

# 2023 CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT



May 2024

School District No. 85

Vancouver Island North

# Climate Change Accountability Report

2023

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On behalf of the Vancouver Island North School District, I am pleased to submit the 2023 Climate Change Accountability Report. This report provides an overview of the steps that the Vancouver Island North School District has taken to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions as well as other environmentally sustainable actions that have been undertaken in the 2023 calendar year.

Environmental sustainability is deeply important to the Vancouver Island North School District. The Board of Education has supported effective practices in environmentally sustainable focused areas such as curriculum, energy conservation, school gardens, sustainable purchasing, green transportation, water conservation and waste management.

2023 presented its own unique challenges when it came to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as the district operated at a normal level for a full year, the first such year since the end of the global COVID-19 pandemic. However, the new ventilation guidelines implemented in 2020, were maintained in schools in 2023, such as windows being left open and air handling units running longer in the day to improve air circulation. Students continue to spend time in outdoor learning environments, increasing the demand for local transportation services. There was a full return to sport tournaments, field trips and extra-curricular activities thereby increasing out-of-district travel and GHG emissions.

We continue to engage both our students and employees, leveraging their knowledge and enthusiasm as we strive for lower GHG emissions. We are undertaking several capital projects to reduce our GHG emissions. Doing so has benefits beyond the environment as it generates both financial savings and social benefits. Our employees are more engaged in working towards sustainability, and the students who will shape our future are more engaged in caring for the world around them.



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**Ms. Christina MacDonald**

**Superintendent of Schools**

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## Declaration Statement

This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emission profile, the total offsets purchased 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.

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The total greenhouse gas emissions for the Vancouver Island North School District for the 2023 school year was 688 tonnes, this is a decrease from the previous years' total of 854 tonnes. 158 tonnes of the total GHG emissions for 2023 are offset exempt as they are bus related emissions which are not included in carbon offset billing.

## Fugitive Emissions

Fugitive emissions are the unintentional emissions from the production, processing, transmission, storage and delivery of fossil fuels and the intentional combustion of fossil fuels not used to generate useful heat or electricity.

The following fugitive emissions are deemed by the British Columbia Provincial Government Carbon Neutral Regulation as out of scope for reporting:

- Gases used for research purposes (e.g. science labs)
- Type R-22 coolant from stationary air conditioning and refrigeration units in schools
- Any emission sources that comprise less than 1% of the District's total GHG's

In scope fugitive emissions (HFCs released to the environment as a result of leaks in cooling equipment) for School District 85 are well below the 1% threshold for reporting and are therefore not included in this report.

## Travel Related Emissions

Under the Carbon Neutral Public Sector commitment, only core government organizations that report through the Consolidated Revenue Fund (e.g. ministries, special offices, tribunals) are required to track and report the emissions from the business travel of public officials. Vancouver Island North School District does not fall within "core government" and therefore does not track travel related emissions.

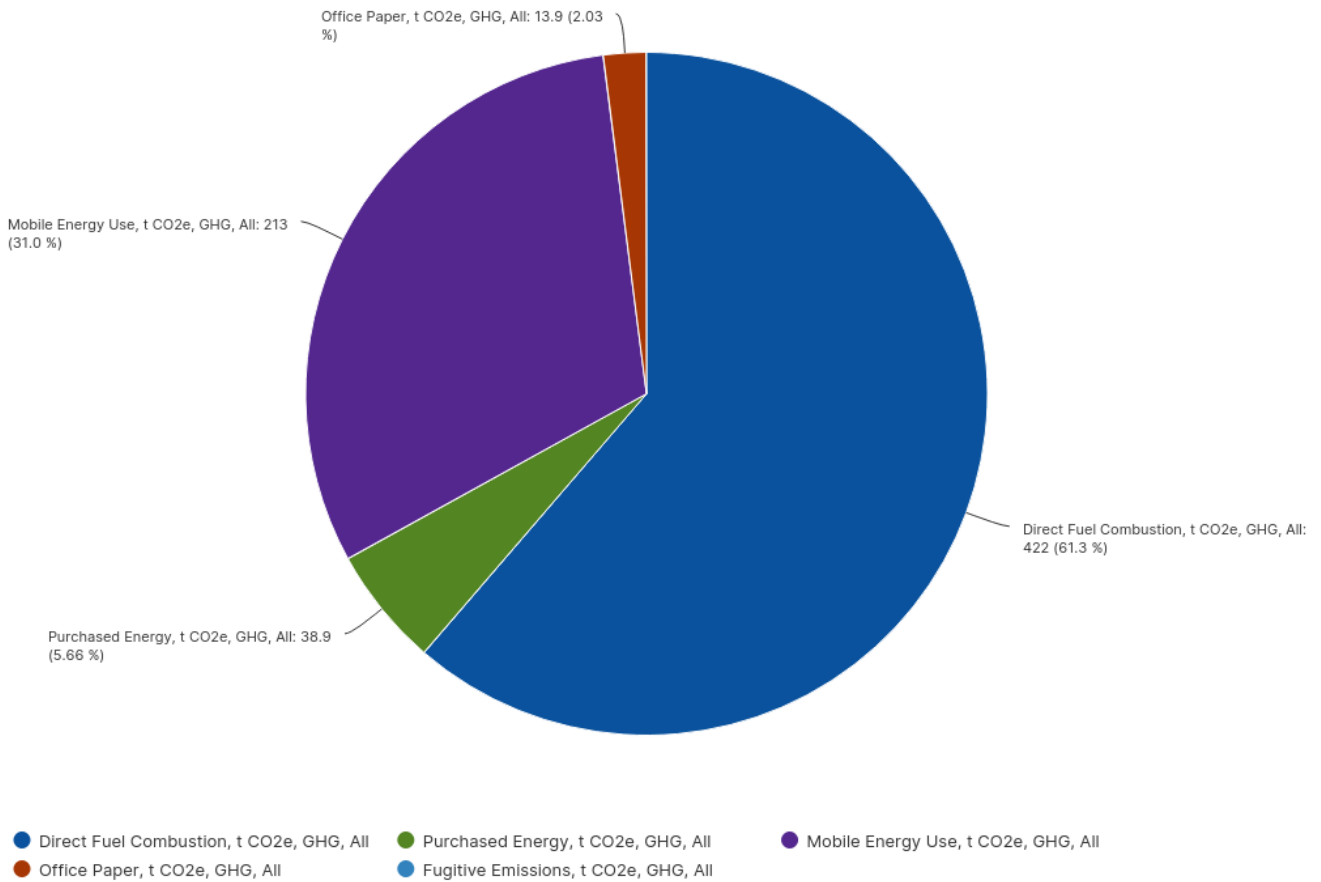
## Offsets Applied to Become Carbon Neutral

In order to achieve carbon neutral status for 2023, the Board of Education of School District No. 85 (Vancouver Island North) purchased carbon offsets totaling 530 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e from the Provincial government in May of 2024 at a cost of \$13,912.50.

# Total GHG Emissions by Activity Data Source (no Biogenic)

		School District 85 - Vancouver Island North
		2023
Direct Fuel Combustion	t CO2e, GHG, All	422
Purchased Energy	t CO2e, GHG, All	38.9
Mobile Energy Use	t CO2e, GHG, All	213
Office Paper	t CO2e, GHG, All	13.9
Fugitive Emissions	t CO2e, GHG, All	

School District 85 - Vancouver Island North, 2023



## Actions Taken to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2023

2023 saw the finish of the process to demolish part of the former Woss Elementary School which has been closed for many years. The building was in need of repairs and as it is no longer operating as a school the size of the building was no longer warranted. After removal of approximately half of the previous square footage new HVAC and hot water systems were installed which eliminated the need for propane at the site. A.J. Elliott Elementary received new windows to replace old single paned ones as well as the start of HVAC upgrades to make the entire building more efficient. North Island Secondary School received a partial re-roof and re-insulation with more planned for the 2024 calendar year.

An emphasis was put on “active” transportation within our District to encourage staff and students to walk or bike to school as much as possible in order to reduce the number of vehicles on the road each day.

Meeting packages continue to be sent electronically to reduce reliance on paper. Recycling is practiced in all District facilities and recycled content purchasing is encouraged whenever possible.

Hydro is used in the School District for both lighting and heating purposes. The total electricity purchased from BC Hydro went from 3,475,055.79 kWh in 2022 to 3,419,671.43 kWh in 2023, a decrease of 55,384.36 kWh. This decrease may be in part due to the switch to more energy efficient HVAC units at Woss Elementary, A.J. Elliott Elementary and Fort Rupert Elementary as well as having had some of our tenants take over their BC Hydro accounts so that they are no longer included in our carbon reporting.

Five of School District 85's properties are heated by propane. 2023 saw a decrease of 46,811 liters, from 354,976 liters in 2022 to 308,165 liters in 2023. This decrease may be in part due to the demolition and renovations of part of the former Woss Elementary School eliminating the reliance on propane at the site altogether, the installation of new heat pumps at A.J. Elliott Elementary as well as propane refunds for product that was in the tanks when they were removed from Woss Elementary.

## Plans to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2024

In 2024 the plan is to continue upgrading our facilities to make them more energy efficient overall. Building envelope upgrades are taking place on an ongoing basis, aging heating, hot water and lighting systems are being replaced with newer and more energy efficient units.

Aging white fleet vehicles will continue to be replaced with more efficient models.

We will continue to educate our staff and students alike on how to be kind to the environment and to do whatever they can to lessen their impact on the world around them through reducing, reusing and recycling whenever possible.

HVAC replacements that were started in 2023 are ongoing in the gymnasiums in Alert Bay Elementary and Sea View Elementary. Cheslakees Elementary will be undergoing updates to its HVAC system in part of the building. Fort Rupert Elementary will be receiving new windows to replace the aging single pane ones currently in place.

### Retirement of Offsets

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, School District No. 85 (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.

Total Offset Required Emissions for Calendar Year 2023	530 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Adjustments to Offset Required Emissions in Prior Years	0 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Grand Total Offsets for 2023 Reporting Year	530 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Price per Tonne	\$25.00
Sub-Total	\$13,250.00
GST @ 5%	\$662.50
<b>TOTAL PAYABLE</b>	<b>\$13,912.50</b>

Executive sign off:



May 28, 2024

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Signature

Date

John Martin

Secretary Treasurer

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Name (please print)

Title