Neutral Government process, please refer to *Becoming Carbon Neutral 2013*, or should you have any questions please contact [climateactionsecretariat@gov.bc.ca](mailto:climateactionsecretariat@gov.bc.ca).

Organization Name

*School District No 47 (Powell River)*

**Actions Taken to Reduce Emissions**

1) Stationary Fuel Combustion, Electricity (Buildings):

Indicate which actions were taken in 2013:

Performed energy retrofits on existing buildings

*No*

Built or are building new LEED Gold or other "Green" buildings.

*Yes*

Undertook an evaluation of overall building energy use.

*No*

Please list any other actions taken to reduce emissions from Buildings:

*Not applicable*

2) Mobile Fleet Combustion (Fleet and other vehicles):

Indicate which actions were taken in 2013:

Do you have a fleet?

*Yes*

Replaced existing vehicles with more fuel efficient vehicles (gas/diesel)

*Yes*

Replaced existing vehicles with hybrid or electric vehicles

No

Reduced the overall number of fleet vehicles

Yes

Took steps to drive less than last year

Yes

Please list any other actions taken to reduce emission from fleet:

*Encouraged carpooling whenever possible, particularly within our technology and maintenance staff, who often travel to the same locations for work.*

3) Supplies (Paper):

Indicate which actions were taken in 2013:

Used less paper than previous year

Yes

Used only 100% recycled paper

No

Used some recycled paper

Yes

Used alternate source paper (Bamboo, hemp, etc.)

No

Please list any other actions taken to reduce emissions from paper use:

*Have standardized the use of (minimum) 30% recycled paper district-wide.  
Encourage less printing and copying.  
Encourage double sided printing and copying.*



Actions Taken to Reduce Emissions - continued

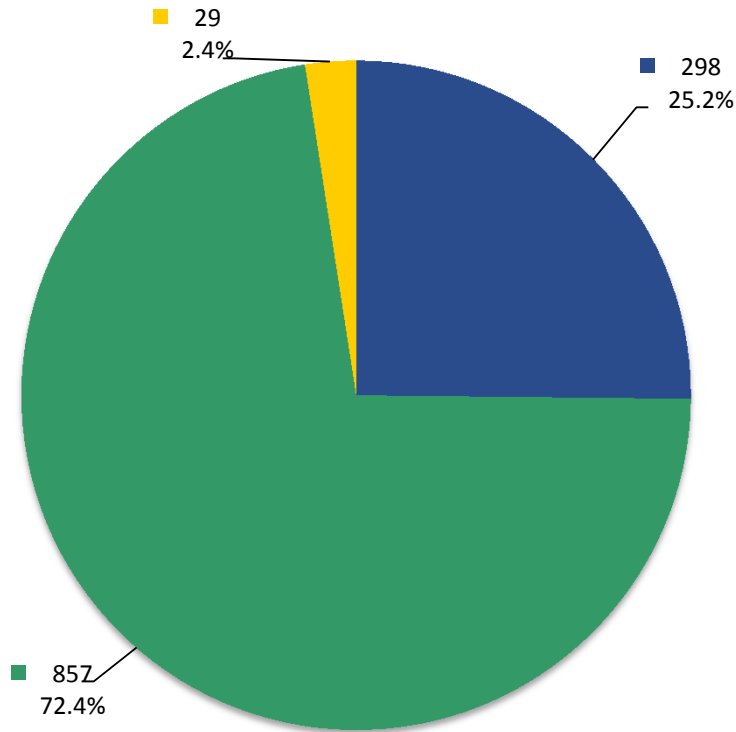
Explain how you plan to continue minimizing emissions in 2014 and future years:

*Looking into the possibility of reducing our fleet with the elimination of bus runs within City limits, working in collaboration with existing City Public Transit Systems.  
Continue encouraging use of online documents, e-filing, and less printing, as well as printing double-sided and use of recycled paper.  
Continue to encourage carpooling, and bike to work initiatives.*

If you wish to list any other "sustainability actions" outside of buildings, fleet, paper and travel check "yes". This reporting is optional.

*No*

## School District 47 - Powell River Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Source for the 2013 Calendar Year (tCO<sub>2</sub>e\*)



**Total Emissions: 1,183**

- Mobile Fuel Combustion (Fleet and other mobile equipment)
- Stationary Fuel Combustion (Building Heating and Generators) and Electricity
- Supplies (Paper)

### **Offsets Applied to Become Carbon Neutral in 2013 (Generated May 21, 2014 3:47 PM)**

Total offsets required: **975**. Total offset investment: **\$24,375**. Emissions which do not require offsets: **209** \*\*

\*Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) is a standard unit of measure in which all types of greenhouse gases are expressed based on their global warming potential relative to carbon dioxide.

\*\* Under the *Carbon Neutral Government Regulation of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act*, all emissions from the sources listed above must be reported. As outlined in the regulation, some emissions do not require offsets.