



SCHOOL DISTRICT #79 – COWICHAN VALLEY

2021 PSO CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

PART 1. Legislative Reporting Requirements

Declaration Statement

This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2021 to reduce our GHG emissions, and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2022 and beyond.

By June 30, 2022 School District #79 Cowichan Valley's final 2021 Climate Change Accountability Report will be posted to our website at www.sd79.bc.ca.

Emission Reductions: Actions & Plans

The Cowichan Valley School District continues to work towards reducing its Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions as a long-term contribution to GHG reductions. The focus remains on upgrading to cleaner energy sources, education and awareness, and support for climate action programs. COVID 19 presented unique challenges that impacted energy consumption patterns (i.e., ventilation); these impacts will be reviewed and a plan put in place to best manage energy consumption moving forward. Additionally, severe weather patterns (i.e., the heat dome in June 2021, extended droughts, record setting rainfall, severe wind storms disrupting power, and a colder than usual Spring) added challenges to managing reduced energy consumption patterns.

A. Stationary Sources (e.g. buildings, power generation)

In 2021, two (2) major boiler replacement projects were completed. All lighting upgrades included the most energy efficient light fixtures and building envelope projects will continue to maximize the R-values of the insulation in our buildings. The district began construction of the new Cowichan Secondary School that is replacing the older site. The new school is being built to meet and/or exceed current energy efficiency standards in the year of opening and beyond.

An OBS agreement with Honeywell continues to be secured and is underway to further optimize the existing mechanical systems which will result in a significant reduction in electricity, natural gas and fuel oil consumption. The district continues to do end-to-end reviews of all HVAC DOC systems annually. This identifies and corrects issues that occur throughout the year which cause inefficiencies in the heating systems.

Other initiatives continue from previous years including student-initiated energy upgrades (solar preheat on domestic hot water systems at 3 Secondary schools) and the introduction of high-volume eco-friendly wastepaper products in school washrooms and classrooms.

The district will also be completing a major heating plant upgrade at one of our larger school facilities as well as the maintenance shop and bus garage. The heating plants for the maintenance shop and bus garage will have a large impact on emissions reduction with the conversion of oil-fired boilers to heat pumps. The district is also continuing a building envelope project at one site. These projects will have a large impact on occupant comfort and the reduction of heating energy and greenhouse gas emissions.

B. Mobile Sources (e.g. fleet vehicles, off-road/portable equipment)

The Transportation Department continues to work on mapping bus routes to ensure mileage and fuel consumption contribute to operational efficiencies. Despite increased enrolment and ridership, the transportation department maintained existing routes without sacrificing service to learners. Anti-idling software continues to be used in all school buses where after one (1) minute of idling, the bus engine turns off.

One (1) electric and three (3) new diesel school busses were purchased and delivered in 2021. Energy and maintenance data will be collected throughout 2022 and monitored for future planning and reporting purposes. Two (2) electric charging stations will be installed in 2022.

Clean Fleet Plan: No plan was developed in 2021 for clean, small fleet due to the COVID-19 uncertainties and budget funding constraints.

2021 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

School District #79 – Cowichan Valley: 2021 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary	
GHG Emissions created in Calendar Year 2021 <i>[See Appendix 1 for instructions on how to access your 2021 emissions data from the Clean Government Reporting Tool (CGRT). Cells A through E below are identified in Figure 1; cell F is identified in Figure 2.]</i>	
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	2405
Total BioCO ₂	35.07
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	1617
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	1810
Grand Total Offsets for the 2021 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e) to be Retired for 2021 Reporting Year	1617
Offset Investment (\$25 per tCO ₂ e) <i>[Grand Total Offsets to be Retired x \$25/tCO₂e]</i>	\$40,425

- i. *[Note, BioCO₂ is included in Total Emissions but not Total Offsets. For K-12 and Post-Secondary organizations, and BC Transit, Total Offsets will not equal Total Emissions minus Total BioCO₂ because offset exempt emissions for buses are included within Total Emissions.*
- ii. *Emissions and offset investment amounts will be validated by CAS prior to distributing invoices.*
- iii. *You must round "Grand Total Offsets to be Retired" to a whole number (no decimal places) before multiplying by \$25 (e.g., 43.2 = 43, 43.5 = 44).]*

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, **School District #79 – Cowichan Valley** is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2021 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years (if applicable). The Organization hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (**the Ministry**) ensuring that these offsets are retired on the Organization's behalf, the Organization will pay within 30 days, the associated invoice to be issued by the Ministry in an amount equal to \$25 per tonne of offsets retired on its behalf plus GST.

PART 2. Public Sector Leadership

2A. Climate Risk Management

We have initiated several short- and long-term paper reduction strategies and are presented below.

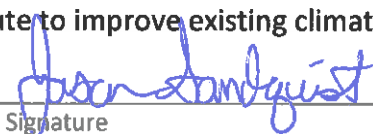
- All paper purchased must contain a minimum of 30% content; the actual goal is to purchase 100% sugar cane waste paper whenever possible. The paper purchase default on our order forms is set to purchase only 100% sugar cane waste paper whenever possible. Evaluate any new sources of low emissions non-forest paper.
- We have an awareness campaign focused on reduced office paper consumption/use.
- New leased printers are more energy efficient.
- Climate Action Group (CAG) meets occasionally with Local Government agencies.
- Purchased alternate source paper (bamboo, hemp, wheat, etc.)
- Papercut software was installed on all printers where you must enter a code to receive your print request rather than have it print and go to waste in recycling.
- Paperless meetings are held whenever possible, most notably on Zoom/Teams platforms.
- Online Human Resources portal – significant reduction in paper use and distribution.
- For any building upgrades, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions will be considered.
- Energy audits have been performed for the majority of the buildings in the school district. At this time there are no plans to do additional audits.
- The promotion of energy efficiency and climate sustainable practices will continue district wide to align with our strategic plan initiatives and objectives.
- Past extreme weather and emergency climate conditions have prompted more urgent and careful consideration of alternative and eco-friendly energy options (i.e., composting sites at schools and administration sites, solar energy, redesigned bus routes, etc).
- Attendance at conferences and/or professional development workshops are encouraged to be done virtually where possible and if in person cannot be avoided, a low carbon business travel policy has been adopted.
- Recruitment activities occur online where possible.

2B. Other Sustainability Initiatives

SD79 has pursued 'green' purchasing/procurement standards where doing business with suppliers is considered based on their contribution to the climate rather than solely on the price/availability of their products.

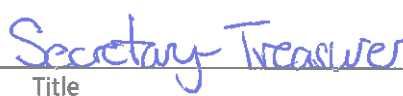
2C. Success Stories

The arrival of the first electric school bus was exciting and the anticipated cost savings from reduced fuel purchases, although not officially tracked and measured in 2021, will reduce fossil fuel emissions and contribute to improve existing climate conditions.


Signature


Date


Name (please print)


Title