

2021 CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT



May 2022

School District No. 85

Vancouver Island North

2021 Climate Change Accountability Report

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 85

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On behalf of the Vancouver Island North School District, I am pleased to submit the 2021 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 2021 calendar year.

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

2021 presented its own unique challenges when it came to reducing greenhouse gas emissions with the COVID-19 pandemic gripping the globe. The new guidelines implemented in 2020, were maintained in schools into 2021. These guidelines suggested windows be left open and air handling units run longer in the day to keep the air circulating in order to prevent the spread of the virus. The directive to spend more time in outdoor learning environments also created an increased demand for local transportation services. With the reduced provincial travel restrictions imposed during the pandemic, there was a dramatic reduction of GHG emissions, however this is most likely offset by the need for increased ventilation in buildings. The impact of the pandemic will likely continue to be felt well into the next school calendar year, despite restrictions being lifted.

We continue to engage both our students and employees, leveraging their knowledge and enthusiasm as we strive for lower 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, 2021 to December 31, 2021 summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emission profile, the total offsets purchased 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.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The total greenhouse gas emissions for the Vancouver Island North School District for the 2021 school year was 860 tonnes, this is an increase over the previous years' total of 699 tonnes. 124 tonnes of the total GHG emissions for 2021 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

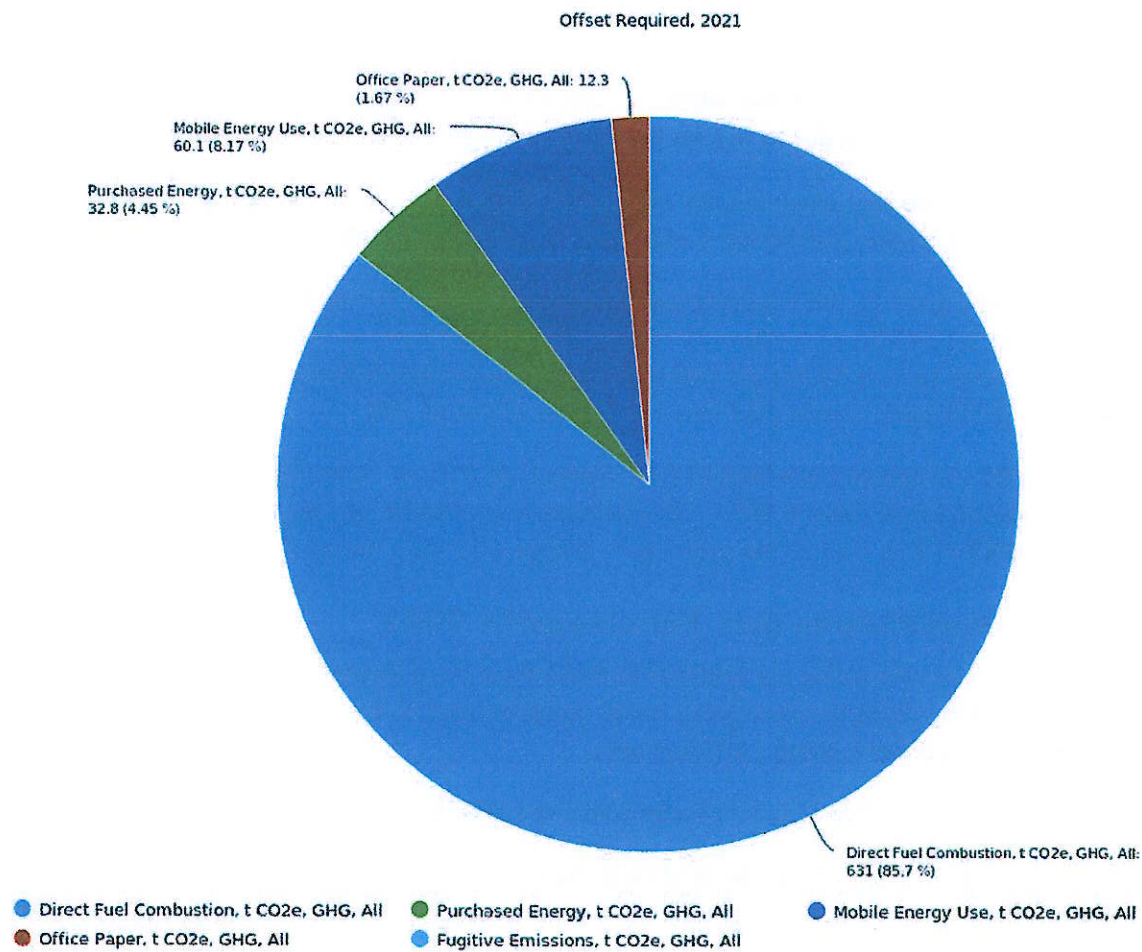
Under the Carbon Neutral Public Sector commitment, only core government organizations that report through the Consolidated Revenue Fund (e.g. ministries, special offices, tribunals) are required to track and report the emissions from the business travel of public officials. Vancouver Island North School 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 2021, the Board of Education of School District No. 85 (Vancouver Island North) purchased carbon offsets totaling 736 tonnes of CO₂e from the Provincial government in May of 2022 at a cost of \$19,320.00.

GHG & Biogenic Emissions by Source

School District 85 - Vancouver Island North			
	t Bio CO ₂ e, GHG, All	t CO ₂ e, GHG, All	Total
2021			
Direct Fuel Combustion		631	631
Purchased Energy		32.8	32.8
Mobile Energy Use	2.06	60.1	62.2
Office Paper		12.3	12.3
Fugitive Emissions			



Actions Taken to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2021

2021 saw the start 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.

An upgraded electrical service panel was installed at A.J. Elliott Elementary School, three new heat pumps were installed at Fort Rupert Elementary to replace aging baseboard heaters, Sea View Elementary Junior Secondary School received new windows in the office area to replace the existing single paned windows and North Island Secondary School had a curtain wall replaced, part of which included removing two existing doors and replacing with a single door instead.

In 2021 we took delivery of our first electric bus as well as the installation of 2 vehicle charging stations to accommodate it. This bus was put into service on one of the longer routes within the district which removed the reliance on both diesel and gas from this route.

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.

Hydro is used in the School District for both lighting and heating purposes. The total electricity purchased from BC Hydro went from 3,134,936.43 kWh in 2020 to 3,310,103.82 kWh in 2021, an increase of 175,167.39 kWh. This increase may be in part due to the public health guidelines put in place due to COVID-19 as well as a prolonged, intense cold snap during the winter of 2021.

Seven of School District 85's properties are heated by propane. 2021 saw an increase of 69,349 liters, from 290,199 liters in 2020 to 359,548 liters in 2021. This increase may also be attributable to the public health guidelines related to COVID-19 as well as the prolonged, intense cold snap during the winter of 2021.

Plans to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2022

In 2022 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.

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 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.

Total Offset Required Emissions for Calendar Year 2021	736 tCO ₂ e
Adjustments to Offset Required Emissions in Prior Years	0 tCO ₂ e
Grand Total Offsets for 2021 Reporting Year	736 tCO ₂ e
Price per Tonne	\$25.00
Sub-Total	\$18,400.00
GST @ 5%	\$920.00
TOTAL PAYABLE	\$19,320.00

Executive sign off:



May 27, 2022

Signature

Date

John Martin

Secretary Treasurer

Name (please print)

Title