

## *School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)* 2023 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

**Title:** 2023 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

**Organization:** School

### **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**

School District No. 64 continues to work to reduce emissions through several initiatives. These are through increasing energy efficiency of buildings, replacing fossil fuel burning fleet vehicles with zero emissions vehicles, and reducing paper consumption through tighter control of copiers and printers.

#### **A. Stationary Sources (e.g. buildings, power generation)**

SD64 has been systematically retrofitting schools with upgraded HVAC systems using heat pumps and other technologies to lower carbon emissions. In 2023, Salt Spring Elementary received a partial HVAC upgrade with heat pumps, thus reducing the need to supplement heating with propane boilers and electric baseboard heat. In 2024, SD64 will be upgrading the remaining HVAC equipment at Salt Spring Elementary, with part of this upgrade to capture the significant heat generated by the District's datacentre and use that to help heat the school during the heating season.

In addition, SD64 has been upgrading the building control systems across the district to allow for greater control over building systems and to ensure that these systems are not active when buildings are not occupied.

SD64 has been working on converting the lighting systems in our buildings to LED from older, less efficient lighting. In the last year, SD64 has converted the School Board Office, the Operations Maintenance building, Fulford Community Elementary and the Saturna Island School to LED lighting.

SD 64 is revising its Long-Term Facilities Plan and Capital Plans to better align with the strategic direction of the district. A key element of the strategic direction is sustainability. Elements of this plan will continue to focus on energy efficiency when upgrading buildings, education of staff and students on energy saving techniques that they can apply in their daily routines, larger focus on passive building retrofits, improved preventative maintenance of existing assets, and other simple, pragmatic techniques for reducing energy consumption.

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

SD 64 is working to converting our fossil fuel fleet to zero emissions vehicles. In the 2022/23 school year, we retired and replaced with electric buses two full sized diesel school buses and purchased a Chevy Bolt to enhance our white fleet. In the 2023/24 school year, we retired an additional full sized diesel bus and replaced one of our white fleet's maintenance vans with a Ford Transit EV van. To date, SD64 is operating five electric vehicles.

In the spring of 2024, we ordered a Type A2 (28 passenger) EV School Bus for a new bus route on Mayne Island and expect delivery in early 2025. SD64 plans to continue replacing diesel buses as they reach end-of-life with EV buses. The next planned replacement is for an aging Type D (84 passenger) bus in the 2025/26 school year.

In early 2024, SD64 commissioned a study to help guide the District in further electrification of the rest of the white fleet. Future plans to support fleet electrification include upgrading the electrical system at the Operations Maintenance building on Salt Spring Island. This will ensure that the infrastructure is in place for the electrification of the fleet over the next 10 years.

## **C. Paper Consumption**

The implementation of printer management software in School District 64 has had a positive impact on paper waste reduction. By monitoring paper usage and encouraging alternative media options, such as projectors, TVs, or digital distribution, the district is working to minimize unnecessary printing. Additionally, the requirement for staff to be physically present when print jobs are completed has reduced abandoned prints that would otherwise contribute to paper waste. Overall, this proactive approach has helped conserve resources and promote environmental sustainability.

To reduce emissions from paper use, District 64 will implement the following strategies:

**Educating Staff:** The district will actively educate staff members on how to avoid unnecessary printing. By promoting digital alternatives and encouraging responsible paper use.

**Monthly Reporting:** District IT track printing and copying totals and will report them to principals monthly. This data helps identify trends, areas for improvement, and opportunities to further reduce paper usage and reduce costs.

### 2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

<b>School District No 64 (Gulf Islands) 2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary</b>	
<b>GHG emissions for the period January 1 - December 31, 2023</b>	
Total BioCO <sub>2</sub>	5.96
Total Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	260
Total Offsets (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	152
<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 to be Retired for 2023 Reporting Year (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	152
Offset Investment (\$)	\$3800

**Retirement of Offsets:**

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands) (**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:**



*May 30, 2024*

---

Signature

Date

Jesse Guy

Secretary Treasurer / CFO

---

Name (please print)

Title

