

# Carbon Neutral Action Report 2020



ORGANIZATION NAME: Columbia Basin Trust

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	TOTAL EMISSIONS	TOTAL BioCO <sub>2</sub>	TOTAL OFFSETS
GHG EMISSIONS CREATED	234 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	0.56	233 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
ADJUSTMENTS TO GHG EMISSIONS OF PRIOR YEARS	-	-	86 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
GRAND TOTAL OFFSETS	-	-	319 tCO <sub>2</sub> e

OFFSET INVESTMENT (\$25 per tCO<sub>2</sub>e) \$7,975

TOTAL FTE EMPLOYEES: 81.39 TOTAL FLOOR SPACE: 8,763 m<sup>2</sup> USE OF SPACE: office VEHICLES: none

Top actions we took in 2020 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or improve sustainability

The Trust has provided a range of programs and supported projects that helped communities in the Columbia Basin reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including the following:

- The Climate Action Program supported communities to learn about climate change projections for the Columbia Basin, and develop and implement projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or adapt to climate change impacts.
- The Community Wildfire Program supported communities to implement innovative approaches to reducing wildfire risks, increase public awareness about wildfire risk mitigation (e.g. via FireSmart principles) and access expert guidance from a Wildfire Advisor.
- The Energy Sustainability Grants Program supported renewable energy generation, and energy conservation and efficiency opportunities. This included solar panels, heat pumps, and measures such as adding insulation, air sealing, replacing aged furnaces, and installing LED lighting and controls to 28 community purpose buildings ranging from community halls to rec centres. This program also supported installing two electric vehicle charging stations.
- The First Nations Housing Sustainability Initiative enhances and creates affordable housing units (Units) in First Nations communities, which includes increasing asset management and completing necessary repairs and upgrades. In 2020, 65 Units received energy upgrades and repair support, 22 Units received energy assessments to inform future upgrades, and 17 new Units were created with a goal to meet or exceed Step Code 4 of the BC Energy Code.
- The East Kootenay Community Energy Manager Project (in partnership with BC Hydro and the Regional District of East Kootenay) encourages energy conservation, planning and management on a regional scale.
- Food Recovery projects in the communities of Cranbrook, Kimberley, Sparwood, and West Kootenay and Columbia Valley regions are decreasing GHG emissions from food waste and helping to ensure nutritious food is affordable and accessible to vulnerable Basin residents.
- The Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation supports residents and businesses to conduct activities like work, education and consultations remotely, which reduces carbon emissions that would otherwise be produced from commuting. Broadband connectivity has become especially important due to COVID-19.

We reduced our corporate operations' GHG emissions by:

- Continuing to make videoconferencing technology available to staff, the Board of Directors, as well as to other Columbia Basin organizations to assist in reducing travel and encouraging staff to use virtual meeting technologies like Microsoft Teams whenever possible.
- Encouraging staff to walk, run, bike or carpool to work.
- Replaced all lighting in the Cranbrook office with LED fixtures.
- Using electronic documentation, electronic signatures and electronic funds transfers to reduce paper usage.
- Improved our records management program to a system that minimizes printing requirements.
- Using paper made of recycled fibers and Forest Stewardship Council certified printers.
- Using Energy Star-certified devices whenever possible.

*With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, most staff worked from home. There was minimal commuting and work-related travel. Microsoft Teams was heavily utilized for virtual meetings and to communicate with colleagues.*

How we plan to continue minimizing greenhouse gas emissions

In the future, we plan to:

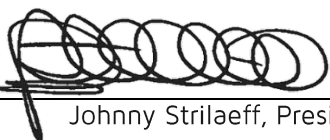
- Further integrate digital signatures into operations, which includes extending this function to external stakeholders.
- Acquire an electric vehicle for staff operational use (work-related travel), reducing emissions otherwise caused by personal vehicles.
- Continue to replace aging lights with LED technology.
- Continue supporting communities to reduce emissions and become more climate resilient. The Trust will apply climate resilience considerations in delivering on its renewed strategic plan. A subcommittee of the Board will provide direction to the Trust on how to further integrate climate resilience across departments and programs.

Actions we took in 2020 to strengthen our ability to manage the likely effects of climate change

We helped Basin communities reduce their vulnerabilities to current and anticipated climate change impacts such as wildfire, flood and drought. Examples include:

- Supported communities through our Climate Action Program (noted above).
- Supported communities through our Community Wildfire Program (noted above).
- Continued to support food recovery projects that involve upgrades to technology or infrastructure to improve or expand food recovery operations, and launched a call for proposals for new community-led projects that support the production & processing of local food.
- Upgraded the Columbia Basin Climate Source [website](#), which is an information portal that provides people with easy-to-understand information on climate change specific to communities throughout the Columbia Basin and Boundary regions.
- The Tools and Resources for On-Farm Water Conservation project provide a variety of resources that support producers to optimize irrigation and conserve water on their farms.
- Continued to partner with BC Housing to create new affordable housing units. The goal is for these units to be constructed in compliance with Step Code 3/4 of the BC Energy Code, which will make the residences extremely efficient and reduce contributions to climate change.

*Retirement of Offsets: In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability 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 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 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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Johnny Strilaeff, President and Chief Executive Officer

May 14, 2021

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Date