

School District No. 20
Kootenay-Columbia
2023 PSO Climate Change
Accountability Report

Kootenay Columbia
SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20

Part One

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 reduce our GHG emissions, and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2024 and beyond.

Emission Reduction Actions and Plans

Stationary Sources

Actions

In the summer of 2022, we completed the following projects which contributed to reduced carbon emissions for the entire 2023 year:

- HVAC upgrades including:
 - Kinnaird Elementary RTU replacement
- LED lighting upgrades at the following sites:
 - Stanley Humphries shop and gym
- Window and Siding Upgrade at Fruitvale Elementary Phase 1
- Infrastructure Upgrade at our Waneta site to increase the number of chargers for electric school buses on the south end of our District.

In the summer of 2023, we completed the following projects and would have enjoyed the reduction of carbon emissions for the Fall of 2023:

- Window and Siding Upgrade at Fruitvale Elementary Phase 2
- Increased the number of chargers for electric school buses.
- LED Lighting Upgrades
 - Twin Rivers gym
 - Robson Community School gym
 - Kinnaird gym
 - Castlegar Primary classrooms
 - Willie Kraus Fieldhouse gym
- DDC control upgrade at Stanley Humphries (optimize HVAC units)

Stationary Sources

Plans

While we continue to make several strides in reducing our carbon footprint, and our overall trend is moving in the right direction, we still had a small increase overall in our stationary footprint. Due in large part to our multiple LED upgrades, we had a big decrease in electricity usage and only a small increase in natural gas usage. 2023 was a cold winter and this likely would have contributed to that increase. Without the reduction of electricity usage for lighting, we likely would have had a bigger increase to our stationary footprint.

Our District was fortunate to be selected to be part of the School District Energy Management Program organized by the Capital Management Branch in conjunction with FocusEd. Although we received money last year, for the 24/25 year, we did not get any additional funding but will continue to focus on these options in the future as funding permits.

We continually use the Minor Capital Program as the basis for our ability to upgrade systems within our buildings and this is the key to our ability to reduce carbon. Without this program, we would not have the funding to achieve the necessary projects.

In the summer of 2024, we will be completing the following projects that will contribute to future reductions in carbon emissions:

- Electrical Infrastructure Upgrade at our Castlegar Maintenance Office which will allow us to continue to electrify our fleet (school bus and white fleet)
- LED lighting upgrade in the activity room at Stanley Humpries.
- DDC control upgrades at Castlegar Primary and Robson Community School which will help to optimize our HVAC units.

Mobile Sources-Actions and Plans

At this time our focus has been to electrify our school bus fleet. We now have 5 electric buses and are expecting the arrival of 4 more.

Our white fleet is made up almost entirely of gas powered cargo vans. We rely on the provincial procurement plan to obtain the best prices for our vehicles when they come up for replacement and at this point, there has not been the option for electric cargo vans. We were fortunate to receive funding through the Food Infrastructure program to upgrade our school lunch delivery van to an electric van and we look forward to the carbon reduction as a result of using this vehicle instead of a gas powered van.

Paper Consumption-Actions and Plans

Our District is continuing with the full implementation of Paper Cut program which monitors paper usage. All sites are charged for photocopy usage and supervisors are encouraged to reduce paper usage through the introduction of different software programs as well as being directly charged for photocopy use.

Part 2-Public Sector Leadership

Climate Risk Management

To date, our District has not completed a climate risk assessment or made any plans to prepare for any potential future climate impacts. We have purchased a set of carbon filters for all our HVAC systems for late summer/early Fall forest fire smoke. These filters are very expensive but necessary to maintain air quality for our staff and students in the case of excessive smoke.

Other Sustainability Initiatives

We are fortunate to have been selected for the Energy Management Program which helps smaller Districts that do not have an Energy Manager to find projects that will reduce carbon. We look forward to utilizing the results of the energy studies in planning for capital jobs to reduce carbon.

We will continue with our recycling program although with the reduction of profit for recycled items, our potential vendors are only taking paper and cardboard now and no longer taking plastics, glass etc. due to costs.

To date, our District does not have any other initiatives that support sustainability such as low carbon business travel policy or green procurement standards.

Success Stories

Our biggest success story from 2023 is the upgrade to our electrical infrastructure which gives us the ability to continue with the electrification of our fleet. We look forward to the continued reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the electrification of our bus fleet as well as reaping the benefits of the numerous upgrades to our buildings.

Emissions and Offsets Summary Table


School District No. 20 (Kootenay Columbia) Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Offsets for 2023 (TCO2E)	
Greenhouse Gas Emissions in calendar year 2023:	
Total BioCO2	11.1
Total Emissions (tCO2e)	1627
Total Offsets (tCO2e)	1398
Adjustments to GHG Emissions Reported in Previous Years:	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO2e)	52
Grand Total Offsets for the 2023 Reporting Year:	
Total Offsets (tCO2e)	1450
Total Offset Investment	\$36250

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, School District No. 20 (Kootenay-Columbia) 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.



2023 CNAR prepared by Director of Operations, Heather Simm



2023 CNAR approved by Superintendent, Katherine Shearer