

BC Energy Regulator 2024 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

Title: 2024 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

Organization: BC Energy Regulator

PART 1. Legislative Reporting Requirements

Declaration statement: This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024 summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2024 to minimize our GHG emissions, and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2025 and beyond.

Emission Reductions: Actions & Plans

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

BCER's stationary sources experienced a 4% increase in tCO₂e Greenhouse Gas emissions compared to 2023. This was primarily due to the additional equipment required to remove wildfire smoke from the building in Kelowna. Despite this increase, our commitment to sustainability remains strong, with two (2) of our facilities built to LEED Gold Standards.

Although the BCER is a small emitter, the organization consistently seeks opportunities to reduce emissions further from stationary sources. Key actions include:

- Implementing work-from-home options with an in-office workstation sign-out system to reduce the carbon impact on a growing workforce.
- Investigating incidents of increased energy usage to identify inefficiencies in building systems and prioritize repairs or improvements.
- Prioritizing climate resilience and electric vehicle (EV) readiness in building maintenance and improvements plans, as well as for future office space requirements.
- Continue to explore contractors that incorporate green technologies to reduce embedded emissions in essential repairs or improvements.
- Leasing office spaces that meet LEED Gold Standards.

Through these efforts, BCER remains committed to sustainability and supports the transition to a low-carbon economy.

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

In 2024, BCER advanced our efforts to reduce mobile source emissions by replacing three light-duty gasoline trucks with hybrid vehicles. The BCER is currently unable to transition to zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) in Northern BC office locations due to limited charging infrastructure and challenging winter conditions. Additionally, field staff working in remote areas with diverse seasonal demands rely on gasoline trucks for their proven reliability, ensuring safety during field operations.

BCER continues to actively monitor advancements in energy-efficient vehicle technologies and remains committed to adopting solutions that align with operational needs, budgetary considerations, and environmental goals. This commitment highlights BCER's dedication to sustainability and drive to implement impactful changes in transportation practices.

C. Paper Consumption

BCER's commitment to minimizing paper consumption and reducing our carbon footprint was demonstrated with a 77% reduction paper consumption compared to 2023.

Through these various initiatives BCER aims to transition to a paperless work environment:

- Increasing awareness of printing costs and promoting responsibility usage by displaying the cost per print.
- Defaulting printers to double-sided and black and white printing to decrease paper waste and ink cartridges replacements.
- Requiring authorization to the printer before print jobs are released, allowing users to reconsider the necessity of printing and cancel unnecessary print jobs.
- Providing employees with double monitors for ease in reviewing online documents.
- Utilizing cloud-based records management and online document accessibility, reducing the need for printing and enabling access from any location in Canada.

BCER currently uses 30% recycled paper. Efforts to explore higher percentage have been limited by concerns about print quality. We remain committed to maintaining printer defaults and monitoring usage patterns for data analytics to further reduce paper consumption. These strategies demonstrate BCER's ongoing commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

BC Energy Regulator 2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary	
GHG emissions for the period January 1 - December 31, 2024	
Total BioCO ₂	7.74
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	385
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	377
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	4.58
Grand Total Offsets for the 2024 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2024 Reporting Year (tCO ₂ e)	382
Offset Investment (\$)	\$9,546.32

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, BC Energy Regulator (**the Organization**) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2024 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years (if applicable). The Organization hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions (**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

BCER plays a vital role as a trusted partner of various government entities, including the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions and the Climate Action Secretariat, in facilitating and promoting the energy transition within the province. Despite being classified as a small emitter, BCER actively participates in these initiatives to foster dialogue and advance shared objectives.

2A. Climate Risk Management

Climate risk is a key driver in the BCER risk management framework. Climate risk considerations are embedded in statutory decisions and regulatory oversight activities related to energy resource activities, safety, and responsible environmental practices. For example, changing snowfall and precipitation patterns drive water use authorizations and requirements for in-stream works. A considerable focus is placed on methane emissions reduction management, including emissions monitoring and reporting.

BCER has performed assessments and adjusted operational procedures for field work in the event of extreme climate events to ensure staff safety and continuity of critical processes. By staying vigilant and responsive to climate-related challenges, BCER demonstrates its dedication to sustainable practices and resilience in the face of a diverse provincial geography.

BCER's business continuity management program periodically assesses risks to operations, including risks from extreme weather events. Event scenarios for crisis management and business continuity exercises include climate risk.

2B. Other Sustainability Initiatives

BCER's Three-Year Strategy Plan emphasizes sustainability as a central focus, aligning closely with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the [CleanBC](#) plan. Key Outcomes in the plan target Energy Transition and Emissions Management, as well as Restoration, Stewardship, Environmental Social Governance (ESG) & Cumulative Effects. Provincial legislation in the spring of 2025 is expected to create authority for BCER to regulate energy activities from renewable sources under its one-window lifecycle regulator model. This strategic direction reflects a commitment to both global and local sustainability goals, positioning BCER to contribute meaningfully to environmental stewardship and social responsibility while fostering long-term organizational resilience.

2C. Success Stories

The BCER has taken the approach to consider climate risk in the analysis and assessment of all other risks managed by the organization. For instance, the Occupational Health and Safety Program conducted a number of specialized risk assessments, in which various weather events and their impacts were considered, leading to enhanced procedures for field employee safety. Similarly, the Emergency Management Program, which ensures regulated companies are prepared for an effective response in the case of an operational emergency, requires that Emergency Response Plans include provisions for climate-related events, including equipment, training, exercises, communications and reporting.

As B.C. has experienced a significant drought impacts for the last few years, the BCER water use management program has extensively collaborated with Environment Canada and other provincial and federal flow monitoring agencies to restrict water use for energy resource activities during critical months and in environmentally sensitive areas to protect fish habitat and riparian ecosystems. The data collected and lessons learned to date will be instrumental in effective water management going forward.

Executive Sign-off:



May 7, 2025

Signature

Date

Michelle Carr

Commissioner, CEO BC Energy Regulator

Name (please print)

Title