



Central Okanagan Public Schools (SD23)

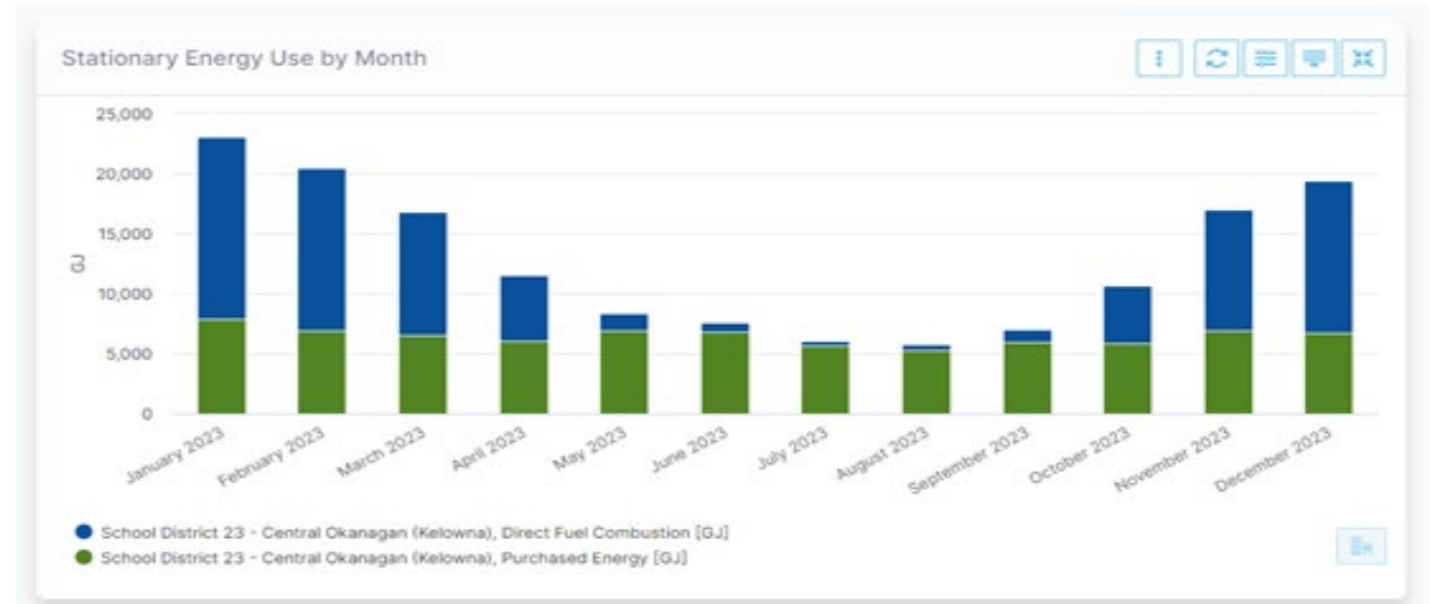
2023 PSO CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTING



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**
Together We Learn



In 2023, SD23 creasing the numbers of Electric School Bus Fleet to six



Achieving an 18% reduction in energy for 2023 compared to 2022 within Central Okanagan Public Schools (SD23) is a significant accomplishment, particularly with the reset of ventilation requirements to pre-COVID settings.

PART 1. Legislative Reporting Requirements

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Part 1

- Legislative Reporting Requirements
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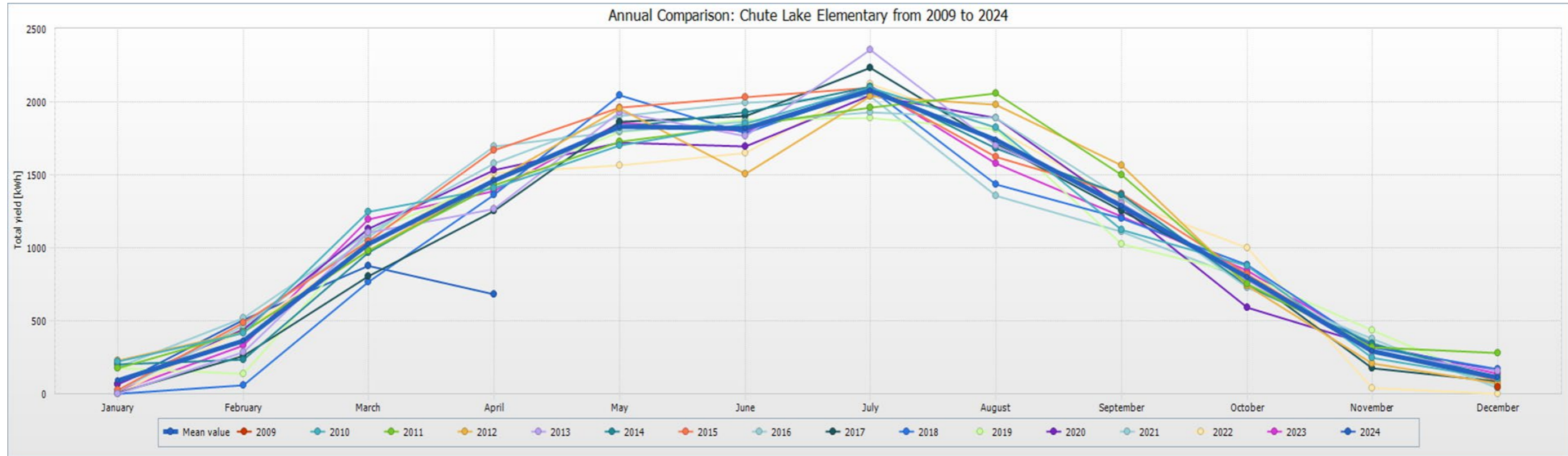
Part 2

- Actions Taken to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2023
- Other Actions
- Plans to Continue Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2024

Declaration Statement

This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 summarizes our emissions profile, the total offsets 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 2023 and beyond. Plans are in place to continue reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2023.

By June 30, 2024, Central Okanagan Public Schools final 2022 Climate Change Accountability Report will be posted to our website at www.sd23.bc.ca.



Chute Lake Elementary School - 10 kWh Solar Panel Installation consistently working for 15 years.



Executive Summary

Central Okanagan Public Schools (SD23) acknowledges and honors the unceded Traditional Territory and history of the Okanagan (Syilx) People and Westbank First Nation. As an educational institution, SD23 is dedicated to making a positive difference in students' lives and communities by providing safe and quality learning environments. To achieve this mission, the District collaborates with various stakeholders, including community groups, health authorities, ministries, and other levels of government, to offer a wide range of learning options across School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan).

In alignment with its commitment to sustainability, SD23 strives to incorporate environmentally conscious practices into all aspects of its operations. Throughout 2023, the District continued its efforts and programs to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from existing buildings, new construction projects, office paper usage, and fleet vehicles.

Delta Carmichael, CPA, CA
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
May 27, 2024

We are proud to announce that School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan Public Schools) has achieved carbon neutrality in 2023 for the 14th consecutive year. This significant milestone was reached by investing in British Columbia-based carbon reduction projects through the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, effectively offsetting our remaining emissions. SD23 is steadfast in its commitment to advancing the goals outlined in the CleanBC Plan, focusing on enhancing sustainability and efficiency while continuing to deliver outstanding education to our students, even amidst the ongoing challenges of the balancing educational priorities.

As we look forward to 2024, we anticipate encountering new climate-related challenges and opportunities. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to district staff for their unwavering dedication in supporting students' readiness to learn, assisting those experiencing food shortages, and providing technology to families facing barriers to digital education. Our staff has shown remarkable diligence in adhering to District's protocols and prioritizing safety requirements.

SD23 is committed to collaborating with organizations across British Columbia to address emerging challenges such as unprecedented forest fire seasons, heat domes, and atmospheric river events. Our resolve to foster resilience remains strong as we navigate the complexities of future climate and environmental challenges.

In summary, this Climate Change Accountability Report highlights SD23's commitment to combating climate change and promoting sustainability. It details our achievements in emissions reduction, carbon neutrality, and efforts to align with the CleanBC Plan. We acknowledge the challenges faced during the wildfire season and express deep gratitude to our staff for their dedication to student well-being. We remain committed to working with our partners to build resilience against climate and environmental uncertainties.

2023 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Offsets Overview

SD23 GHG Emissions and Offsets for 2023 (tCO₂e)

BioCO₂ is included in Total Emissions but not Total Offsets. For K-12 and Post-Secondary organizations, and BC Transit, Total Offsets will not equal Total Emissions minus Total BioCO₂ because offset exempt emissions for buses are included within Total Emissions.

GHG EMISSIONS AND OFFSETS FOR 2023	
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	6,136
Total BioCO ₂	45.8
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	6,182
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	0
GHG EMISSIONS AND OFFSETS FOR 2023	
Grand Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e) to be Retired for 2023 Reporting Year	4713
Offset Investment (\$25 per tCO ₂ e)	\$117,825

Total Emissions for Offsets for the 2023 - Reporting Year

SD23 purchased carbon offsets from the Government of BC for the equivalent of 4,713 tonnes of CO₂e to obtain carbon neutral status for 2023.

46 tonnes of CO₂e emissions from the combustion of biomass and biomass-based fuels were reported as part of our greenhouse gas emissions profile in 2023.

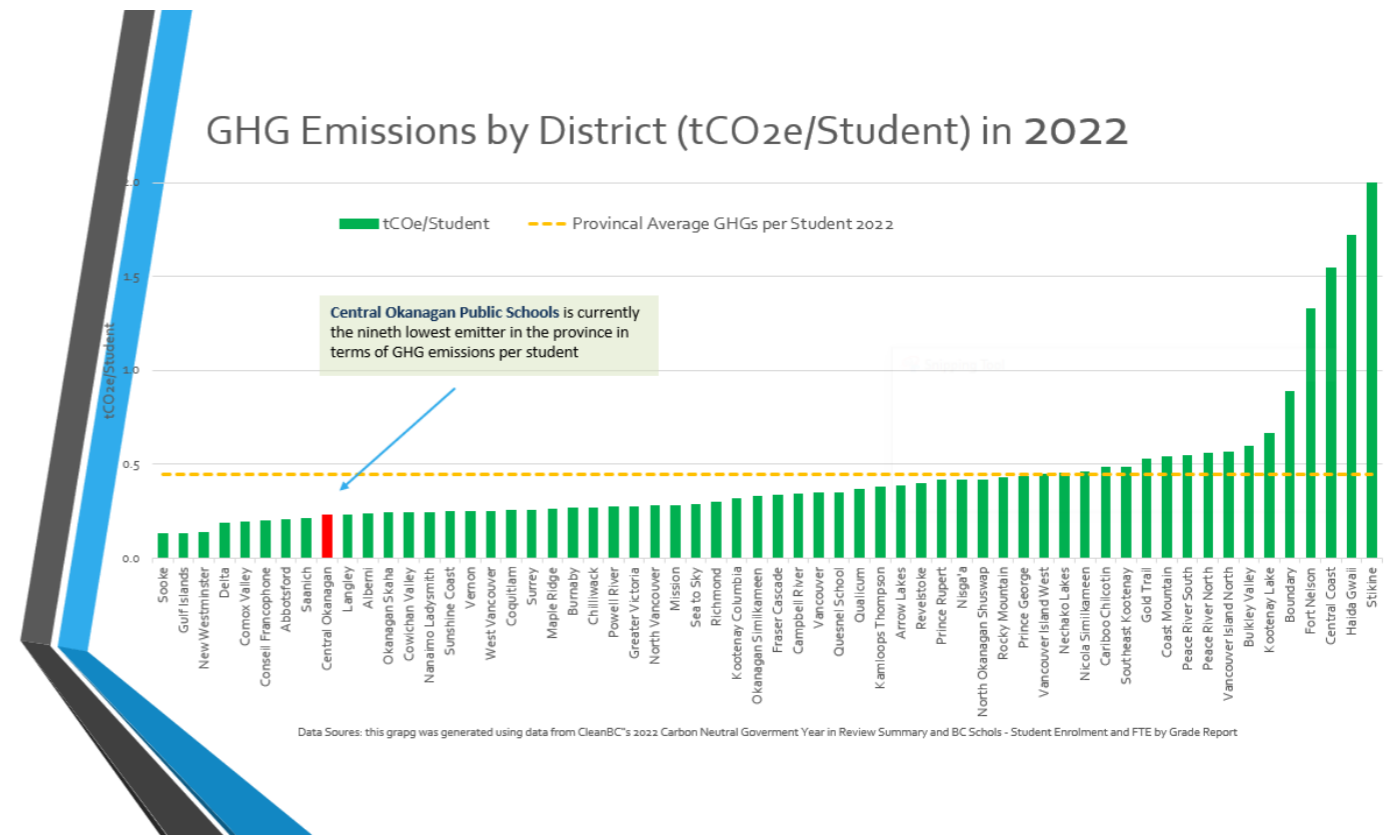
However, while all CO₂e emissions from these sources must be reported, CO₂ emissions from school buses do not require offsets.

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, SD23 (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.

Delta Carmichael, CPA, CA
 Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
 Central Okanagan Public Schools
 May 27, 2024

GHG Emissions by District (tCO₂e/Student) in 2022



2022 GHG Emissions in tCO₂e per student. Comox Valley and Abbotsford both have higher average Annual Heating Degree Days than the coastal regions but lower than the Central Okanagan Public Schools, has greater heating needs due to their cooler climates.

PART 2. Public Sector Leadership

Actions Taken to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2023

Energy Efficiency Measures: SD23 implemented various energy-saving measures to reduce their energy consumption and associated emissions. This included:

- Upgrading to energy-efficient lighting systems and purchasing energy-efficient classroom equipment.
- Upgrading thermostats and optimizing heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems.
- Bench marking the two middle schools which are high performance schools, low energy consumption facilities that save money and reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.
- Improving roof insulation and sealing to reduce heat loss or gain in school buildings.
- Conducting energy audits to identify areas of high-energy consumption and implementing energy-saving recommendations.
- Engaging in the Fraser Basin Council's "Plug In BC Program," which provided funding to support the procurement of electric school bus DC chargers.

Success Stories - Recommissioning and replacing existing Building Automation Systems. Developing and implementing control strategies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.



West Kelowna's Concept Drawing – George Pringle Secondary School

Plans to Continue Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2024

Emissions Reduction Strategies: SD23 continues to develop and implement strategies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions including:

1. Recommission and replacing existing older Building Automation Systems. Developing and implementing strategies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Encouraging sustainable transportation options with the City of Kelowna, such as promoting carpooling, cycling, e-transportation or using public transportation.
3. Managing and optimizing school transportation and logistics to minimize fuel consumption.
4. Designing a large battery storage ZEB project at Dease Road to reduce demand charges for future Electric Buses.
5. Supporting School's waste management practices that prioritize commingling recycling, and waste reduction.
6. Sustaining solar panel installations at various locations in 2024, like École H.S. Grenda Middle School (60kW) and École Dr. Knox Middle School (120kW). These solar panel installations contribute significantly to the District's renewable energy portfolio and underscore its continued dedication to environmental sustainability and provincial regulations.



Student Transportation – SD23 School Buses