

Carbon Neutral Action Report 2021



ORGANIZATION NAME: Columbia Basin Trust

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	TOTAL EMISSIONS	TOTAL BioCO ₂	TOTAL OFFSETS
GHG EMISSIONS CREATED	268 tCO ₂ e	-	268 tCO ₂ e
ADJUSTMENTS TO GHG EMISSIONS OF PRIOR YEARS	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL OFFSETS	-	-	268 tCO ₂ e

OFFSET INVESTMENT (\$25 per tCO₂e) \$6,700

TOTAL FTE EMPLOYEES: 83.80 TOTAL FLOOR SPACE: 10,092 m² USE OF SPACE: office VEHICLES: 5

Actions we took in 2021 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or improve sustainability

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

- The Climate Resilience Program launched to assist communities in becoming more climate resilient and supported eight large-scale, multi-year, shovel-ready climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience projects that help reduce causes of climate change and manage the risks of climate change impacts.
- The Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction Program supported 16 communities to build local wildfire resiliency while recovering from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a partnership between the Province of BC and Columbia Basin Trust, developed with BC Wildfire Service.
- The Energy Retrofit Program, in partnership with BC Housing and BC Non-profit Housing Association, supported upgrades for 29 non-profit organizations operating affordable housing in need of energy retrofits.
- The Energy Sustainability 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 to 15 community-purpose buildings. This program also supported the installation of electric vehicle charging stations.
- The First Nations Housing Sustainability Initiative provided energy retrofits and repairs to 32 units and supported the creation of 25 units of affordable, energy efficient housing in First Nations communities.
- The Food Access and Recovery Grants distributed surplus perishable food that would have otherwise gone to waste, resulting in GHG emissions. The Trust funded 24 projects to support community-led initiatives that increase access to affordable, quality local food production. This included the creation of greenhouses and community gardens, and support for local food processing facilities.
- The Non-profit Sustainability Program supported 17 projects to increase energy efficiency, generate clean energy and improve sustainability in public buildings.
- The Housing Initiatives Program supported the creation of 166 new units of affordable, energy efficient housing.
- The Community Development Program supported 148 units of new, energy efficient student housing.
- 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:

- Acquiring 2 electric vehicles for staff operational use (work-related travel), reducing emissions otherwise caused by personal vehicles.
- 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.
- Encouraging staff to walk, run, bike or carpool to work.
- Using electronic documentation, electronic signatures and electronic funds transfers to reduce paper usage.
- Using paper made of recycled fibers and Forest Stewardship Council certified printers.
- Using Energy Star-certified devices whenever possible.

Due to COVID-19, many staff opted to work 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:

- Continue to provide a range of programs, and support projects that help communities reduce emissions and become more climate resilient, such as:
 - The Climate Resilience Program (second intake)
 - The Non-profit Sustainability Program (third intake)
 - Supporting Crown Land Wildfire Mitigation projects, in partnership with the Province of BC
 - Local Food Production and Access programs
 - Investment in affordable housing unit construction and upgrades that meet high efficiency standards, including the installation of renewable energy generation (solar PV arrays) to new units.
- Further integrate digital signatures into operations, which includes extending digital documentation and approval abilities to external stakeholders.
- Continue to replace aging lights with LED technology.

Actions we took in 2021 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 the Climate Resilience Program (noted above).
- Supported communities through the Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction Program (noted above).
- The Community Readiness Program launched and approved 13 projects to support community needs during emergencies and disasters such as floods, wildfires and extended power outages.
- The Ecosystem Enhancement Program supported large-scale projects that help with ecosystem resilience to climate change.
- The Food Access and Recovery Grants facilitated upgrades to technology or infrastructure to improve resiliency of local food production.
- Trail Enhancement Grants supported trail development and upgrades that result in trails becoming more resilient to climate events.
- Supported Community Youth Networks to host and bring together youth at the Youth Climate Action Forum.
- 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.
- Continued to partner with BC Non-profit Housing Association to provide energy retrofits and repairs such as heat pumps and increasing insulation to existing, aging affordable housing stock.

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 2021 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.



Johnny Strilaeff, President and Chief Executive Officer

May 10, 2022

Date