



# Camosun College 2023 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report



Shannon Craig

# PART 1. Legislative Reporting Requirements

## Declaration Statement

Declaration statement: This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2023 to minimize our GHG emissions, and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2024 and beyond.

## Emission Reductions: Actions and Plans

In 2023, Camosun College reduced emissions by 6% from 2022 levels.

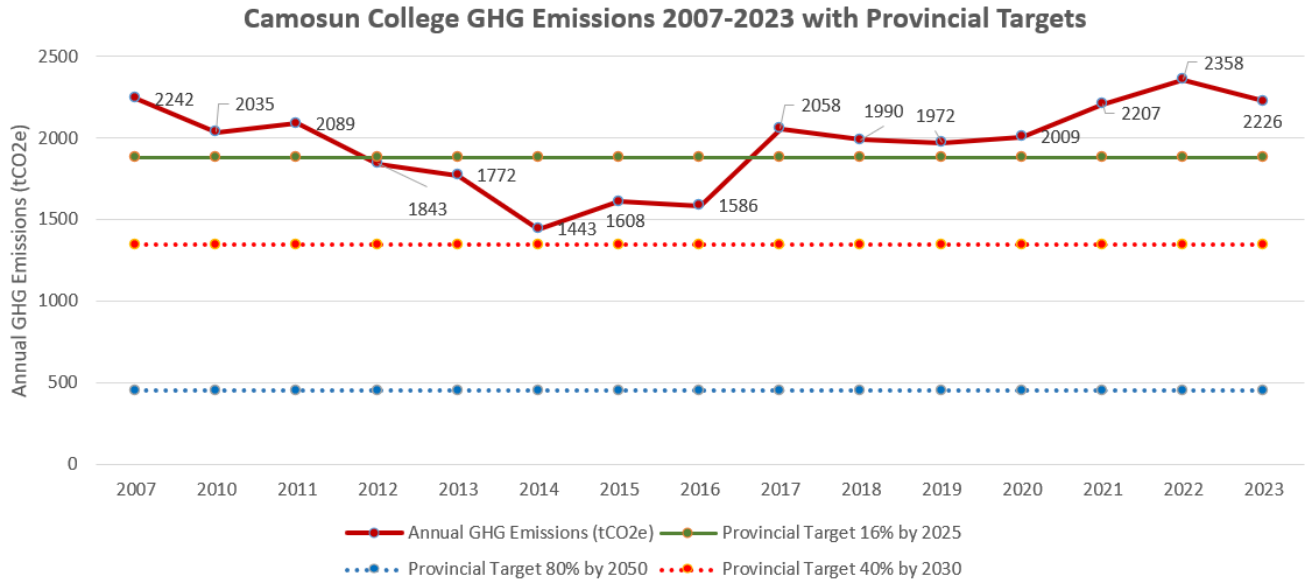
Building emissions experienced the largest reduction overall, driven by a decrease of -153 tCO<sub>2</sub>e from Natural Gas use at Camosun, despite a simultaneous small increase of +11 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in electricity consumption compared with 2022 levels. There was an increase in fuel oil used in 2023 compared to 2022, which is a result of the timing of oil refueling on campus. Overall, the emissions reductions are due to building-related emission reduction actions on campus, weather, and the 2023 Province of BC emission factor update. The Climate Action Secretariat explains the emission factor update for Natural Gas and electricity as follows; “The natural gas change reflects a greater understanding of the composition of gas in pipelines. The electricity change reflects a shift from the gross import model to the net import model as calculated for the [Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act](#).” (Secretariat, 2024)

Camosun saw an increase in paper emissions in 2023. The increase is primarily attributed to an underreporting error in 2022. Camosun is currently updating the paper emissions data for 2022. Paper usage in both 2022 and 2023 was higher than in the previous two years due to the full resumption of programs post-COVID; however, emissions are significantly reduced from 2010-2019 emission levels. Additionally, Camosun experienced an approximately 5% increase in enrollment from 2022 to 2023 which adds to overall paper use.

The following table and chart illustrate Camosun’s GHG emissions since 2010.

GHG Emission Source Data (2010-2023) tCO <sub>2</sub> e														
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Buildings	1932	1978	1758	1671	1359	1529	1511	1990	1923	1905	1978	2142	2298	2160
Fleet	28	39	28	24	12	14	8	7	11	14	22	52	43	33
Paper	75	72	57	77	72	65	67	61	56	53	8	13	17	32
Total Emissions	2035	2089	1843	1772	1443	1608	1586	2058	1990	1972	2009	2207	2358	2226

The chart below shows Camosun College’s (GHG) emissions against the B.C. Provincial Targets.



## Stationary Sources

In 2023, Camosun saw a 6% reduction in emissions from buildings. Actions Camosun took to reduce GHG emissions for buildings include:

### Sustainable Building System Capacity Plan

Request for pre-qualification for Prime Consultant to complete a Sustainable Building Systems Capacity Plan (SBSCP) commenced in 2023. In alignment with this initiative, Camosun will participate in BC Hydro’s and Clean BC’s Custom Incentives program and Roadmap Study. The SBSCP will be based on a 20-year horizon for sustainability and capacity planning for buildings and systems while providing us with a five-to-ten-year roadmap for prioritized projects and next steps. The SBSCP and Hydro/Clean BC Planning will provide an important building-related strategy to reduce GHG on campus, which can be integrated into the development of a Climate Action Plan.

### LED Lighting Upgrade Lansdowne Campus

Camosun College with help from BC Hydro’s Incentive Fund Program is retrofitting lighting on the Lansdowne Campus. This project is expected to result in an annual energy savings of 96,000 kWh. This project started in 2020 and extended through 2023-24.

## Array of Hope: Camosun Library Solar Project

Thanks to a [grant from EBSCO Information Services](#), with substantial contributions from Camosun College, more than half of the electricity used at the Alan Batey Lansdowne Library will soon be supplied directly by the sun! Camosun's Alan Batey Library and Learning Commons was thrilled to be selected to be the second Canadian library to receive this award in June 2022.

The Array of Hope will consist of 90 photovoltaic (PV) panels mounted on the lower southwest roof and walls of the Lansdowne Library that will be visible from ground level. This "living lab" will be accessible for tours and accompanied by mock PV panels and data displays to provide hands-on, applied learning. Expected to produce 46 MWh/year, the installation is a tangible symbol of the college's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Significant work was completed within 2023, including selecting a contractor to complete the physical installation (early 2024 installation.) Furthermore, tree and landscaping work was completed as well as building infrastructure upgrades. Upgrades to the library building that have an impact on building emissions include replacing two failed air conditioning units with upgraded and efficient models.

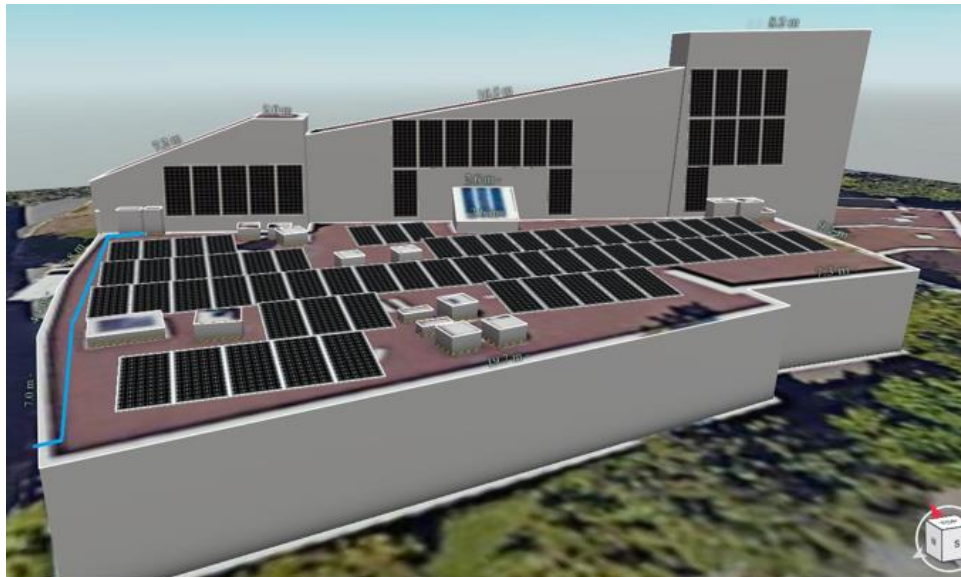


Image courtesy of Hakai Energy Solutions

### Other Building Projects **Lansdowne:**

- **Portable G:** Heat Pump Replacement
- **Dunlop Building:** HVAC: Freezer compressor replaced
- **Ewing Building:** Elevator replacement HVAC. A new heat pump was added for the new elevator mechanical room.
- **Campus Wide:** Minor HVAC replacement and improvements

### Other Building Projects **Interurban:**

- **Jack White Building:** Replaced two failed air conditioning units with upgraded and efficient models
- **Portable A -** Removing gas furnaces, upgrading electrical infrastructure, and installing new heat pumps in each classroom (2024)
- **Campus Wide:** Minor HVAC replacement and improvements

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## Mobile Sources

Camosun continued to take action in 2023 to support emissions reductions from mobile sources. Some of the strategies Camosun took to reduce emissions from mobile sources include:

- Moving from gas-powered grounds keeping equipment to electric equipment
- Between its two campuses, Camosun's Receiving department continues to use its streamlined regular "Courier/Receiver" routes and "minimum travel, maximum cargo" efficiency program.
- Investigating replacement of Receiving van with zero emissions vehicle
- Camosun participates in the Public Sector Fleet Community of Practice. Through this community of practice, members connect to share information and resources to transition the public sector fleet to zero-emission vehicles and develop other approaches to reduce emissions from the fleet.

## Paper Consumption

Camosun continues to make strides to reduce paper consumption on campus. The increase in paper emissions is primarily attributed to an underreporting error in 2022. Camosun is currently updating the paper emissions data for 2022. Paper usage in both 2022 and 2023 was higher than in the previous two years due to the full resumption of programs post-COVID; however, it significantly reduced from 2010-2019 emissions. Camosun utilizes a paper accounting system, which allows the cost of paper to be billed directly to departments quarterly and has used 100% recycled paper products for many years. We continue to look for ways to reduce our printer fleet as our current agreements come up for renewal.

# 2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

<i>Camosun College 2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary</i>	
<b>GHG emissions for the period January 1 - December 31, 2023</b>	
<b>Total BioCO<sub>2</sub></b>	1.4
<b>Total Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	2227
<b>Total Offsets (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	2226
<b>Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years</b>	
<b>Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	0
<b>Grand Total Offsets for the 2023 Reporting Year</b>	
<b>Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2023 Reporting Year (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	2226
<b>Offset Investment (\$)</b>	$(2226) \times \$25 = \$55,650$

## Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, Camosun College (the Organization) 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 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.

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# PART 2. Public Sector Climate Leadership

## 2A. Climate Risk Management

### Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Assessment Planning

Camosun Sustainability and Emergency Management started planning to conduct a disaster and climate risk assessment at Camosun in 2023. The process will include completing a comprehensive evaluation of the potential risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural hazards and climate change impacts and consequences related to Camosun College. The outcomes will be used to develop appropriate measures to mitigate risks, enhance preparedness, and facilitate effective response and recovery efforts. This work will continue into 2024-25.

### Critical Infrastructure Assessment

Camosun completed a hardscape condition assessment in 2023 and a campus topographic survey that located critical infrastructure. The assessment included roads, parking lots, pads, pathways, sidewalks, ramps, and staircases. Conduction assessments of infrastructure are an important tool for climate risk management as they enable proactive measures to safeguard essential services to reduce the impacts of climate-related risks.

In addition to ensuring a resilient infrastructure, work is underway to design a pedestrian connection between the center of the Interurban campus and the Centre for Health and Wellness. Given the challenges of this campus's elevation, this project will also dramatically improve accessibility through campus, and to buildings and outdoor space used by the College's Employment Training and Prep program, making those spaces accessible to students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

## 2B. Other Sustainability Initiatives

### Strategic Plan

Camosun College reported on its first year of our new Strategic Plan in 2023. Rising to the Challenges of Climate Change is a Strategic Priority of Camosun College.

Goals under this priority include;

- Invest in necessary resources to build momentum and capacity for addressing the climate emergency
- Support existing programs and increase climate education across the college



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- Lower climate-changing emissions to meet or exceed BC Legislated targets while adapting to the impacts of climate change

## CICAN ImpACT Climate Project

Camosun Sustainability has engaged with College and Institutes Canada (CICAN) ImpACT Climate Project, including foundation meetings, and is participating in the CICAN Technical Working Group on Scope 3 Emissions in 2023. Camosun community members also participated for the first time in the ImpACT climate challenge, championed by the Camosun College and the Camosun College Student Society Sustainability Director.

## Sustainability and Climate Change Education

Camosun has a strategic goal to support existing programs and increase climate education across the college. Camosun is currently exploring opportunities to develop a new credential that will prepare students to understand the impacts of climate change and enable them to become advocates in support of climate action initiatives.

The following highlights further new programming and planning within 2023:

- **Business Administration – Socially Responsible Management (Post Degree Diploma)** is a new program at Camosun. The Post-Degree Diploma in Socially Responsible Management provides students with the opportunity to integrate their existing knowledge, skills, and experience with principles and practices of socially responsible management. Designed for individuals who already hold a bachelor’s degree and wish to gain specialized knowledge and skills in the field of socially responsible management, the program prepares students to address the social, economic, and environmental challenges facing organizations and communities in today’s complex world.
- Two new and renewed programs focused on sustainability and climate change, [Environmental Technology](#) and [Global Sustainability \(ProSIT\)](#), will be offered in the next academic year.

## Camosun Enactus

Enactus, an international student organization, launched its first Vancouver Island Chapter at Camosun College in 2023. Enactus fosters student-led entrepreneurship and social impact projects. The Camosun Chapter focused its project on addressing food insecurity on campus. They surveyed students to understand their needs and collaborated with the Camosun College Student Society to develop and produce affordable meal kits. These kits included nutrition ingredients and easy-to-follow recipes aimed at reducing waste and improving access to healthy food. This initiative provided practical solutions and fostered social entrepreneurship and community engagement.



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## Camosun Student Society Sustainability

In 2023, the Camosun Student Society’s Sustainability Director and team focused on waste reduction. This group engaged students in zero-waste activities and games during the “Cam Fest” welcome events, using fun activities and prizes to teach proper waste sorting and promote sustainable practices.

### GoByBike Week

Camosun has been a community sponsor of [“Go By Bike”](#) week for over a decade, and this continued in 2023 with its support of the Spring event. Go By Bike Week is a week-long event that encourages cycling as a mode choice and celebrates riders in the community. Camosun hosted a celebration station at the Lansdowne Campus in the spring, where hundreds of community and Camosun participants enjoyed snacks, won prizes, and received bike tune-ups, fostering community engagement and promoting cycling.





