



VANCOUVER ISLAND
UNIVERSITY

2021 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

May 31, 2022



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 Vancouver Island University's final 2021 Climate Change Accountability Report will be posted to our website at <https://adm.viu.ca/sustainability/carbon-neutral-action-report>.

EMISSION REDUCTIONS: ACTIONS & PLANS

VIU is working on reducing emissions through a range of strategies. Behaviour campaigns continue to encourage judicious energy use and bring awareness to individual sovereignty in controlling one's work/home environment. Hybrid study and work schedules resulted in more online engagement for 2021 and included Mission Sustainability, Countdown to Shutdown, and enthusiastically collaborating with and supporting Thompson Rivers University's virtual dance party.

Active transportation continues to be championed through student and employee bus pass programs. Plans to expand end-of-trip amenities for cyclists are underway and VIU is a keen participant in the province's Go By Bike Weeks.

As well as bringing awareness to energy use at the institution, VIU is working with BC Hydro to identify and analyze opportunities for further energy optimization work. Implementation of recommendations from this study are anticipated to further moderate energy consumption.

The completion of a variety of improvement projects across the institution were realized in 2021.

- Installation of additional electric car charging infrastructure at all VIU sites aids in lessening emissions from mobile sources and contributes to the decarbonization of personal travel—goals of both the provincial and federal governments. Further, VIU continues to explore expanding electrification of its fleet vehicles.
- LED lighting retrofits on the Powell River and Cowichan Campuses reduce VIU's energy consumption and create better working environments through improved lighting.
- Building envelope refurbishments both completed and planned will greatly enhance building energy performance. Buildings currently undergoing refurbishment are over 30 years old and represent over 1900m² (net). These updates will realize considerably improved resource use for heating and cooling as well as much increased occupant comfort.

Future plans include, but are not limited to the following:

- Installation of high-efficiency condensing boilers and expansion of the geo-exchange heating system. Both these projects will see VIU using considerably less natural gas for heating. Further, the geo-exchange system will also provide cooling that requires less electricity use than for an area of comparable size relying on conventional cooling systems. This anticipated drop in natural gas and electricity consumption puts VIU in a better position to meet provincial greenhouse gas targets.

- Improving Building Automation Systems and recommissioning to correlate utilization to service and minimize consumption. As COVID has resulted in a revisioning of how service is provided at the institution, building use and occupancy will be researched with the intent of setting automation systems that are responsive to occupant need and effective in energy management.

CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT

VIU continues to work on strategies in response to events brought on by climate change. A full climate risk assessment is planned for the spring/summer of 2022. This will examine not only risk, but the accompanying opportunity, adaptation, and mitigation.

OTHER SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

VIU initiated a number of sustainability-related projects in 2021 spanning operations through academia. Some of these projects include:

Child Care Centre

Structured to be a centre of reconciliation excellence with Indigenous learning being at the core, this facility will have spaces for 75 children.

Sustainability Course Redesign

A workshop was developed and offered to assist in building sustainability across curricula. It's intended that this will develop further to include all programming at the university.

Universal Access

The Universal Access Committee has addressed inaccessible areas of the campus as well as produced a wayfinding map that shows accessible routes across campus. Related signage will include wayfinding in local Indigenous language.

Renovations to the library's washrooms have provided greatly increased access and safety. These include end-of-trip facilities for commuting cyclists as well.

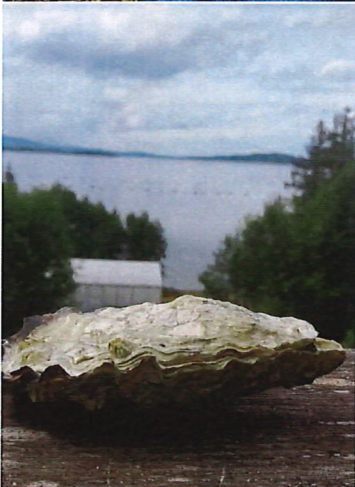
Ongoing optimization of the Campus Store will bolster universal accessibility to all areas of the store.

Food Services

Continued improvement of cafeteria and university waste streams education and process will increase diversion from landfills. VIU Food Services has also increased use of environmentally responsible packaging. VIU has also become a member of Feed BC and continues to develop a culturally responsive menu utilizing local foods. As well, VIU's Deep Bay Research Centre is the home of the Centre for Seafood Innovation – a part of the BC Food Hub network, an initiative of the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.

Governance

The President's Task Force and Working Groups on Climate Action and Sustainability have been formed with the intent of providing advice to the President and Senior Leadership on enduring climate action and sustainability direction, plans, policies, and reports.





RETIREMENT OF OFFSETS

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, Vancouver Island University (**the Organization**) 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

Vancouver Island University 2021 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary

GHG Emissions created in Calendar Year 2021

Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	3037.00
Total BioCO ₂	9.65
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	3020.00

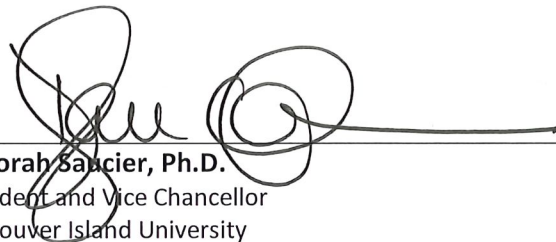
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years

Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	0
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Grand Total Offsets for the 2021 Reporting Year

Grand Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e) to be Retired for 2021 Reporting Year	3020
Offset Investment (\$25 per tCO ₂ e)	\$75,500

Note BioCO₂ is included in Total Emissions but not Total Offsets. For Post-Secondary organizations, Total Offsets will not equal Total Emissions minus Total BioCO₂ because offset exempt emissions for buses are included within Total Emissions.



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Vancouver Island University

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