

# 2023 PSO CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

SCHOOL DISTRICT 22 (VERNON)



## 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.

## ACTIONS TAKEN TO MINIMIZE EMISSIONS

### BUILDINGS

Actions taken to minimize emissions within our buildings include:

- Installed Geothermal systems in 6 School District Buildings.
- Undertaking a project to retrofit all school lighting with LED fixtures
- District wide organics collection
- Converted portable classrooms to Natural gas from Propane
- Installing heat pumps in all current HVAC upgrades
- Upgrading R-Values with added insulation and windows to building during renovations
- Replacing and upgrading Digital Direct HVAC controls for maximum efficiency
- Installing Economisers to rooftop HVAC units
- Reducing water consumption in all buildings
- Adding occupancy sensor controls where applicable
- Heating plant optimization
- DDC added to all modular and portable buildings

### VEHICLE FLEET

Actions taken to minimize emissions from our vehicle fleet include:

- Downsizing our trades fleet to right-size the vehicles for fuel efficiency and ensuring ride sharing to work sites.
- Operating eight electric school buses.

## PAPER CONSUMPTION

The School District continues to use PaperCut software to track and report paper consumption. This provides environmental information on the impact of paper consumed through our photocopiers and printers. Action is taken where excessive consumption is noted.

## SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Schools continue to take action to reduce their carbon footprint. Activities reported last year are ongoing and include the following.

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### ALEXIS PARK ELEMENTARY

Recycle programs (paper, cardboard, plastics, and 'return it' containers), school garden, community litter clean-ups, staff bike to work challenge/team, reusable bottle filling stations (2), engaging walking field trip options

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### ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROGRAM

We recycle paper, cardboard, plastics, bottles/cans... We have a school garden.

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### BEAIRSTO ELEMENTARY

Recycle paper, cardboard, plastics, school garden, compost paper towel and all food, community litter clean-ups, salmonid programme, bike to work week, reusable bottle filling stations, hydroponic garden, led lighting and dimmer switches throughout the building - walking as much as possible - tree planting and planning.

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### BX ELEMENTARY

Recycle programs (paper, cardboard, plastics, and 'return it' containers), school garden, community litter clean-ups, reusable bottle filling stations (3), engaging walking field trip options, education in classrooms.

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### CHARLES BLOOM SECONDARY

We recycle all drink containers, plastic bags, cardboard, tin cans, organic waste composting in cafeteria and foods room. We do paper recycling in all the classrooms. Our Summit Program works with the Village of Lumby to get the community gardens ready for people and plant their own garden which is then used in the Fall to make lunches for kids.

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### CHERRYVILLE ELEMENTARY

Recycle program (juice boxes, paper, cardboard, etc.). PAC uses compostable containers for hot lunch. School garden and hoping to start composting for garden in the spring. Students help clean up garbage at the community park. Water filling station.

#### CLARENCE FULTON SECONDARY

Recycling paper in all areas of school; real dishes for our breakfast program that our cafeteria students clean; Our Summit Program students recycle all the pop cans in our school; Compost-program in effect with green bins throughout the school. Two classes are working as compost Champions. Ducks Unlimited Wetland Center of Excellence students maintain and clean the wetlands. Garden planted in the courtyard. Indigenous plants being added to periphery of wetlands.

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#### COLDSTREAM ELEMENTARY

Composting as much as possible (all paper towel used in school each day, all compostable foods, cardboard and other materials, etc.); recycling of all recyclable materials; plants in some classrooms; spring gardening; we ask students to avoid bringing to school or to take home any materials that we don't currently have a recycling program in place for (ex. juice boxes); encourage bringing litter-free lunches; approx. 30% of our school that rides bikes/scooters to school as often as possible; regular neighbourhood and beach clean-ups; approx. 30% students ride the school bus (avoid single-user vehicles); paperless communication of student learning as much as possible; paperless newsletters, information, attendance, etc.; paperless lesson planning and instruction often.

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#### CROSSROADS LEARNING CENTRE

We recycle paper, cardboard, plastics, bottles/cans. We are applying for a school garden grant. Organic waste goes to chickens.

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#### ELLISON ELEMENTARY

We use our compost bins to divert as much garbage as possible from the landfill. We recycle plastics, drink containers and cardboard/paper. We have a class that helps to lead by running our recycling program.

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#### HARWOOD ELEMENTARY

We recycle paper, cardboard and plastics.

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#### J. W. INGLIS ELEMENTARY

We recycle paper, cardboard and plastic in a container that gets picked up weekly. The Grade 6 leadership students collect juice containers, plastic bottles and cans for recycling and brings them to the local recycle depot for cash! Biodegradable waste is collected in classroom containers for either the black compost container in the courtyard or the worm composting bin in either their classroom or in the office. Worm castings and compost from the container in the courtyard, go into the garden containers. Seeds have been started and will go into the garden bins. Shredded paper also goes into the worm bins. April 22 (Earth Day) assembly will be focused on all we recycle, reuse, and reduce... banana peels come back as tomatoes! The lights have been upgraded throughout the school as well. We are no longer

handing out plastic utensils to students who forget to pack them. Each classroom has metal (washable) utensils to borrow.

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#### KALAMALKA SECONDARY

We have increased our composting program by adding more bins in the classrooms and the hallway. We have a teacher and their students assigned each week to take the composting out twice per week. We have promoted recycling of paper products and beverage containers to reinforce care for the environment. Our concession uses compostable plates, cups, and straws. We have had our students participate in the climate action plan. We also have several teachers and students who work on our garden. Our school takes advantage of walking field trips to local parks.

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#### KIDSTON ELEMENTARY

Compost program, school garden with a Seed to Plate mentor (focusing on healthy cooking with students), recycling program (paper, plastic, cardboard, bottles, juice boxes, and cans), no plastic utensils for hot lunches and compostable or recyclable containers and wrappers, plastic-free Valentine's Day, water filling station, Salmon release program, walking field trips to Kal park, Sovereign park, and Fylton forest, Landed learning program with the Science Centre, and collaboration with the Allen Brooks Nature centre/Science Centre student programs. We encourage families and students to bike and walk to school with additional bike racks to support this program.

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#### LAVINGTON ELEMENTARY

Compost, School Garden, Water filling stations, recycling (paper, plastic, cardboard, milk containers, all 'lunch moms' containers), Dimmer switches (all L.E.D lights) Geothermal System, walking field trips, Salmon Release Project, plastic-free Valentines, walking and riding to School.

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#### MISSION HILL

We recycle paper, plastics, and refundable containers. We have two water filling stations. We walk to local attractions instead of taking a bus whenever possible. We have started to compost food items and paper towel in some classrooms.

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#### OKANAGAN LANDING ELEMENTARY

OKL has an active composting and recycling program run by students with our ISW and other staff members. Juice boxes and bottles are cleaned, collected, and sorted by students. Compost is picked up from classrooms weekly by students and taken to our compost bins in the garden. Grade groups take turns being in charge of playground clean-up. We have started our initiative to be wrapper free outside to reduce garbage found on our school grounds. In addition, we have a school garden that is utilized by classrooms to grow food and to promote pollination within the area of our school community. Also, all of our classrooms have LED lighting with dimmer switches in conjunction with a Geothermal system. We

also participate in the Salmon Education Program that raises salmon and release them into natural habitats in the spring.

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#### OPEN DOOR

We recycle paper, cardboard, plastics, bottles/cans, coffee cups.

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#### SILVER STAR ELEMENTARY

We recycle paper, cardboard, bottles, juice boxes and cans. We have started our composting program this year. We have a community garden plot that we walk to. There is 2+ classes that take care of the garden. We have a water filling station. We work on liter free lunches especially in all primary classes. The majority of our students walk/ride/scooter to school. Regular classes take care of our school yard clean up each week. Many if not all do outdoor walking/biking fieldtrips to downtown and around Vernon. As much as possible communication is paperless. LED lights and dimmer switches in office.

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#### VERNON SECONDARY

We have a recycling program in our school which has containers in classrooms as well as in hallways. Our basement has a sorting area for recycling. Our social justice class often takes on initiatives each semester. We have a composter in our cafeteria area for organic materials and many of the containers are compostable that are used to serve food. This year we also started composting throughout our school. We have approximately 20 compost containers in our school and our classes take turns emptying them.

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#### W. L. SEATON SECONDARY

Recycling program (for paper and plastics, but the Rotary Club also has recycling bins for drink containers that they take care of for fundraising), classroom compost bins and school wide compost. Cafeteria is moving toward all compostable materials for next year. Classes involved in climate action summit.

### PLANS TO CONTINUE REDUCING EMISSIONS

#### BUILDINGS

The School District continues to upgrade lighting, HVAC units and controls for efficiency and is seeking to install further geothermal systems where feasible.

#### VEHICLE FLEET

The School District plans on acquiring three more electric busses this year.

Where funding is not available for electric busses, or operational reasons make electric busses impractical, the School District replaces older buses with propane busses. These have a lower carbon footprint than traditional gasoline busses.

## SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The School District continues to raise awareness of environmental matters at the school level. For example, a Youth Climate Action Summit is held every year. This is creating an environmental awareness among our students and teaching them the skills they need to lessen their impact on the environment. Our students are tomorrow's leaders, and so this education is fundamental to future environmental success.

## GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND OFFSETS FOR 2023

<b>Greenhouse Gas emissions for the period January 1 to December 31, 2023</b>	
Total BioCO <sub>2</sub>	17.6
Total Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	2,321
Total Offsets (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	1,980
<b>Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years</b>	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	0
<b>Grand Total Offsets for the 2023 Reporting Year</b>	
Grand Total Offsets (tCO <sub>2</sub> e) to be Retired for 2023 Reporting Year	1,980
Offset Investment (\$25 per tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	\$49,500

## RETIREMENT OF OFFSETS

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, The Board of Education of School District 22 (Vernon) (**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:



Adrian Johnson, Secretary Treasurer, May 9, 2024