



Central Okanagan Public Schools (SD23)

2021 PSO CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTING



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**
Together We Learn



Increasing the Electric School Bus Fleet



Electric School Bus Dash

PART 1. Legislative Reporting Requirements

Content

- 2) Part 1. Legislative Reporting Requirements
- 3) Declaration Statement
- 4) & 5) Executive Summary
- 6) 2021 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Retirement of Offsets
- 7) Part 2. Actions Taken to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2021
- 8) Other Actions
- 9) Plans to Continue Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2022

Declaration Statement

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

By June 30, 2022 Central Okanagan Public Schools final 2021 Climate Change Accountability Report will be posted to our website at www.sd23.bc.ca



Shannon Lake Elementary School - 6 kWatt Solar Panel Installation - 60,000kWhrs of power saved of ten years of operation.



Delta Carmichael, CPA, CA (she/her/hers)

Executive Summary

Central Okanagan Public Schools acknowledges and honors the traditional territory and history of the Okanagan (Syilx) People and Westbank First Nation. The primary purpose of Central Okanagan Public Schools is to educate students in a safe, inclusive, equitable, and inspirational learning environment where each learner develops the attributes and competencies to flourish in a global community. To accomplish this mission, the District works in partnership with community groups, provincial health authorities and ministries and other levels of government to develop, manage and provide a wide range of learning services across Central Okanagan Public Schools.

In 2021, the Board of Education revised the District’s Strategic Plan to include System Wellbeing as a strategic direction to renew the District’s on-going commitment to innovative and sustainable practices. This is captured in the following belief statement:

"We believe in sustainable practices that provide support to each learner today without compromising or reducing the ability to support each of our learners in the future. Moving forward, in a culture of growth, innovation, engagement and wellness, ensures that we can adapt to changing environments while continuously supporting each of our learners."

During the 2021/2022 school year, the District continued to take action and implement programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from existing buildings, new construction, as well as office paper, and fleet vehicles. Central Okanagan Public Schools operations were carbon neutral in 2021 for the twelfth consecutive year. We met our targets by investing in BC-based carbon reduction projects through the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to offset remaining emissions. In addition to being carbon neutral, Central Okanagan Public Schools is committed to work towards the goals of the CleanBC Plan and making our practices more sustainable and efficient, while continuing to delivering an excellent education to our learners through the challenges and stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2022, our climate will continue to bring new challenges and opportunities. The District will continue to work with our partner groups to carry out our mandate in the context of the ever-changing COVID-19 pandemic, while helping to build the resiliency that B.C. needs to manage the climate and environmental challenges to come.

Delta Carmichael, CPA, CA
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

2021 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Offsets Overview

SD23 GHG Emissions and Offsets for 2021 (tCO₂e)

BioCO₂ is included in Total Emissions but not Total Offsets. For K-12 and Post-Secondary organizations, and BC Transit, Total Offsets will not equal Total Emissions minus Total BioCO₂ because offset exempt emissions for buses are included within Total Emissions.

| GHG EMISSIONS AND OFFSETS FOR 2021 | |
|--|-----------|
| Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e) | 6,035 |
| Total BioCO ₂ | 26.7 |
| Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e) | 5118 |
| Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years | |
| Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e) | 0 |
| GHG EMISSIONS AND OFFSETS FOR 2021 | |
| Grand Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e) to be Retired for 2021 Reporting Year | 5118 |
| Offset Investment (\$25 per tCO ₂ e) | \$127,950 |

Total Emissions for Offsets for the 2021 - Reporting Year

SD23 purchased carbon offsets from the Government of B.C. for the equivalent of 5118 tonnes of CO₂e to obtain carbon neutral status for 2021.

Twenty-six tonnes of CO₂e emissions from the combustion of biomass and biomass-based fuels were reported as part of our greenhouse gas emissions profile in 2021.

However, while all CO₂e emissions from these sources must be reported. CO₂ emissions from school buses do not require offsets.

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, SD23 (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.



To all SD23 Operations' Staff - Congratulations for having three schools with 100% Energy Star Ratings

PART 2. Public Sector Leadership

Actions Taken to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2021

2B. Other Sustainability Initiatives

Building Better School Buildings - In 2021 and beyond, SD23 will continue to use efficient LED lighting in all new classrooms. The HS Grenda Middle School construction project continues to save money on electrical consumption. This will be especially important as we continue to expand our school district with new classrooms. Geo-Thermal exchange installations have proven to be more efficient than burning natural gas for heat. SD23's Operations is monitoring remotely to ensure optimal energy use.

2C. Success Stories - Three school buses purchased by SD23 has eliminated an estimated 54 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

School District Transportation Manager, Gail Prokopchuk added, "School bus drivers report that the biggest improvement is the quiet environment inside the bus for the driver and students. Typically, diesel buses are noisy and can add to the distraction for both students and the driver inside the school bus. Students enjoy the quiet, smooth ride produced by the electric bus and the drivers are appreciative of lack of noise inside the bus, resulting in a calmer, quieter, and safer atmosphere."



Okanagan Valley view from Glenrosa Middle School

Plans to Continue Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2022

1. Electric Powered Buses on order
2. LED lighting Projects – MBSS phase three
3. High efficient roof top unit (RTU) replacement – on going
4. Building Automation Controls upgrades at KSS
5. Solar Power installations planned for KSS and HS Grenda Middle School



MBSS – Phase Two Lighting Project ~ upgrade to LED technology

