

2020 CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT



May 2021

School District No. 85

Vancouver Island North

2020 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 2020 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 2020 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.

2020 presented its own unique challenges when it came to reducing greenhouse gas emissions with the COVID-19 pandemic gripping the globe. New guidelines were put into place in schools which 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 transportation services. The impact of the pandemic will likely continue to be felt well into the 2021 calendar year.

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. Carol Robertson
Superintendent of Schools

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 1**
- Declaration Statement 3
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions..... 3
- Fugitive Emissions 3
- Travel Related Emissions 3
- Offsets Applied to Become Carbon Neutral..... 3
- GHG & Biogenic Emissions by Source 4
- Actions Taken to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2020 5
- Plans to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2021 5
- Retirement of Offsets..... 6

Declaration Statement

This Climate Change Accountability Report for the period of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 summarizes our emission profile, the total offsets purchased 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.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The total greenhouse gas emissions for the Vancouver Island North School District for the 2020 school year was 699 tonnes, this is a slight reduction over the previous years' total of 727 tonnes. 83.2 tonnes of the total GHG emissions for 2020 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

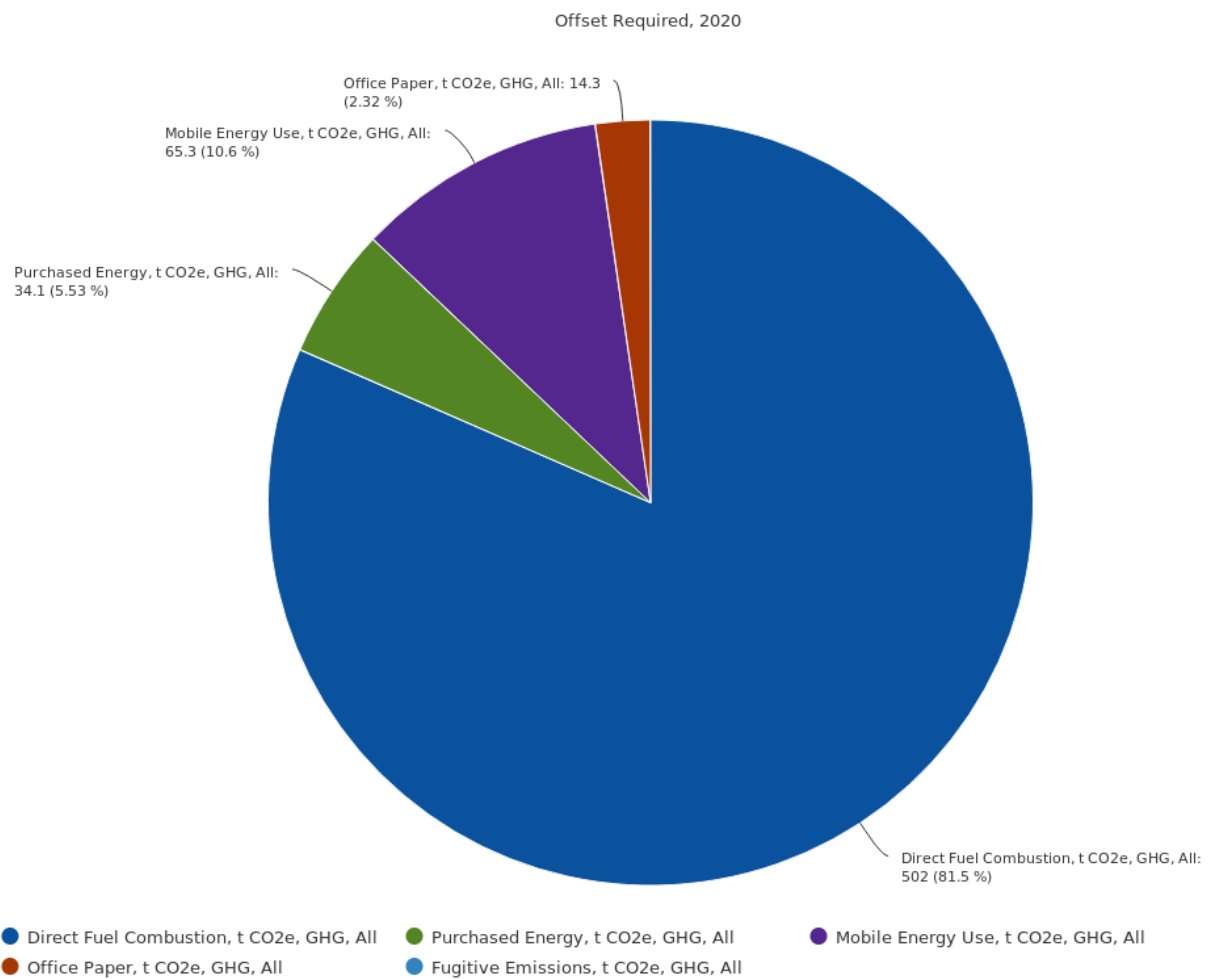
Under the Carbon Neutral Public Sector commitment, only core government organizations that report through the Consolidated Revenue Fund (e.g. ministries, special offices, tribunals) are required to track and report the emissions from the business travel of public officials. Vancouver Island North School 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 2020, the Board of Education of School District No. 85 (Vancouver Island North) purchased carbon offsets totaling 584 tonnes of CO₂e from the Provincial government in May of 2021 at a cost of \$15,330.00. SD 85 was credited 32 tonnes on the 2020 invoice as the 2019 billing was based off of 2018 figures as a placeholder due to COVID-19.

GHG & Biogenic Emissions by Source

	School District 85 - Vancouver Island North		
	t Bio CO2e, GHG, All	t CO2e, GHG, All	Total
2020			
Direct Fuel Combustion	0	502	502
Purchased Energy		34.1	34.1
Mobile Energy Use	6.15	148	155
Office Paper		14.3	14.3
Fugitive Emissions			



More recent data may be available. Please refresh this analytic. ●

Actions Taken to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2020

Greenhouse gas reduction initiatives in 2020 were focused primarily on the transportation services. Two vehicles in the white fleet were replaced with newer, more fuel efficient models, an aging mower was replaced and charging infrastructure was put in place in two of our school communities to prepare for the arrival of a new electric bus, due to be delivered mid-2021. 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.

As part of a rebuild of the Science wing at North Island Secondary School in Port McNeill a new electric heat recovery unit was installed in place of an aging propane unit and all lighting was upgraded to LED.

Two additional bottle filling stations were installed in our facilities in order to reduce the reliance on single use plastics and staff and students were encouraged to bring reusable water bottles.

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 2,990,010.1kWh in 2019 to 3,134,936.43kWh in 2020, an increase of 144,926.33kWh. This increase may be in part due to the public health guidelines put in place due to COVID-19.

Seven of School District 85's properties are heated by propane. 2020 saw a slight increase of 5051.1 liters, from 285,147.9 liters in 2019 to 290,199 liters in 2020. This increase may also be attributable to the public health guidelines related to COVID-19.

Plans to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2021

In 2021 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, more energy efficient units.

The arrival of our electric school bus is highly anticipated and we are eager to see what cost saving this will provide in the long term. 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 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.

Total Offset Required Emissions for Calendar Year 2020	616 tCO _{2e}
Adjustments to Offset Required Emissions in Prior Years (2018 and 2019)	-32 tCO _{2e}
Grand Total Offsets for 2020 Reporting Year	584 tCO _{2e}
Price per Tonne	\$25.00
Sub-Total	\$14600
GST @ 5%	\$730
TOTAL PAYABLE	\$15330

Executive sign off:

Ray McDonald

May 27, 2021

Signature

Date

Ray McDonald

Secretary Treasurer

Name (please print)

Title