



School District No. 20
Kootenay-Columbia
2021 PSO Climate Change
Accountability Report

Kootenay Columbia
SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20

Part One

Declaration Statement

This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2021 to reduce our GHG emissions, and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2022 and beyond.

Emission Reduction Actions and Plans

Stationary Sources Actions

In the summer of 2020, we completed the following projects which contributed to reduced carbon emissions for the entire 2021 year:

- Webster Elementary Phase 2 window replacement
- LED lighting upgrades at the following sites:
 - Webster Elementary
 - Kootenay Columbia Learning Centre-Trail Campus
 - Fruitvale Elementary
 - JL Crowe Secondary
 - Twin Rivers Elementary
 - Kinnaird Elementary
 - Castlegar Maintenance Shop
- HVAC upgrades including:
 - Castlegar Primary RTU replacement
 - Twin Rivers Gym RTU replacement
 - Castlegar Maintenance Bus Garage RTU replacement
 - Kootenay Columbia Learning Centre-Trail Campus RTU replacement and controls upgrade

In the summer of 2021, we completed the following projects and would have enjoyed the reduction of carbon emissions for the Fall of 2021:

- HVAC upgrades including:
 - Stanley Humphries AC unit replacement
 - Fruitvale Chiller replacement
 - Rossland Summit dust collector and MUA replacement

Stationary Sources Plans

While we made several strides in reducing our carbon footprint, the remaining reality of Covid-19 meant that we continue to run our HVAC systems for extended periods of time with Merv 13 filters which definitely had a negative impact on our energy consumption. As well, windows were often open in the winter. Both these activities were necessary for the safety of staff and students in our buildings but resulted in a major increase in electricity usage.

Moving forward, our District was fortunate to be selected to be part of the School District Energy Management Program organized by Capital Management Branch in conjunction with FocusEd. The program will help our District, since we do not have an Energy Manager, in identifying and prioritizing capital projects (for submission to the Ministry under the Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP)) that are focused on carbon emission reduction.

We continually use the Minor Capital Program as the basis for our ability to upgrade systems within our buildings and this is the key to our ability to reduce carbon. Without this program, we would not have the funding to achieve the necessary projects.

In the summer of 2022, we will be completing the following projects that will contribute to future reductions in carbon emissions:

- Fruitvale Elementary Phase 1 Building Envelope Upgrade which includes, insulation, siding and window replacements for a portion of the school.
- EV Infrastructure upgrade at Waneta Bus Garage so that we can continue to support the purchase of electric school buses.

Mobile Sources-Actions and Plans

At this time our focus has been to electrify our school bus fleet. We currently have one electric bus and are expecting two more to arrive any day.

Our white fleet is made up almost entirely of cargo vans. We rely on the provincial procurement plan to obtain the best prices for our vehicles when they come up for replacement and at this point, there has not been the option for electric cargo vans.

Paper Consumption-Actions and Plans

Our District is continuing with the full implementation of Paper Cut program which monitors paper usage. All sites are charged for photocopy usage and supervisors are encouraged to reduce paper usage through the introduction of different software programs as well as being directly charged for photocopy use.

Part 2-Public Sector Leadership

Climate Risk Management

To date, our District has not completed a climate risk assessment or made any plans to prepare for any potential future climate impacts. We have purchased a set of carbon filters for all our HVAC systems for late summer/early Fall forest fire smoke. These filters are very expensive but necessary to maintain air quality for our staff and students in the case of excessive smoke.

Other Sustainability Initiatives

We are fortunate to have been selected for the Energy Management Program which helps smaller Districts that do not have an Energy Manager to find projects that will reduce carbon. We look forward to the results and reports from the upcoming energy studies.

We will continue with our recycling program although with the reduction of profit for recycled items, our potential vendors are only taking paper and cardboard now and no longer taking plastics, glass etc. due to costs.

To date, our District does not have any other initiatives that support sustainability such as low carbon business travel policy or green procurement standards.

Success Stories

Our biggest success story from 2021 is the addition of an electric bus to our fleet. We look forward to the continued reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the electrification of our bus fleet as well as reaping the benefits of the numerous upgrades to our buildings.

Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

School District No. 20 (Kootenay Columbia) Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Offsets for 2021 (TCO2E)	
Greenhouse Gas Emissions in calendar year 2021:	
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	1956
Total BioCO ₂	12.22
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	1678
Adjustments to GHG Emissions Reported in Previous Years:	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	0
Grand Total Offsets for the 2020 Reporting Year:	
Total Offsets	1678
Total Offset Investment	\$41950

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, School District No. 20 (Kootenay-Columbia) 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.

2021 CNAR prepared by Director of Operations, Heather Simm

Katherine Shearer

2021 CNAR approved by Superintendent, Katherine Shearer