

**2023**

**PSO Climate Change Accountability Report  
BC Liquor Distribution Branch**

**Carbon Neutral**



**LIQUOR  
DISTRIBUTION  
BRANCH**

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# Part 1. Legislative Reporting Requirements



## Declaration Statement

This Carbon Neutral Action Report for the period January 1st to December 31st, 2023 summarizes the BC Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) emissions profile, the amount of offsets purchased to reach net zero emissions, the actions taken in 2023 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and plans to continue reducing emissions in 2024 and beyond. By June 30, the LDB's final Carbon Neutral Action Report will be posted to [www.bcldb.com](http://www.bcldb.com).

# 1A. Emissions Reductions: Actions & Plans

During the 2023 calendar year, the BC Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) continued to expand our environmental efforts and make progress across the organization to reduce emissions from buildings and transportation. The LDB purchased additional zero emissions vehicles (ZEVs) and expanded the installation of high-efficiency lighting across several worksites, including at its Head Office in Burnaby, the cannabis distribution centre in Richmond, and select BCLIQUOR (BCL) stores.

Furthermore, in an effort to continuously improve the energy-efficiency of its buildings, the LDB periodically updates its construction specifications handbook. This handbook provides building contractors with information they need to ensure all projects—new or renovated—in BCL and BC Cannabis Stores (BCCS) meet the LDB’s energy efficiency requirements.

## A. Stationary Sources (Building)

### Actions Taken to Reduce Emissions in 2023

In line with its commitment to sustainability, the LDB regularly assesses ways to reduce energy consumption and green house gas emissions (GHG) at its worksites and implements measures to lower emissions. Examples of actions undertaken by the LDB to reduce building emissions included:

- Completion of an additional lighting project at LDB’s Head Office following a significant lighting upgrade in the previous year. This project involved the installation of energy efficient, smart LED lighting throughout LDB’s Head Office, covering areas such as the parkade, meeting spaces, and lunchrooms. The new smart lighting system analyzes data to understand how employees use their work environment. Based on that data, the system optimizes lighting conditions to reduce energy usage and ensure employees have the right level of light at the right time.
- Installation of LED lighting in the warehouse area within LDB’s cannabis distribution centre in Richmond.
- Installation of LED lighting at BCL stores that underwent retrofits and renovations.

### Plans to Reduce Emissions

The LDB will continue to focus on primary sources of greenhouse gas emissions and look for opportunities to reduce them before purchasing carbon offsets. Actions planned to further reduction emissions from stationary sources in 2024 and beyond include:

- Reviewing the LDB’s specifications book for building contractors to identify additional opportunities to increase energy efficiency in retrofits and renovations.
- Installing LED lighting at the liquor distribution centre in Kamloops. Please note that the LED lighting retrofit planned for the liquor distribution centre in Kamloops this past year was rescheduled for 2024.
- Collaborating with landlords to ensure the installation of highly efficient heating and cooling systems whenever renovations or building upgrades occur.

## B. Mobile Sources

### Actions Taken to Reduce Emissions in 2023

In an effort to reduce emissions from mobile sources, the LDB continued to expand its zero-emission light duty fleet, thereby reducing its dependency on fossil fuels.

Examples of actions undertaken by the LDB included:

- Adding five zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) and retiring two gas vehicles. Light duty vehicles, such as sedans or sport utility vehicles (SUVs), are used by employees for work-related travel to various LDB worksites.
- Installing six new ZEV fleet charging stations at Head Office to accommodate the growing electric fleet.
- Expanding energy reporting to include electrical kilowatt-hours used to charge the zero-emissions fleet. Tracking the electricity used to charge a growing fleet of electric vehicles will allow the LDB to optimize charging station sizes, peak power demand and energy utilization factors.
- Reducing the amount of gas purchased by

3,851 litres and emitting 43 per cent less greenhouse gas emissions over the previous year. The reductions were achieved by operating the current fleet of six ZEV light duty vehicles.



*Light duty fleet vehicle being charged at LDB's head office.*

### Plans to Reduce Emissions

To build on the success of the ZEV expansion, the LDB will work to further reduce emissions from mobile sources. Actions planned in 2024 and beyond include:

- Continuing to expand the LDB's ZEV fleet in the light duty vehicle category along with installing related charging stations.
- Exploring the operational feasibility of additional ZEV vehicles in the medium duty category.
- Developing a clean fleet strategy with an anticipated completion date by the end of 2024.

## C. Paper Consumption

### Actions Taken to Reduce Emissions in 2023

The LDB is committed to building on its legacy of environmental sustainability and paper reduction goals. Examples of actions undertaken by the LDB included:

- Starting to purchase recyclable and BPA-free thermal receipt paper with a cardboard inner core.
- Introducing forest-free paper made from sugar cane for certain LDB locations such as Head Office and BCL stores.
- Achieving a ratio of 60 per cent of paper purchased for the organization with 30 to 100 per cent recycled content and from responsible resources.



In addition, the LDB determines the total weight of paper bags, flyers, brochures, and magazines distributed to customers each year and then pays a fee to RecycleBC for costs incurred for collecting these materials in residential curbside collection and return-to-depot programs. Achievements in the LDB's efforts to reduce the use of such materials in 2023 included:

- Reducing the number of in-store flyers printed for BCL consumers by three per cent.
- Realizing a 34 per cent decrease in paper bag requests by BCL customers at the checkout, which equates to 785,000 paper bags purchased over 12 months.
- Realizing a four per cent decrease in paper bag requests in BCCS locations.
- Continuing to print LDB publications on recycled paper with vegetable-based inks. For example, the LDB's TASTE magazine, which is distributed to customers in BCL stores, was printed on Forest Stewardship Council-certified paper from responsible sources and recycled content.

### Plans to Reduce Emissions

The LDB has a number of paper reduction initiatives planned for 2024 to further reduce paper waste and improve the organization's environmental performance.

The LDB will continue the use of sugar cane-based paper and will monitor and assess print usage. With a clearer understanding of employee printing habits, the LDB plans to develop a strategy to reduce printing through employee awareness programs and operational changes.

## D. Waste Reduction

In 2023, LDB made important strides in waste reduction, leading to a decrease of 326 metric tonnes (MT) of waste across its worksites. This was achieved through various sustainable practices, such as minimizing waste from worksite renovations, decreasing the use of non-recyclable materials in daily operations, and encouraging employee participation in recycling initiatives.

Furthermore, the LDB improved its recycling program by taking responsibility for its own recyclable material and ensuring its trucking network is used more efficiently. Specifically, the majority of recyclable materials generated in BCL stores are returned to its dry goods distribution centre in Burnaby (BDC) for consolidation before being transported to recycling facilities.

### Recycling and Waste Diversion

LDB's commitment to recycling and composting has significantly reduced waste sent to landfills. At the LDB's Head Office and all distribution centres, a wide range of materials are collected for recycling, including e-waste, batteries, Styrofoam, cardboard, soft plastic, wood waste, scrap metal, containers, and mixed paper. Additionally, organic material is collected for composting by LDB's waste management providers and toner cartridges from all LDB worksites are returned to their respective provider for responsible recycling.

As part of the LDB's waste reduction strategy, the following outcomes were achieved in 2023:

- Recycled 2,205 tonnes of cardboard and wood, 186 tonnes of plastic, and 52 tonnes of mixed paper.
- Achieved an 87 per cent waste diversion rate from landfills across all worksites.
  - Diverted 97 per cent of waste materials generated by the liquor distribution centres in Delta and Kamloops.
  - Diverted 88 per cent of waste materials generated by the cannabis distribution centre in Richmond.
  - Diverted 86 per cent of waste materials generated by Head Office.
- Recycled 40 laptops through the Electronic Recycling Association, a non-profit organization which donates laptops to charities, local organizations, and newcomers to Canada.
- Aligned with the B.C. single use plastic ban by offering wooden cutlery, paper to-go containers, and compostable coffee cups at the Head Office cafeteria.

Looking ahead, the LDB plans to further increase recycling and waste diversion efforts in 2024 and beyond by:

- Expanding the number of waste streams in retail stores to include various materials currently going to landfills.
- Increasing educational initiatives to further promote reducing, reusing, and recycling efforts.



## Paper Bags and Container Recycling in BCL and BCCS

Both BCL and BCCS offer recyclable paper bags for a charge of 25 cents each to encourage customers to bring their own reusable bags in compliance with municipal laws. These paper bags are locally manufactured and consist of 40 per cent post-consumer recycled content and plant-based ink, making them 100 per cent compostable and recyclable through curbside collection programs.

Reminder signage is placed throughout BCL and BCCS locations to encourage customers to bring reusable bags while shopping. This initiative has been well received by customers, with the majority now opting to bring their own reusable bag. In 2023, BCL saw a 34 per cent decrease in paper bag requests at the checkout, totalling 785,000 paper bags purchased by customers over 12 months. BCCS also experienced a three per cent reduction in paper bag requests.

In addition to promoting the use of reusable bags, in-store signage encourages customers to return empty containers for recycling. Every year, over 93 million empty beverage containers are returned to BCL stores across the province, facilitated through return counters available in each location.



*Sample sustainability signage at BCL stores to encourage customers to use reusable bags.*

## 2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

<b><i>BC Liquor Distribution Branch</i></b>	
<b>2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary</b>	
<b>GHG emissions for the period January 1 - December 31, 2023</b>	
Total BioCO <sub>2</sub>	21.0
Total Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	3,982
Total Offsets (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	3,961
<b>Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years</b>	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	17.3
<b>Grand Total Offsets for the 2023 Reporting Year</b>	
Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2023 Reporting Year (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	3,978
Offset Investment (\$)	\$ 99,450

### Retirement of Offsets

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, The LDB is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2023 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years (if applicable). The LDB hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (the Ministry) ensuring that these offsets are retired on the LDB's behalf, the LDB 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.

## Part 2. Public Sector Leadership



## 2A. Climate Risk Management

In recent years, the LDB has been impacted by disruptions caused by extreme weather events such as wildfires, heatwaves, deep freezes, and floods. With the increasing frequency and intensity of these challenges in the province, the LDB continually updates contingency plans to protect its operations against major disruptions.

The LDB has implemented several measures aimed at mitigating the impacts of unexpected events on its service, customers, and suppliers. For example, to mitigate order delivery disruptions, the LDB has set up contracts with secondary freight carriers in addition to its primary fleet. The secondary carriers are deployed when regions are inaccessible to the primary fleet due to weather conditions or road closures.

Furthermore, to maintain service levels during disruptions, the LDB collaborates with affected customers to reschedule or delay deliveries and activates emergency operations to reroute shipments away from closed roadways due to wildfires or other climate-related threats.

## 2B. Other Sustainability Initiatives

In addition to the efforts noted in sections above, the LDB implemented additional sustainability initiatives, including:

- Environmentally sustainable procurement practices.
- The development of a clean fleet strategy.
- Employee environmental sustainability education, awareness, and engagement events.

Progress on each of these initiatives is reported below.

### Environmentally Sustainable Procurement

The Province of British Columbia’s Guidelines for Environmentally Responsible Procurement states, “where feasible and cost effective, the Government of British Columbia will acquire products and services that are environmentally responsible.”

In line with this commitment and its own policies, the LDB looks to purchase products that embody environmental responsibility in their design, manufacturing, distribution, use, and disposal – with an aim to reduce waste, improve energy efficiency, and limit toxic by-products. Similarly, the LDB is dedicated to contracting services from vendors who employ environmental responsibility in their management, administration, and operations.

Examples of sustainable-related procurement initiatives implemented by the LDB in 2023, included:

- Purchasing recyclable and BPA thermal receipt paper for BCL and BCCS.
- Installing new high efficiency LED lighting for retrofits and renovations.
- Purchasing two zero-emission light duty fleet vehicles for a total of six.



*BCLIQUOR store with LED lighting and flooring that does not require floor wax.*

### Clean Fleet Strategy

The LDB has made progress in developing its clean fleet strategy, with completion anticipated by the end of 2024. The strategy’s key objective is to align with the provincial government’s CleanBC Roadmap to 2030. Specifically, the LDB aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its light duty fleet vehicles (including sedans and SUVs) by 40 per cent below 2010 levels by 2030.

To achieve this goal, the LDB will continue to expand its ZEV light-duty fleet. As noted earlier, the LDB currently operates six zero-emission light duty fleet vehicles. Acknowledging the limited supply of ZEVs, the LDB department responsible for vehicle procurement will initiate the procurement process well in advance, one to one and a half years ahead, to ensure the availability of ZEVs.

Additionally, the LDB's clean fleet strategy will outline its approach to measuring and reporting on GHG emissions. It will also detail how the LDB plans to monitor its progress towards the 2030 emission reduction goal.

## Employee Environmental Sustainability Education, Awareness, and Engagement

The LDB's Impact Team is comprised of a Manager of Environmental Initiatives and an Environmental specialist. This team is responsible for environmental reporting of greenhouse gas emissions, recycling programs for paper and packaging products, monthly diversion rate tracking, sustainable commuting programs for staff, employee electric vehicle (EV) charging monitoring and reporting, and the development and implementation of sustainability and environment events designed to educate and engage employees.

Environmental and sustainability initiatives and events are facilitated across the LDB at various times throughout the year. The events are led by the Impact Team, with a focus on how to reduce our individual and collective impact on the environment.

Examples of environmental and sustainability initiatives and events organized in 2023, include:

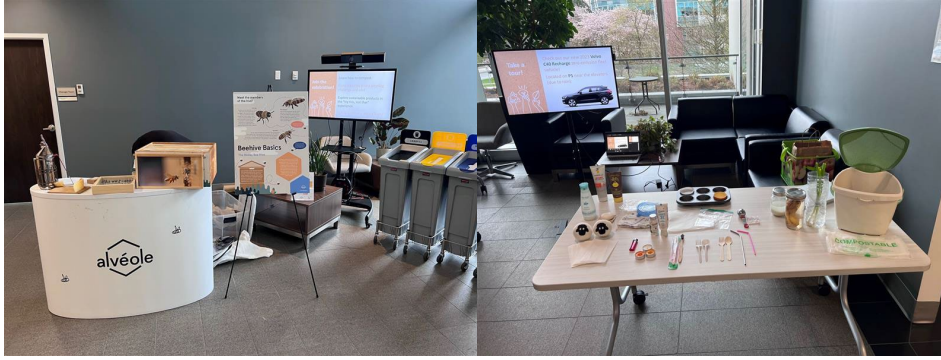
- Earth Day showcase events at multiple LDB worksites;
- A Go-by-Bike week celebration of bicycle-based commuting;
- A honey harvest event and candle making workshops, with honey supplied by the LDB's two Head Office beehives; and
- A waste reduction week clean-up day.

Each of these environmental and sustainability initiatives is described below.

### Earth Day

During the week leading up to Earth Day on April 22, 2023, all LDB employees had an opportunity to participate in a variety of activities, which included completing a green-themed crossword puzzle for a chance to win one of three sustainability kitchen-starter kits. At the 2023 Earth Day event, the LDB announced it had expanded its ZEV fleet, and employees had the opportunity to get up close to one of the new ZEVs.

The highlight of the event was an interactive "Invest in our Planet" showcase, hosted by the Impact Team. Employees at LDB worksites including Head Office, the liquor distribution centres in Delta and Kamloops, and the cannabis distribution centre in Richmond were given hands-on opportunities to learn more about sustainable practices they can incorporate into their daily lives.



*Earth Day displays at the LDB Head Office.*

## Go-by-Bike Week and the Spirited Cyclists

The LDB’s Spirited Cyclists group, formed 15 years ago, is comprised of about 50 employees from across the organization. This group proactively promotes the benefits of commuting to work by bicycle facilitates a buddy system for new cyclists who would like assistance getting acquainted with their cycling route. In addition, employees that cycle to work have access to secure bicycle storage and convenient changing and shower facilities at the LDB’s Head Office.

Go-by-Bike Week is a popular annual event across BCL, BCCS, Head Office, and LDB’s distribution centres. In the spring of 2023, the Spirited Cyclists set up a “Celebration Station” at Head Office during Go-by-Bike Week, where employees came together to celebrate biking as a sustainable mode of transportation.

Maps of local bike path routes were on display, and snacks were handed out to fellow riders heading into the building after their morning commute. The event fostered employee connections where they traded notes about favourite biking routes, safety tips, and on-the road repair techniques. Retail employees at BCL and BCCS locations throughout B.C. were encouraged to log their bike kilometres and submit their personal bike stories for publication in the employee-wide internal newsletter. During Go-by-Bike Week in 2023, LDB employees traveled a combined total of 1,581 kilometres, collectively saving 343 kilograms (kg) of greenhouse gases from entering the environment, a 57 per cent increase over the previous year.

**Join**  
the LDB’s Spirited Cyclists  
for a Go By Bike Week  
**Celebration Station**

May 31 8:30am - 10:00am  
South side of the building (across from visitor parking)

Everyone is invited, whether or not you are an avid cyclist or curious to learn more.  
Grab bike maps, snacks and connect with like-minded colleagues and learn the benefits of commuting to work by bicycle!

If you go by bike, log your kms on the Bike Hub at [bikehub.ca](http://bikehub.ca)!

Participate in a group photograph with the Spirited Cyclists group!

For more information about Go By Bike Week May 29 - June 4, check out [www.gobybikebc.ca](http://www.gobybikebc.ca).

## Honey Harvest & Candle Making Workshops

Since 2019, the LDB has maintained beehives on its fifth-floor patio at Head Office. Each year, employees are invited to witness the annual harvest activities and taste a flight of honey from the last three harvests. The harvest occurs in mid-summer – a time when local flowers are in bloom and honey production is at its peak. The 2023 harvest collected 100 jars of fresh honey from the beehives, which were donated to the Greater Vancouver Food Bank.

Twice per year, a beeswax candle making workshop is led by members of the Impact Team and the LDB's urban beekeeping partner. At the popular event, employees learn about the importance of bees and have an opportunity to make their own candles.



## Waste Reduction Week and Clean Up Day


The LDB celebrated Waste Reduction Week in mid-October with two “Clean Up” days at Head Office and distribution centres in Delta, Kamloops and Richmond, as well as an invitation for all employees to take a textile challenge quiz. During these events:

- Participants gathered approximately 180 pounds (81 kg) of cardboard, 900 pounds (408 kg) of office paper, and 330 lbs (149 kg) of garbage.
- A recycling bin was filled with Styrofoam, electronics, metal and hard plastic.
- 300 pens and highlighters were returned and responsibly recycled at Staples; 80 binders, along with numerous file- and hanging-folders were donated to a local Burnaby school.
- Two boxes full of school supplies were donated to the temporarily displaced students and faculty of Hazel Trembath Elementary School in Port Coquitlam, which had been destroyed by fire.

Furthermore, digital screens in staff break areas at Head Office, distribution centres, and select BCCS displayed messages related to environmental sustainability and encouraged employees to participate in the LDB's environmental initiatives and campaigns throughout the year.



**Executive Sign-off:**

	2024-05-31
Signature	Date

R. Blain Lawson	GM & CEO
Name	Title