



Northern Lights
College

2023 Climate Change Accountability Report



Territorial Acknowledgement

Northern Lights College serves the communities of Northern British Columbia that are located on the territories of the Cree, Dene, Dunne-Za, Kaska, Sauteau, Tse'khene, Tahltan and Tlingit. We also recognize Metis Nation BC members who live in this area of our beautiful province BC. We acknowledge our hosts and honour their gracious welcome to those seeking knowledge.



This Carbon Neutral Action Report for the period January 1st to December 31st, 2023, summarizes our emissions profile, the number of offsets purchased to reach net zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2023 to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2024 and beyond.



Overview/Executive Summary

Northern Lights College continues with our commitment towards carbon neutrality.

We have seen a reduction in electricity consumption on the house at the NLC Farm. This house is used to house up to 7 students and was at capacity that last year. Most months we see an output on the grid with very little going in, making this almost self-sustaining regarding electricity.

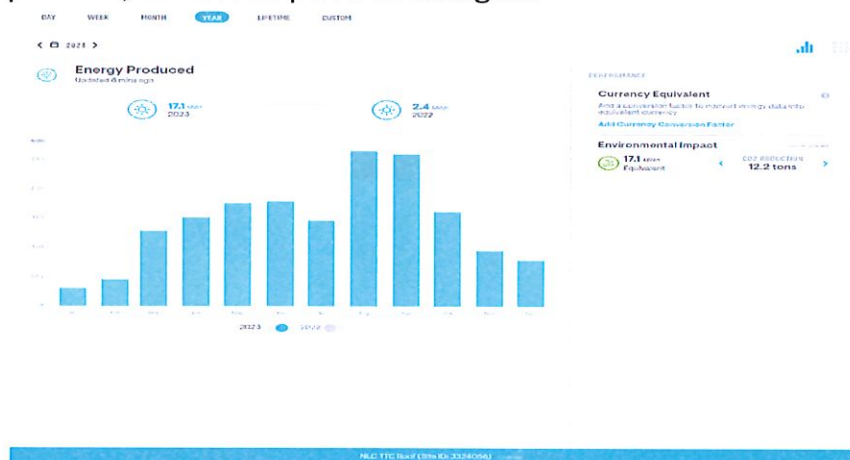


We continue to investigate new ideas and innovations to update and renew our buildings for sustainability moving into the future.

Key Actions Taken in 2023 to Reduce Emissions:

Buildings

- Indoor lighting is continued to be retro fitted or replaced with LED in all areas of the College and its Campus's.
- Phase 2 of 5 of a solar project was completed on the Trades Training Center. We now have 60 panels up and in 2023 that results in a CO2 reduction on 12.2 tons, or 204 trees planted, or 1.47M phones charged.



2023 saw the envelope renovation on the Dawson Creek Housing building that is now 23yrs old. This included new triple pane windows, rain screens and exterior siding. This will help with heating and cooling of the building, and we should see a reduction in costs.



- Smaller items such as ensuring door sweeps and closers are in good condition going in the colder months to help prevent heat loss.
- Completed a DDC project on the Dawson Creek Campus in the housing building, which including replacing valves and updating software to have better controls over the buildings heating.

Fleet

- More EV stations will be installed at various Campus's
- Researching fully electric vehicle for procurement for our fleet.
- Added a hybrid truck to our fleet



Other Items

- Northern Lights College continues to use recycled copy paper and when not available uses “FSC Certified” paper.
- Seeking ways to reduce the use of paper by copying 2 sided and making applicable resources “paperless.”
- Tree planting continues the Dawson Creek and Fort St John Campus’s helping to make more green space to enjoy and helping cut CO2.

Carbon Neutrality Linked to NLC’s Mandate

We continue to practice and promote principles that protect and sustain our natural environment, for Students, Programing, People and Cultures.

Broader Sustainability Goals for NLC for 2024-2025

- Phase 3 of 5 on the solar project for the Trades Training Centre will be started.
- More trees and shrubbery will be planted to help with the overall look and feel of the Campus’s. As well this will help in some areas where erosion could take place.
- Site works to help with drainage and erosion.
- Installing more EV Stations on the Dawson Creek, Fort St John, and Chetwynd Campus’s
- A rainwater collection system at the Dawson Creek and Fort St John Campus’s to water trees and plants on campus grounds
- Possible addition of a commercial compost site on the Dawson Creek Campus
- Updating equipment in our Clean Energy Building that was built in 2011 as newer technology is available, including updates on the biomass.
- Conversations with staff and students about sustainability and what effects they can do to help.

Anticipated Financial, Environmental, or Social Benefits of Reducing Energy Use and/or GHG Emissions

Financial and Environmental – with the addition of the solar array on the NLC farm we have already seen a decrease in our BC Hydro billing. We have also noticed that power produced from the array flowing back onto the grid.

Social Benefits – Adding useable green space to sit, walk and enjoy the outdoors is a project that we are working on for the benefit of the environment and over health of staff, students and public is a goal NLC is working towards for the future.

Efforts made to Reduce Emissions and Improve Overall Sustainability

- Continue to use recyclable copy paper and/or paper that is “FSC-Certified.”
- Reduce the amount of cleaning products we use, many of which can be used for multiple applications and switching over to more environmentally friendly supplies.
- Reduce lighting at night in buildings not being used.
- Added EV charging stations.
- Encourage using environmentally safe products wherever and whenever possible.
- Encourage recycling.
- Reviewed the energy audit that was done in 2022 and updated plans to move forward with projects.
- Planted trees on the Dawson Creek and Fort St. John Campus’s.
- Installed more solar panels on the Trades Training Centre.

Northern Lights College 2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary	
GHG Emissions created in Calendar Year 2023	
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	1953
Total BioCO ₂	
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	1953
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	
Grand Total Offsets for the 2023 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e) to be Retired for 2023 Reporting Year	1953
Offset Investment (\$25 per tCO ₂ e) [Grand Total Offsets to be Retired x \$25/tCO ₂ e]	\$48,825.00

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, Northern Lights 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.

Executive sign-off:


 Signature _____ Date May 28, 2024

Andra Graft
 Name (please print) _____ Title Vice-President Finance + Corporate Services