COLLEGE OF
THE ROCKIES

PSO CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

2023

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PART 1. Legislative Reporting Requirements

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.

By June 30, 2024, College of the Rockies' (The College) final 2023 Climate Change Accountability Report will be posted to our website at www.cotr.bc.ca.

Emission Reductions: Actions & Plans

A. Stationary Sources (e.g. buildings, power generation)

College-Wide

- When considering a purchase, the College always considers emission reduction.
- Continue to change out inefficient fluorescent light fixtures to new LEDs.
- Continue to upgrade energy efficient equipment as funding allows.
- Change out aging MAUs to newer models with variable frequency drives as funding allows.
- Funding proposal submitted for refit of the Datacenter to integrate "green" energy efficient HVAC and power conversion/backup facilities.

B. Mobile Sources (e.g. fleet vehicles, off-road/portable equipment)

College-Wide

- Consideration is taken to reduce emissions from air transportation, marine transportation, or off-road emission sources, as applicable, but a strategy has not yet been implemented.
- Trades & Technology Department acquired a second BEV to support EV Maintenance Technician Training and installed a Level 2 charger additional to charging capacity previously installed at the College.
- Continue to change out inefficient vehicles to newer, more fuel-efficient models when applicable.
- Install electric vehicle and e-bike charging stations on campuses as funding allows.
- Bicycle racks are available at all campuses. Biking or walking to and from work is encouraged.

C. Paper Consumption

College-Wide

- Trades & Technology Department will continue adopting e-Texts and other digital resources as opportunity allows.
- FSC certified paper is purchased by the College. IT Services provides tools to staff to allow for electronic markup and signature of documents to reduce the need to print documents for most College processes. Year-over-year, print volumes are analyzed by department to identify and address opportunities to utilize digital resources in place of printed paper assets.

Other

Cranbrook Campus

- IT Services includes energy consumption as a metric in evaluation of servers and computers, utilizing configuration of aggressive power management settings on workstations and shared printers to substantially reduce the electrical energy needed to sustain IT systems. Replacement of legacy computers and related equipment have also contributed to the reduction as new devices are generally more efficient and/or carry an Energy Star rating.
- The Purchasing Agent and Director of Finance virtually attended BCNET's Spring Forum on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) in 2023. The Purchasing Agent been compiling and looking into vendor/suppliers ESG practices.
- Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) technician training came to College of the Rockies in 2023. It is intended to be an add-on certification for Red Seal Automotive Service Technicians.
- Composting has expanded campus-wide at the Cranbrook Campus.

Gold Creek Campus

- Offered the 5-day PV Photovoltaic Solar Course.
- Provided Connector Flow Training for a local municipality.
- Most of the 5 Columbia Basin Trust projects and files have moved to electronic, rather than paper-based files. Signing of files is also done electronically.
- The Campus uses reusable/washable dishes, cups, and cutlery when lunches and snacks are provided for training.

2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

College of the Rockies 2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary	
GHG emissions for the period January 1 - December 31, 2023	
Total BioCO_2	*1.18*
Total Emissions (tCO_2e)	*999*
Total Offsets (tCO_2e)	*984*
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO_2e)	*0*
Grand Total Offsets for the 2023 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2023 Reporting Year (tCO_2e)	*984 + 0*
Offset Investment ($)	*(984 + 0) x $25 = $24,600*

Retirement of Offsets:

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

PART 2. Public Sector Climate Leadership

2A. Climate Risk Management

N/A

2B. Other Sustainability Initiatives

N/A

2C. Success Stories

A Living Lab applied research project was launched September 2022 to reduce the campus's carbon footprint using a circular economy approach. Bins were purchased and distributed. Campus-wide composting started November 2022. Organic waste was collected, composted, and re-used on campus to grow leafy greens, using a panel on the existing living wall. [The Living Lab - College of the Rockies (cotr.bc.ca)]

The Living Lab research project at the College began as part of a national research program focused on encouraging post-secondary institutions to become leaders for climate action through innovation. Supported by Colleges & Institutes Canada, the College's project aimed to increase awareness and promote behavioural change to reduce greenhouse gas emissions during the 2022/23 academic year.

The greens were used in the college cafeteria and food program from December 2022 to April 2023.

Excerpt from Final Report, submitted March 24, 2023:
"Our target reduction was 2x in the amount of organics being diverted. This baseline was calculated in the first two months as 125.42 lbs per month. In the last two months of the project, our target was achieved with values of 335.5 and 311.7 lbs.

Total organics waste collected was 1238.11 lbs. which included 139.59 lbs. from three units in the student residence. Calculations of CO2 emissions for the collected waste were done using an ICLEI emissions calculator. This collected waste accounted for 2014.088 lbs. of CO2 emissions saved. Which is further equivalent of driving gasoline-powered car for 3650 kms (US EPA, 2022).

The project also completed 6 harvests replacing 7565 grams of imported lettuce used by the culinary program and cafeteria. The average emission of 0.378 kg CO2 per kg of imported lettuce has been reported, due to the removal of transportation emissions, we anticipate that the lettuce grown in this project has a smaller footprint."




Executive Sign-off:

May 24, 2024

Signature	Date
Dianne Teslak	Vice President - Finance & Corporate Services
Name (please print)	Title