

2022 CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT



May 2023

School District No. 85

Vancouver Island North

Climate Change Accountability Report

2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On behalf of the Vancouver Island North School District, I am pleased to submit the 2022 Climate Change Accountability Report. This report provides an overview of the steps that the Vancouver Island North School District has taken to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions as well as other environmentally sustainable actions that have been undertaken in the 2022 calendar year.

Environmental sustainability is deeply important to the Vancouver Island North School District. The Board of Education has supported effective practices in environmentally sustainable focused areas such as curriculum, energy conservation, school gardens, sustainable purchasing, green transportation, water conservation and waste management.

2022 presented its own unique challenges when it came to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as the district returned to a more normal level of operation at the end of the global COVID-19 pandemic. However, the new ventilation guidelines implemented in 2020, were maintained in schools into 2022, such as windows being left open and air handling units running longer in the day to improve air circulation. Students continue to spend time in outdoor learning environments, increasing the demand for local transportation services. There was a full return to sport tournaments, field trips and extra-curricular activities thereby increasing out-of-district travel and GHG emissions.

We continue to engage both our students and employees, leveraging their knowledge and enthusiasm as we strive for lower GHG emissions. We are undertaking several capital projects to reduce our GHG emissions. Doing so has benefits beyond the environment as it generates both financial savings and social benefits. Our employees are more engaged in working towards sustainability, and the students who will shape our future are more engaged in caring for the world around them.



Ms. Christina MacDonald
Superintendent of Schools

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Declaration Statement

This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period of January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emission profile, the total offsets purchased to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2022 to reduce our GHG emissions and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2023 and beyond.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The total greenhouse gas emissions for the Vancouver Island North School District for the 2022 school year was 854 tonnes, this is a decrease from the previous years' total of 860 tonnes. 135 tonnes of the total GHG emissions for 2022 are offset exempt as they are bus related emissions which are not included in carbon offset billing.

Fugitive Emissions

Fugitive emissions are the unintentional emissions from the production, processing, transmission, storage and delivery of fossil fuels and the intentional combustion of fossil fuels not used to generate useful heat or electricity.

The following fugitive emissions are deemed by the British Columbia Provincial Government Carbon Neutral Regulation as out of scope for reporting:

- Gases used for research purposes (e.g. science labs)
- Type R-22 coolant from stationary air conditioning and refrigeration units in schools
- Any emission sources that comprise less than 1% of the District's total GHG's

In scope fugitive emissions (HFCs released to the environment as a result of leaks in cooling equipment) for School District 85 are well below the 1% threshold for reporting and are therefore not included in this report.

Travel Related Emissions

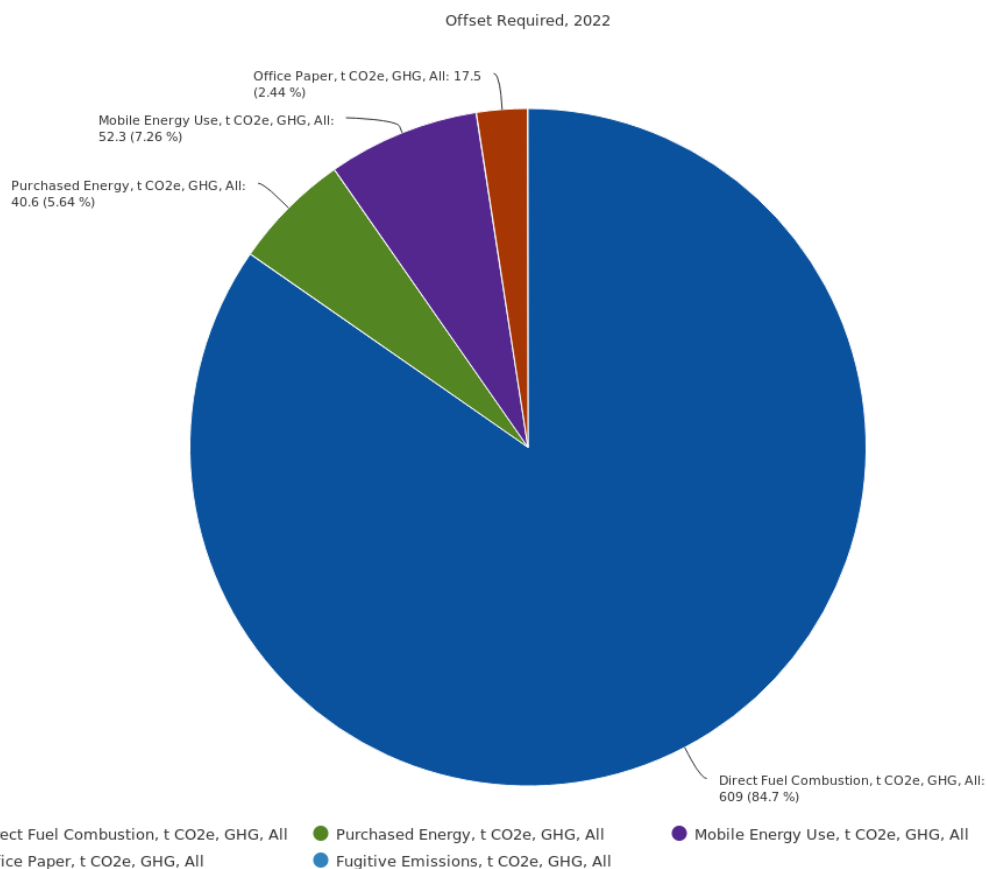
Under the Carbon Neutral Public Sector commitment, only core government organizations that report through the Consolidated Revenue Fund (e.g. ministries, special offices, tribunals) are required to track and report the emissions from the business travel of public officials. Vancouver Island North School District does not fall within "core government" and therefore does not track travel related emissions.

Offsets Applied to Become Carbon Neutral

In order to achieve carbon neutral status for 2022, the Board of Education of School District No. 85 (Vancouver Island North) purchased carbon offsets totaling 720 tonnes of CO₂e from the Provincial government in May of 2023 at a cost of \$18,900.00.

Total GHG Emissions by Activity Data Source (no Biogenic)

School District 85 - Vancouver Island North	
2022	
Direct Fuel Combustion	
t CO2e, GHG, All	609
Purchased Energy	
t CO2e, GHG, All	40.6
Mobile Energy Use	
t CO2e, GHG, All	52.3
Office Paper	
t CO2e, GHG, All	17.5
Fugitive Emissions	
t CO2e, GHG, All	



Actions Taken to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2022

2022 saw the finish of the process to demolish Coal Harbour Elementary School and renovate the existing gym structure on site in order to reduce our carbon footprint at that location. The old school building had been closed for some time and had experienced flooding which was too extensive and costly to repair. By removing the existing building and renovating the gym we were able to eliminate the old propane heating system and install a heat pump in its place.

The process was started to demolish part of the former Woss Elementary School which has been closed for many years. The building footprint will be reduced by approximately half and new HVAC and hot water systems will be installed in the remaining portion; this will eliminate the reliance on propane for this location.

An emphasis was put on “active” transportation within our District to encourage staff and students to walk or bike to school as much as possible in order to reduce the number of vehicles on the road each day.

Meeting packages continue to be sent electronically to reduce reliance on paper. Recycling is practiced in all District facilities and recycled content purchasing is encouraged whenever possible.

Hydroelectricity is used in the School District for both lighting and heating purposes. The total electricity purchased from BC Hydro went from 3,310,103.82 kWh in 2021 to 3,475,055.79 kWh in 2022, an increase of 164,951.97 kWh. This increase may be in part due to the public health guidelines kept in place due to COVID-19, the switch from propane to a heat pump at the former Coal Harbour School, as well as a prolonged, intense cold snap during the winter of 2022.

Seven of School District 85's properties are heated by propane. 2022 saw a decrease of 4,572 liters, from 359,548 liters in 2021 to 354,976 liters in 2022. This decrease may be in part due to the demolition of the former Coal Harbour School building which relied on propane for heating.

Plans to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2023

In 2023 the plan is to continue upgrading our facilities to make them more energy efficient overall. Building envelope upgrades are taking place on an ongoing basis, aging heating, hot water and lighting systems are being replaced with newer and more energy efficient units.

Aging white fleet vehicles will continue to be replaced with more efficient models.

We will continue to educate our staff and students alike on how to be kind to the environment and to do whatever they can to lessen their impact on the world around them through reducing, reusing and recycling whenever possible.

The former Woss School is being partially demolished to reduce its footprint. As part of the renovations a new HVAC system will be put in place which will eliminate all reliance on propane from this site. HVAC replacements are taking place at A.J. Elliott Elementary in Sointula as well as in the gymnasiums in Alert Bay Elementary and Sea View Elementary in Port Alice. A.J. Elliott will also be receiving upgrades to its building envelope with the installation of a new curtain wall and all new windows. Lighting upgrades have been started in the Alert Bay Elementary gymnasium to switch all fluorescent lights to LED.

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Retirement of Offsets

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, School District No. 85 (the Organization) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2022 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.

Total Offset Required Emissions for Calendar Year 2022	720 tCO ₂ e
Adjustments to Offset Required Emissions in Prior Years	0 tCO ₂ e
Grand Total Offsets for 2022 Reporting Year	720 tCO ₂ e
Price per Tonne	\$25.00
Sub-Total	\$18,000.00
GST @ 5%	\$900.00
TOTAL PAYABLE	\$18,900.00

Executive sign off:



May 25, 2023

Signature

Date

John Martin

Secretary Treasurer

Name (please print)

Title