



COWICHAN VALLEY

School District

2023 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

School District #79 – Cowichan Valley

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

The Cowichan Valley School District continues to work towards reducing its GHG emissions as a long-term contribution to GHG reductions. The focus remains on upgrading to cleaner energy sources, education, awareness, and supporting climate action programs. Severe weather patterns in 2023 have continued to add challenges to managing reduced energy consumption patterns.

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

In 2023, major boiler replacement projects were completed at Bench School, which includes the use of electric heat pumps on older parts of building, with a low temperature boiler as a backup. All lighting upgrades included the most energy efficient light fixtures, and this will continue to be our practice. The ongoing construction of the new Cowichan Secondary School that is replacing the older site, the new school is built to meet and/or exceed current energy efficiency standards in the year of opening and beyond.

An OBS agreement with Honeywell continues and is underway to further optimize the existing mechanical systems which will result in a significant reduction in electricity, natural gas, and fuel oil consumption. The

district continues to do end-to-end reviews of all HVAC DOC systems annually, with plans to update end of life systems in the coming years, with temperature mapping for increased efficiency. Infrastructure for our electric bus fleet is in place to support the replacement of fuel and diesel buses at end of life.

Continuing to support and utilize the use of high-volume eco-friendly wastepaper products in school washrooms and classrooms.

The heating plants for the maintenance shop and bus garage continues to have a large impact on emissions reduction with the conversion to heat pumps.

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

The Transportation Department has mapped bus routes to ensure mileage and fuel consumption rates contribute to operational efficiencies. Despite increased enrollment and ridership, the transportation department maintained existing routes without sacrificing service to learners. Anti-idling software continues to be used in all school buses where after one (1) minute of idling, the bus engine turns off.

The school district currently has 3 electrical buses in its fleet with plans to add more to its fleet; infrastructure was also installed to support future electric buses in the Transportation Yard with plans to expand into the south end of the District. Continuing to monitor the fleets energy and maintenance data, collected for future planning, and reporting purposes. Electric charging stations have been installed, with two additional added in 2023, this infrastructure will support future demands and District goals through fossil fuel reduction.

Clean Fleet Plan: There has been no plan initiated in 2023 for a clean, small fleet due to budget funding constraints.

C. Paper Consumption

We have initiated several short-term and long-term paper reduction strategies as presented below:

- All paper purchased must contain a minimum of 30% content; the actual goal is to purchase 100% sugar cane waste paper whenever possible. The paper purchase default on our order forms is set to purchase only 100% sugar cane waste paper whenever possible.
- We continue to evaluate new sources of low emissions non-forest paper.
- We have an awareness campaign focused on reduced office paper consumption/use.
- Leased printers are proving to be more energy efficient.
- Climate Action Group (CAG) meets occasionally with Local Government agencies and regularly with District Leadership.
- Papercut software was installed on all printers where you must enter a code to receive your print request rather than have it print and go to waste in recycling is demonstrating effectiveness.
- Paperless meetings are held whenever possible, most notably on Zoom/Teams platforms.
- Online Human Resources portal – significant reduction in paper use and distribution.

2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

School District #79 – Cowichan Valley: 2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets

GHG Emissions created in Calendar Year 2023

Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	106
Total BioCO ₂	2231
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	1551
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 (tCO ₂ e) to be Retired for 2022 Reporting Year	1551
Offset Investment (\$25 per tCO ₂ e) [Grand Total Offsets to be Retired x \$25/tCO ₂ e]	38775

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, *School District #79 – Cowichan Valley (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

2A. Climate Risk Management

We have initiated several short- and long-term strategies as presented below.

- For any building upgrades, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions will be considered.
- Energy audits have been performed for the majority of the buildings in the school district.
- DDC remote monitoring to heating and mechanical equipment to quickly respond to issues; upgrades to systems to be more sensitive and accurate and response to temperature forecasts planned in the future.
- The promotion of energy efficiency and climate sustainable practices will continue district wide to align with our strategic plan initiatives and objectives.
- Past extreme weather and emergency climate conditions have prompted more urgent and careful consideration of alternative and eco-friendly energy options (i.e., composting sites at schools and administration sites, solar energy, redesigned bus routes, etc.).
- Attendance at conferences and/or professional development workshops are encouraged to be done virtually where possible and if in person cannot be avoided, a low carbon business travel policy has been adopted.
- Recruitment activities occur online where possible.

2B. Other Sustainability Initiatives

SD79 has pursued 'green' purchasing/procurement standards where doing business with suppliers is considered based on their contribution to the climate rather than solely on the price/availability of their products.

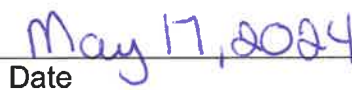
2C. Success Stories

With the implementation of three electric school buses to the District we have begun data collection to identify overall benefit for the District, with monthly audits occurring. With heat pumps installations acting as a primary heating source for the schools, we are realizing reduced costs. This coupled with low temperature boilers is demonstrating a significant influence on carbon emission.

Executive sign-off:



Signature



Date



Name (please print)



Title