



School District No. 20

Kootenay-Columbia

2022 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

Kootenay Columbia
SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20

Part One

Declaration Statement

This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets 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.

Emission Reduction Actions and Plans

Stationary Sources Actions

In the summer of 2021, we completed the following projects which contributed to reduced carbon emissions for the entire 2022 year:

- HVAC upgrades including:
 - Stanley Humphries AC unit replacement
 - Fruitvale Chiller replacement
 - Rossland Summit dust collector and MUA replacement
- LED lighting upgrades at the following sites:
 - Kinnaird Elementary classrooms

In the summer of 2022, we completed the following projects and would have enjoyed the reduction of carbon emissions for the Fall of 2022:

- HVAC upgrades including:
 - Kinnaird Elementary RTU replacement
- LED lighting upgrades at the following sites:
 - Stanley Humphries shop and gym
- Window and Siding Upgrade at Fruitvale Elementary
- Infrastructure Upgrade to increase the number of chargers for electric school buses.

Stationary Sources Plans

While we continue to make several strides in reducing our carbon footprint, the remaining reality of Covid-19 and health related actions that were put into place during that time meant that we continue to run our HVAC systems for extended periods of time with Merv 13 filters which means all our units are working harder. This definitely had a negative impact on our electricity consumption for 2022 but the trend to have windows wide open in the winter was definitely decreased. With this we are finally starting to reap some of the benefits to work that was done in the recent past to reduce carbon with a reduction in natural gas usage and overall fuel reduction.

Our District was fortunate to be selected to be part of the School District Energy Management Program organized by Capital Management Branch in conjunction with FocusEd. The program will help our District, since we do not have an Energy Manager, in identifying and prioritizing capital projects (for submission to the Ministry under the Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP)) that are focused on carbon emission reduction. For the 23/24 year, we were successful in getting dollars towards an LED upgrade at the Twin Rivers gym which was one of the recommended projects from the School District Energy Management Program.

We continually use the Minor Capital Program as the basis for our ability to upgrade systems within our buildings and this is the key to our ability to reduce carbon. Without this program, we would not have the funding to achieve the necessary projects.

In the summer of 2023, we will be completing the following projects that will contribute to future reductions in carbon emissions:

- Fruitvale Elementary Phase 2 Building Envelope Upgrade which includes, insulation, siding and window replacements for the remaining portion of the school.
- LED lighting upgrade in the gyms at both Kinnaird Elementary and Twin Rivers Elementary as well as classrooms at Castlegar Primary.
- DDC control upgrade at Stanley Humphries which will help to optimize our HVAC units.

Mobile Sources-Actions and Plans

At this time our focus has been to electrify our school bus fleet. We now have 3 electric buses and are expecting the arrival of 2 more any day.

Our white fleet is made up almost entirely of cargo vans. We rely on the provincial procurement plan to obtain the best prices for our vehicles when they come up for replacement and at this point, there has not been the option for electric cargo vans. We are hopeful by the time we are ready to replace our next cargo van, the option for EV will be part of the procurement program.

Paper Consumption-Actions and Plans

Our District is continuing with the full implementation of Paper Cut program which monitors paper usage. All sites are charged for photocopy usage and supervisors are encouraged to reduce paper usage through the introduction of different software programs as well as being directly charged for photocopy use.

Part 2-Public Sector Leadership

Climate Risk Management

To date, our District has not completed a climate risk assessment or made any plans to prepare for any potential future climate impacts. We have purchased a set of carbon filters for all our HVAC systems for late summer/early Fall forest fire smoke. These filters are very expensive but necessary to maintain air quality for our staff and students in the case of excessive smoke.

Other Sustainability Initiatives

We are fortunate to have been selected for the Energy Management Program which helps smaller Districts that do not have an Energy Manager to find projects that will reduce carbon. We look forward to utilizing the results of the energy studies in planning for capital jobs to reduce carbon.

We will continue with our recycling program although with the reduction of profit for recycled items, our potential vendors are only taking paper and cardboard now and no longer taking plastics, glass etc. due to costs.

To date, our District does not have any other initiatives that support sustainability such as low carbon business travel policy or green procurement standards.

Success Stories

Our biggest success story from 2022 is the addition of 2 more electric school buses to our fleet as well as the work for upgrading the infrastructure to continue with the electrification of our fleet. We look forward to the continued reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the electrification of our bus fleet as well as reaping the benefits of the numerous upgrades to our buildings.

Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

School District No. 20 (Kootenay Columbia) Greenhouse gas Emissions and Offsets for 2022 (TCO2E)

Greenhouse gas Emissions in calendar year 2022:	
Total Emissions (tCO2e)	1541
Total Bio CO2	11.2
Total Offsets (tCO2e)	1306
Adjustments to GHG Emissions Reported in Previous Years:	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO2e)	0
Grand Total Offsets for the 2022 Reporting Year:	
Total Offsets	1306
Total Offset Investment	\$32650

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, School District No. 20 (Kootenay-Columbia) 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.

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2022 CNAR prepared by Director of Operations, Heather Simm

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2022 CNAR approved by Superintendent, Katherine Shearer