

Carbon Neutral Action Report 2015



ORGANIZATION NAME: Columbia Basin Trust CONTACT NAME/EMAIL: Mark Brunton/mbrunton@cbt.org

	TOTAL EMISSIONS	TOTAL OFFSETS
GHG EMISSIONS CREATED IN 2015	16 tCO ₂ e	16 tCO ₂ e
ADJUSTMENTS TO GHG EMISSIONS OF PRIOR YEARS	1 tCO ₂ e	1 tCO ₂ e
GRAND TOTAL OFFSETS FOR 2015	-	17 tCO ₂ e

TOTAL FTE EMPLOYEES: 50 TOTAL FLOOR SPACE: 1,877 m² USE OF SPACE: office VEHICLES: none

Top actions we took in 2015 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or improve sustainability

We supported various community projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions. For example, we collaborated with local governments, Fortis BC and the Community Energy Association to reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions from municipal, regional and First Nations bands' corporate operations. Each participating municipality will come away with a strategic community energy and emissions plan, which will help it achieve the greenhouse gas reduction targets set out in its official community plan.

We reduced our corporate operations' GHG emissions by:

- making videoconferencing available to both staff and other Columbia Basin organizations to reduce travel
- supporting staff to walk, run, bike or carpool to work
- allowing staff to work a compressed work week in the summer to reduce commuting
- using recycled paper in office photocopiers
- using a zero-emission printing program for the publishing of *SCRATCH* magazine
- replacing failing compact florescent and high-pressure sodium lighting with LED technology in the Castlegar office
- replacing aged desktop computers with energy-efficient mini form factor computers
- using electronic documentation and electronic signatures to reduce paper usage
- using Energy Star-certified devices whenever possible.

We co-funded the East Kootenay Energy Diet (along with Fortis BC, BC Hydro and the Regional District of East Kootenay), a homeowner energy conservation program that includes seven East Kootenay communities. Hundreds of homeowners have signed up to save energy and reduce emissions. The program allows homeowners to access low-cost home energy assessments, connect with certified energy advisors, understand what retrofits best suit their homes and identify local contractors.

We funded four wildfire prevention projects that treated 174 hectares in the Basin. These projects have a net effect of sequestering carbon as a result of increased grass growth, increased tree size and reduced carbon released during forest fires.

We supported Beyond Recycling, a school-based environmental education program that provides an action-oriented, solutions-focused curriculum that allows students to recognize the impacts of their lifestyle choices and highlights the importance of individual actions. beyondrecycling.ca

How we plan to continue minimizing greenhouse gas emissions

In the future, we plan to:

- remain receptive to improvements that would lower emissions in our four offices, including reducing paper usage

- replace aged lights with LED technology
- continue to encourage the use of videoconferencing equipment and introduce Skype for Business to reduce travel
- fund additional wildfire prevention projects
- develop programs to support further GHG emissions reductions in communities across the Basin.

Actions we took in 2015 to strengthen our ability to manage the likely effects of climate change

We helped manage the effects of climate change within our region in various ways. For example, we:

- developed a new Climate Resilience Program to help communities reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change impacts like flooding, drought and wildfire
- engaged in a five-year partnership with a variety of stakeholders that will focus on monitoring and collecting data on glaciers and snow in the Columbia Basin
- supported Building a Low-carbon Future, an environmental education program that informs students, construction professionals and the general public about climate change and ways to reduce their contributions to it
- supported a project to develop and deliver programming to communities, schools and businesses in the Columbia Valley in order to promote environmental stewardship and climate change awareness, mitigation and adaptation.

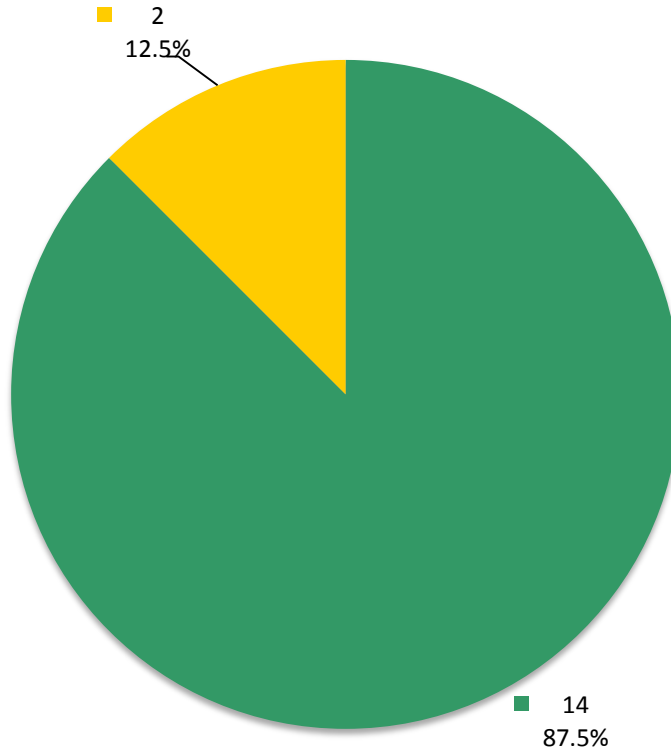
Retirement of Offsets: In accordance with the requirements of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, Columbia Basin Trust (the Organization) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2015 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years. The Organization hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Environment ensuring that these offsets are retired on the Organization's behalf, the Organization will pay 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.



Johnny Strilaeff, Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer

APRIL 22, 2016
Date

**Columbia Basin Trust
Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Source
for the 2015 Calendar Year (tCO₂e*)**



Total Emissions: 16

■ Stationary Fuel Combustion (Building Heating and Generators) and Electricity ■ Supplies (Paper)

Offsets Applied to Become Carbon Neutral in 2015 (Generated May 24, 2016 4:47 PM)

Total offsets required: **16**. Total offset investment: **\$400**. Emissions which do not require offsets: **0** **

*Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) is a standard unit of measure in which all types of greenhouse gases are expressed based on their global warming potential relative to carbon dioxide.

** Under the *Carbon Neutral Government Regulation of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act*, all emissions from the sources listed above must be reported. As outlined in the regulation, some emissions do not require offsets.