

NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE



2020 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report



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Declaration Statement

This Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1st, 2020 to December 31st, 2020 summarizes our emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2020 to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2021 and beyond.

By June 30, 2021 North Island College's final *Carbon Neutral Action Report* will be posted to our website at <https://www.nic.bc.ca/about-us/the-nic-commitment/reporting/>.

Overview and Executive Summary

North Island College (NIC) is honoured to acknowledge the traditional territories of the combined 35 First Nations of the Nuu-chah-nulth, Kwakwaka'wakw and Coast Salish traditions, on whose traditional and unceded territories the college's campuses are situated.

North Island College is a comprehensive community college that focuses on student success. We proudly serve more than 9,000 students annually at our four campuses, our learning centre and through online and in-community learning. We are committed to excellence in our programs and services. The College's values frame everything we do and express our commitment to our students, communities, residents of our region and ourselves, in part through social and environmental responsibility by actively engaging in the economic and social development of our communities and as active stewards of the unique natural environment in which we reside.

We continued focusing on reducing our carbon impact in 2020. Our curricular and extra-curricular activities at North Island College teach our students to be socially and environmentally responsible citizens on and off campus. Our faculty educates students on sustainability and create unique learning opportunities that make use of our natural environment. From an operations perspective, we have ongoing commitments to refit equipment and upgrade services to improve efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. North Island College endeavors to improve and test efficient technologies for building infrastructure and communications.

Actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 include the following:

- Further efficiencies with our air handling with software upgrades to our DDC Control systems and training to our facilities management staff.
- Installing window film on windows in many of our building to reduce cooling energy use.
- Support for community initiatives such as 'Bike to Work Week' and other local community and government initiatives and awareness campaigns.
- Renewing aging domestic hot water heaters.
- Renewing aging florescent lighting with new LED lighting.
- Adding occupancy sensors to lighting switching to reduce energy usage.

North Island College's greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 were 864 tonnes of tCO₂e. This is a decrease of 88 tonnes (equivalent) from 2019 emissions.

We plan to continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy conservation by educating and encouraging behavioral change. The greatest portion of the College's greenhouse gas emissions are generated by stationary fuel combustion and electricity. To improve efficiency and reduce these emissions, the College will continue to retrofit equipment and upgrade services. We will also continue to work with BC Hydro to perform energy and lighting retrofits to improve efficiency.



Emissions and Offsets Summary:



North Island College 2020 GHG Emissions and Offsets	
GHG Emissions created in Calendar Year 2020	
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	864
Total BioCO ₂	864
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	864
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	8.44
Grand Total Offsets for the 2020 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e) to be Retired for 2020 Reporting Year	872.44
Offset Investment (\$25 per tCO ₂ e)	\$21,800

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, North Island College (the Organization) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2020 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.

Executive sign-off: 

Signature

May 13, 2021

Date

Colin Fowler

Name (please print)

VP Finance & Facilities

Title

About North Island College¹



North Island College is a comprehensive community college serving almost 157,000 residents on Vancouver Island and the central BC coast.

NIC was established in 1975 as a primarily distance education institution. It now serves students at Campbell River, Comox Valley, Port Alberni, and Mount Waddington campuses, as well as through many in-community programs delivered in partnership with remote communities across 80,000 km² from Ucluelet on Vancouver Island's West Coast to Bella Coola on the central mainland.

We are distinguished by our commitment to student success through strong partnership agreements with universities and colleges across BC, the US and around the world. NIC has been internationally recognized for its technology-enabled distance learning, and responsive in-community programs.

We proudly serve more than 9,000 students annually. To meet the education and training needs of its region, NIC offers a broad range of programs tailored to the needs of current and future students. Current programs include: adult upgrading (including adult basic education, English language training and access for students with disabilities), university transfer, business, tourism, health care, Fine Arts, Aboriginal education and Industry Training Authority (ITA) approved foundation trades, technical, and apprenticeship training. The college also offers a significant range of sector-specific industry training as well as short-term contract training and a wide range of professional and personal development courses. NIC also hosts and supports ElderCollege, which provides lectures and courses on a wide range of topics at low-cost for individuals 50 years of age and older (55+ at the Comox Valley Campus).

¹ North Island College Plan 2020

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Under the British Columbia Provincial *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act*, Chapter 42, the targets established for the purpose of reducing BC greenhouse gas (GHG) tCO2e emissions are 33% by 2020 & 80% by 2050.

As well, in 2008 the BC Government reviewed and accepted the recommendations of the Climate Action Team, establishing interim GHG reduction targets of 6% below 2007 levels by 2012 and 18% by 2017. Each public sector organization, which North Island College has been categorized as, shall be carbon neutral for the 2010 calendar year and for each subsequent calendar year.

Year	Stationary Energy Use (Buildings)	Mobile Energy Use (Vehicles)	Paper Use	Total CO2e, GHG, All
2011	1178	10	42	1229
2012	1136	7	7	1150
2013	1044	11	19	1074
2014	951	18	43	1012
2015	783	4	12	799
2016	926	9	62	998
2017	1058	12	30	1101
2018	871	15	24	911
2019	907	12	32	952
2020	836	11	17	864

As seen from the table above, the vast majority of our carbon emissions are generated through building’s stationary fuel combustion (gas) and electricity. North Island College’s carbon footprint in 2020, in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act (as reported in CGRT), was 864 tonnes. This represents a decrease from prior the year 2019 footprint of 190 tonnes. A substantial portion of this decrease was due to a decrease in natural gas consumption.

Energy & Environmental Sustainability

NIC has been a member of the Pan-Canadian Protocol for Sustainability since 2010 and, by signing the protocol; we have pledged to maximize our contribution to a sustainable future. We are committed to our role as a community leader in environmental stewardship.

NIC has been a BC Hydro Power Smart Partner since 2002, committing to doing our part to save energy and create a culture of sustainability, adopting the principles of energy efficiency into our ongoing business management practices, and upgrading our existing facilities with energy conservation measures.

Carbon Offsets

North Island College was carbon neutral in 2020. This was achieved through the key achievements for emissions reduction and sustainability and through carbon offsets purchased from the Climate Investment Branch of the Climate Action Secretariat. The in-scope carbon offsets tCO₂e emissions in 2020 amounted to 864 tonnes, based upon the 2020 building energy data, paper use, and fleet information entered into Climate Action Secretariat's CGRT data entry program and the GHG measurements based upon this data.

Key Achievements for Emissions Reduction & Sustainability

North Island College's greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 were 864 tonnes of CO₂e (equivalent). Compared to 2016 where they were at 998.



Actions taken in 2020 to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

NIC is recognized as a leader in interactive TV course offerings, allowing rural students to attend NIC in their local communities. With the world in a COVID-19 pandemic our instructors pulled out all stops to provide successful full time online learning for the majority of courses throughout the year.

Green procurement practices, product selections, further investment for Information Technology and a transition to further digital database platforms for offices in 2020 has helped with our carbon reduction.

A comprehensive waste management program expanded to include many recyclables.

Promoting alternative transportation such as bike shelters with lockers, showers, and additional electric vehicle charging stations.

Energy Conservation is a core consideration when completing new expansions, renovating buildings, and daily operations.

Emission Reduction Goals for 2021

The College will continue to educate users and increase awareness of ongoing efforts to become carbon neutral. Projects already in motion for 2021 to decrease carbon offsets and reduce water use include:



- Preset programming for 'Sweater Day' initiatives at three campuses.
- Covered bicycle storage will support cycle commuting to campuses.

- Flexibility and accessibility of online classes
- Water saving handwashing and toilet flush sensors
- Adding electric vehicle charging stations to our Campuses.
- Eco sensitive, environmentally-friendly native landscaping



