

School District No. 53 Okanagan Similkameen 23 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

Title 2023 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

Organization: School District No.53 Okanagan Similkameen

PART 1. Legislative Reporting Requirements

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.

Emission Reductions: Actions & Plans

A. Stationary Sources (e.g. buildings, power generation) This School District has been successful in the start up of our new Geothermal upgrade for our Osoyoos Secondary School! It is the second Geothermal upgrade that supports three of our eight schools. The district has also completed phase 1 of the Geothermal installation at our Osoyoos Elementary School which is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2024.

B. Mobile Sources (e.g. fleet vehicles, off-road/portable equipment)

The district has been funded through the Zero Emissions Transit Fund and the Ministry of Education to purchase our first electric bus. The bus will arrive in 2024. We have also received funding from the same sources to build the infrastructure for charging stations and the work will commence in 2024.

As the district has two bus garages due to the significant area we cover, there are plans to upgrade that garage as well so it too can support a growing electric fleet of buses as well as eventually supporting electric trades vehicles.

C. Paper Consumption

93% of all paper purchased for this school district was 30% recycled. This is an improvement over previous years. We continue to have default electronic copies and have installed a new software system to aid us in monitoring the consumption at our various sites.

2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

School District No.53 Okanagan Similkameen 2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary	
GHG emissions for the period January 1 - December 31, 2023	
Total BioCO ₂	14.7
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	1085
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	781
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	0
Grand Total Offsets for the 2023 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2023 Reporting Year (tCO ₂ e)	781
Offset Investment (\$)	\$19,525.00

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, School District No.53 Okanagan Similkameen (**the Organization**) 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 (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.

PART 2. Public Sector Climate Leadership

Climate Risk Management

With climate change, this region is at higher risk of wildfires, flooding, and extreme temperatures. While none of our schools have been subject to flooding, it can still pose communication concerns and transport of students. Monitoring and quick action by our fleet to move students is ongoing.

Wildfires have been a great concern but typically occur during the summer months. With them starting earlier and going later in the year, we keep our fields and areas irrigated and have changed to Merv 13 air filtration to protect students and staff. Presently in both wildfire and flooding, we support the community with transportation to safer areas.

The extreme temperatures we find the most challenging of all. In the past, the highest seasonal temperatures were in July and August and did not impact the schools significantly. A few years ago, we had extreme temperatures in June. While the schools were able to cope, the transport of students did not fare as well. To offset this all buses being requested are done so with AC units installed.

For the extreme cold temperatures, we have been able to keep our schools operational with a lot of monitoring taking place and not lowering temperatures within the buildings overnight. Transportation has a policy in place that the buses do not operate if temperatures are below -30C.

Success Stories

As mentioned earlier in this report, the district has been successful in completing the Geothermal upgrade done at our Osoyoos Secondary School. We are looking forward to the first annual report of fossil fuel reduction! Thanks to funding from the Ministry we are now continuing the process at our Osoyoos Elementary School which will be completed in 2024.

Executive Sign-off:

P.S. Subramanian
Signature

21 MAY 2024
Date

SUBRAMANIAN PALIAPPA
Name (please print)

SECRETARY TREASURER
Title