

# CARBON NEUTRAL ACTION REPORT



**We care about ourselves, each other  
and  
this place**



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# Executive Summary

On behalf of the Board of Education No. 61 (Greater Victoria) I am pleased to submit our Carbon Neutral Action Plan for 2015. Our 2015 report again clearly demonstrates our District's ongoing commitment to the reduction of our greenhouse gas emissions. Our Board, as in previous years, continues to work diligently, to improve the learning environment for students and staff through its demonstrated support and leadership in the reduction of our carbon footprint.

The integration of environmentally sustainable considerations continues to influence all of our business decisions supported by our Board approved Environmental Change Policy.

Recognizing the importance of reducing our carbon footprint, a focus on energy savings and greenhouse gas emission reductions continue to be a priority in our ongoing commitment towards carbon neutrality. Projects that include the installation of high efficiency condensing boilers, heating control upgrades, window replacement projects and ongoing waste reduction initiatives remain the focus of our Facilities Department. We continue to demonstrate to students, staff and community the importance of environmental sustainability fully supported by our Board of Trustees' ongoing commitment towards carbon neutrality.

As part of our 2015 energy savings program we have replaced more of our older inefficient heating systems, installed new heating controls and completed window replacement projects at four more of our schools.

In the coming year, we plan to continue these very successful energy savings initiatives and projects. These projects will allow us to move forward in our efforts to further reduce our carbon footprint while also providing opportunities to modernize our schools.

As reported previously, our District continues to receive tremendous support from students, staff and parents for initiatives that embrace and model sustainability, social responsibility and reductions to our carbon footprint. We now have 100% of our schools participating in a full recycling program. The students' passion for change and enthusiasm in reducing our impact on the environment is an inspiration to us all. We are extremely proud of our achievements to date and look forward to continued success in this area.

For the 2015 reporting period the total emissions are 4,823 tons. With an adjustment of 19 tons emissions, which do not require offsets, for a net offset of 4,804. The total investment for these offsets is \$120,100. Through a combination of favorable weather conditions and these on-going initiatives we have reduced our emissions again this year.

The Board of Education No. 61 (Greater Victoria) clearly recognizes its role as a leader in environmental stewardship and will continue to support initiatives that will reduce energy consumption and reduce our impact on the environment.

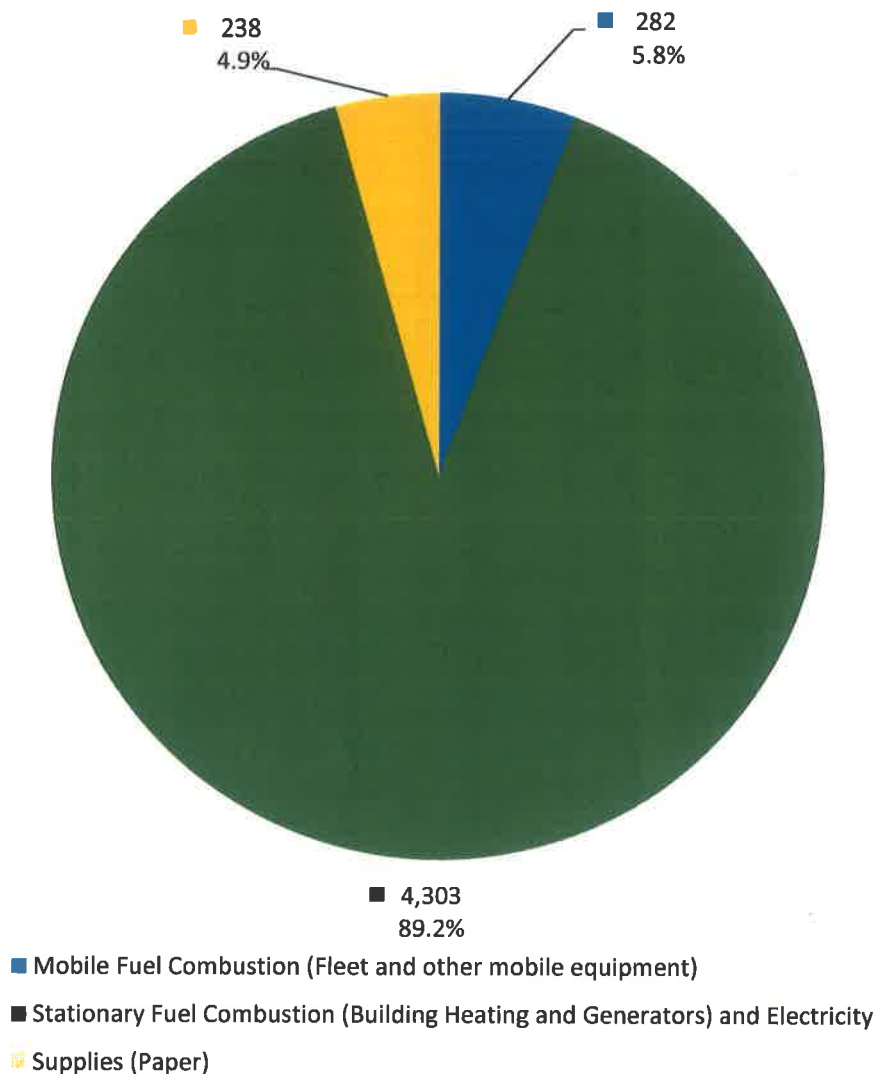


Piet Langstraat  
Superintendent of Schools

# Greenhouse Gas Emissions

School District 61 - Greater Victoria

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Source for the 2015 Calendar Year (tCO<sub>2</sub>e\*)



**Total Emissions: 4,823**

### Offsets Applied to Become Carbon Neutral in 2015

Total offsets required: 4,804 Total offset investment: \$120,100.

Emissions which do not require offsets: 19\*\*

\*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.

# Offsets Applied to Become Carbon Neutral in 2015

Greater Victoria School District #61 offsets applied to become Carbon Neutral in 2014

Total offsets required: 5041-20 = 5,021 tonnes

Total offset investment: **\$125,525 for 2014**

Emissions which do not required offsets: 20

*\*\*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.*

## Changes to Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Offsets Reporting from Previous Years

Year	Totals	Emissions	Offsets Purchased
2010	6082	6096	\$152,050
2011	6950	6974	\$173,750
2012	6362 + 22	6387	\$159,050
2013	5545 - 172	5373	\$134,325
2014	5041-20	5021	\$125,525
2015	4823-19	4804	\$120,100

# Emissions Reduction Activities

## Actions Taken to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2015

- ❖ Boiler replacement project at Esquimalt High School – installed 2 new energy-efficient condensing boilers.
- ❖ Completed ventilation improvements and installed new DDC system at Esquimalt High School
- ❖ Boiler replacement at Rockheights Middle School.
- ❖ Installation of 3 new energy-efficient condensing boilers with DDC controls at Rockheights Middle School.
- ❖ Completed Phase 2 of Window Replacement project at Esquimalt High School.
- ❖ Replaced all windows at Torquay Elementary School.
- ❖ Ongoing in-servicing of district staff in the operation and maintenance of these new heating systems.
- ❖ Continued support for behavioural change initiatives for students and staff.
- ❖ Participation in District waste reduction program has increased and now 100% of all schools participating in the program.

## Plans to Continue Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

We continue to enjoy success in reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions through a focus on upgrading and replacement of aging heating systems and controls, window replacement and student and staff education and plan to focus on these initiatives again in 2016.

As a public sector organization our ability to continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is dependent of government funding. Our Board remains committed to support energy saving initiatives through Ministry of Education funding received for major capital improvements and the Ministry of Education's Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) and the newly introduced Carbon Neutral Capital Plan (CNCP).

- The Greater Victoria School District No. 61 has a link for Green Initiatives on the School District Website: <https://healthyschools.sd61.bc.ca>

# 2015 Carbon Neutral Action Report Survey

Organization Name:

*Board of Education #61 (Greater Victoria)*

Please select your sector:

- School District

1) Stationary Sources (Buildings, Power Generators, Ext. Lighting) Fuel Combustion, Electricity use, Fugitive Emissions:

Please indicate which actions your PSO took in 2015:

Have developed an overall strategy/plan to reduce energy use in your organization's buildings inventory:

*No*

If Yes, please describe:

*(No response)*

Undertook evaluations of building energy use:

*Yes*

Performed energy retrofits on existing buildings:

*Yes*

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

*Yes*

Please list any other actions, programs or initiatives that your organization has introduced that support emissions reductions from buildings:

*(No response)*

2) Mobile Sources (Fleet, Off-road/Portable Equipment) Fuel Combustion:

Indicate which actions your PSO took in 2015:

Have put in place an operations policy/program to support systematic reductions in fleet related emissions:

(e.g., program to convert fleet to renewable fuels)

*No*

If Yes, please describe:

*(No response)*

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

*Yes*

Replaced existing vehicles with hybrid or electric vehicles:

*No*

Took steps to drive less than previous years:

*No*

Please list any other actions, programs or initiatives that your organization has introduced that support emissions reductions from fleet combustion:

*(No response)*

3) Supplies (Paper):

Indicate which actions your PSO took in 2015:

Have put in place an operations policy/program to facilitate a systematic reduction in paper-related emissions:

(e.g., policy to purchase 100% Recycled Content; default to double-sided printing)

*Yes*

If yes, please describe:

*Purchase recycled paper, default printer setting is to double- sided printing*



Have put in place an operations policy/program to facilitate behavioural changes from paper use:

(e.g. awareness campaign to reduce paper use):

*No*

If yes, please describe:

*(No response)*

Used only 100% recycled paper:

*No*

Used some recycled paper:

*Yes*

Used alternate source paper:

(e.g., bamboo, hemp, wheat etc.)

*No*

Please list any other actions, programs or initiatives that your organization has introduced that support emissions reductions from paper supplies:

*(No response)*

4) Other Sustainability Actions:

Please note that this section is optional

Business Travel

Created a low-carbon travel policy or travel reduction goal:

(low-carbon = lowest emission of greenhouse gas per kilometer per passenger)

No

Encouraged alternative travel for business:

(e.g. bicycles, public transit, walking)

No

Encouraged or allow telework/working from home:

No

Other:

(No response)

Education Awareness

Have a Green/Sustainability/Climate Action Team:

No

Supported green professional development:

(e.g. workshops, conferences, training)

No

Supported or provided education to staff about the science of climate change, conservation of water, energy and/or raw materials:

No

Other:

(No response)

## Adaptation Planning for Climate Risks

Have assessed whether increased frequency of extreme weather events and/or long term changes in climate will affect your organization's infrastructure, its employees and/or its clients:

*No*

Have incorporated these anticipated changes in climate into your organization's planning and decision making:

*No*

Other:

*(No response)*

## Other Sustainability Actions

Established a water conservation strategy which includes a plan or policy for replacing water fixtures with efficient models:

*No*

Have put in place an operations policy/program to facilitate the reduction and diversion of building occupant waste stream from landfills or incineration facilities:

(e.g., composting, collection of plastics, batteries)

*Yes*

Established green standards for goods that are replaced infrequently and/or may require capital funds to purchase:

(e.g., office furniture, carpeting, etc.)

*Yes*

Incorporated lifecycle costing into new construction or renovations:

*Yes*

Please list any other sustainability actions your organization has taken not listed above:

*(No response)*