



2023 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

Organization Name: School District 47 (qathet)

Declaration Statement

This Carbon Neutral Action Report for the period January 1 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.

2023 Actions Taken

In 2023, the qathet School District continued to work towards its ongoing goal of reducing its carbon footprint. Over the course of 2023, light emitting diode (LED) upgrades were completed at both Kelly Creek Community School and James Thomson Elementary School. These lighting upgrades represent the third and fourth such upgrade across the school district bringing the inventory of buildings with LED technology in place to more than 50 percent.

In addition, James Thomson Elementary also received a mechanical Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) upgrade. The scope of work involved both facility buildings including the removal of the existing eight (8) natural-gas fueled hydronic unit ventilators and replacement with variable refrigerant flow (VRF) heat pump unit ventilators in the main school building. The gym air handler was replaced with a rooftop packaged unit with electric-primary heat pump. The Annex Building had one of the natural gas furnaces removed and four (4) heat pump packaged units were installed in upper classrooms with electric backup heat.

Kelly Creek Community School also received a major washroom renovation. These annual upgrades included the installation of auto flush valves, pressure tank, and other low flow accessories which will contribute to the district wide reduction in the total amount of water consumed in schools. This upgrade follows similar upgrades which have been completed in the previous few years.

2024 Climate Sustainability and Resiliency Planning

At the school level, the qathet School District continues to take pride in educating the next generation to protect our future by continuing to fund various school led initiatives including the expansion of outdoor teaching and gathering spaces for students and staff. An outdoor classroom gazebo is still in the

planning stages for James Thomson Elementary School. Once completed, this will bring the total number of outdoor teaching spaces in the district to four. Similarly, the planning stage for a covered bicycle storage facility for Brooks Secondary was completed with construction having begun late in the school year.

Further planning for 2024 includes an HVAC upgrade at Henderson Elementary which involves the replacement of three gas boilers with electric heat pumps. The transition to electric heat pumps is expected to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions by removing natural gas as the primary heating source throughout the facility. Additionally, a comprehensive lighting upgrade is planned, which will involve replacing lighting fixtures and domestic hot water tanks at Henderson Elementary to achieve additional energy savings.

Further HVAC related upgrades are planned for Brooks Secondary School, along with the installation of a mechanical heating and cooling system at the Districts Administration building.

School led initiatives continue to include participation in Destination Imagination, gardening and recycling programs, as well as several community events such as the Trash Bash and Seedy Saturdays. The Outdoor Learning Centre (OLC) continues to be a contributing factor to the education of students, in both its operation and programs offered. The OLC consists of several cabins and a main lodge, runs largely on solar power, and maintains other environmentally friendly operating practices. Each year, the OLC offers numerous educational programs to District students, instructing them in practices such as composting, and use of renewable energy sources in a hands-on way.

Our **Total GHG Emissions for 2023 were 1,000 tCO₂e** with **758 tCO₂e in offsets** to make us Carbon Neutral.

We believe in the benefits of our continued efforts and look forward to seeing a further reduction in offsets over the next few years. Financially, we aim to put some of the savings directly back into our schools, funding materials that continue to educate and provide awareness of how to reduce our carbon footprint. Environmentally, we aim to make our small actions have a big impact, both in the present and in the future, as our students take what they've learned into their adult lives, into our community and far beyond. We are proud of our District and continue to be amazed at the significant efforts from both staff and students in making positive changes that will better our world for years to come.

Retirement of Offsets

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, School District 47 (qathet) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offset's obligation reported above for the 2023 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years. The Organization agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy ensuring that these offsets are retired on the Organization's behalf, the

Organization will pay the associated invoice to be issued by the Ministry in an amount equal to \$25 per tonne of offsets retired on its behalf.

2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

School District 47 (qathet) 2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets	
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	1014
Total BioCO ₂ (tCO ₂ e)	14
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	758
Adjustments to GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offset Adjustments (tCO ₂ e)	0
Grand Total Offsets for the 2023 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	758
Offset Investment @\$25.00 per CO ₂ e	\$ 18,950.00 + GST

Sincerely,



Steve Hopkins
Secretary Treasurer

Date: May 31, 2024