



2026

Carbon Neutral Action Report

Okanagan College





2025 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

Okanagan College

PART 1. Legislative Reporting Requirements

Declaration Statement:

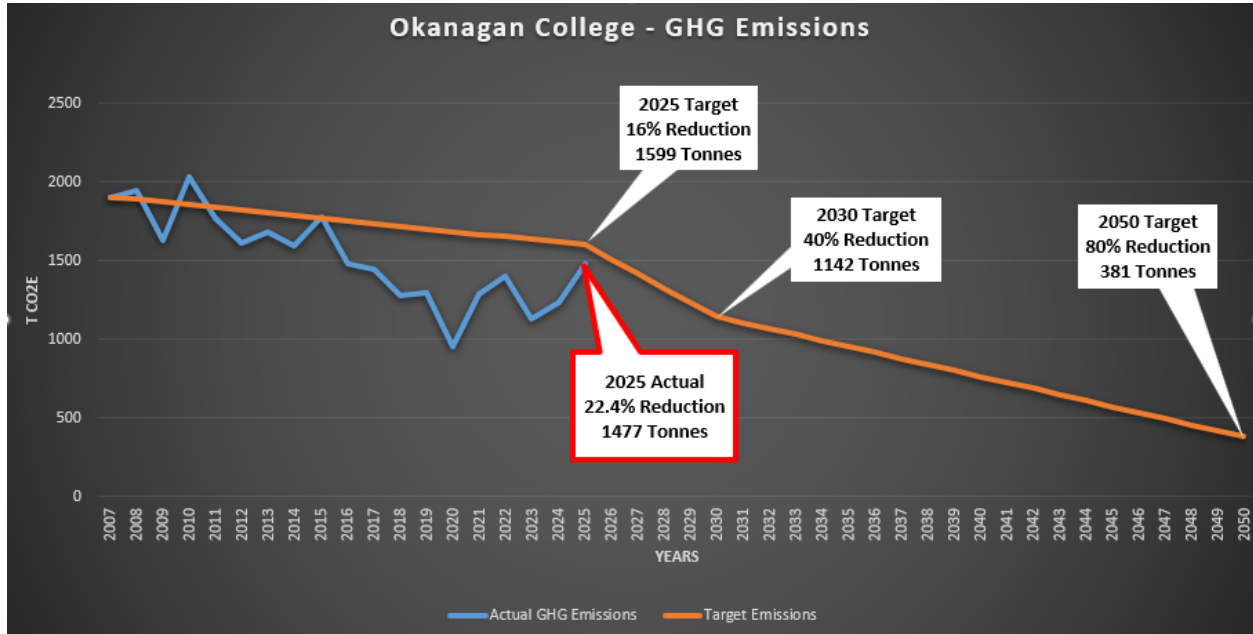
This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2025 to minimize our GHG emissions, and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2026 and beyond.

Overview

Okanagan College continues to develop and enhance its focus on sustainability from the perspective of an organization with responsibility for education, training, and community development.

This perspective continues to have an impact on our overall culture which in turn has fostered a shift in our normal operating practices and habits. Using both technology and active transportation options we are more sustainable in ways such as commuting less, printing less and improving space utilization through flexible office arrangements. Some of these related emission reductions, such as reduced commuting, are not tracked as part of the provincial carbon neutral program but are considered significant climate victories for our community.

The quest for improvement is ongoing. The institution has established a goal to exceed the provincially mandated Bill 44 targets for carbon emissions with an annual carbon emission reduction target of eighty tons per year. Consistently, we had stayed ahead of the provincial target, however with the addition of new buildings (floor area increase: 15,917 m², 19.8%), we are trending more towards matching the provincial target. This illustrates the importance of decarbonizing our existing heating systems wherever possible.



Emissions Reductions: Actions and Plans

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

All the construction projects we engage in provide us with the infrastructure and opportunity to share construction best practices with our students and the communities we serve.

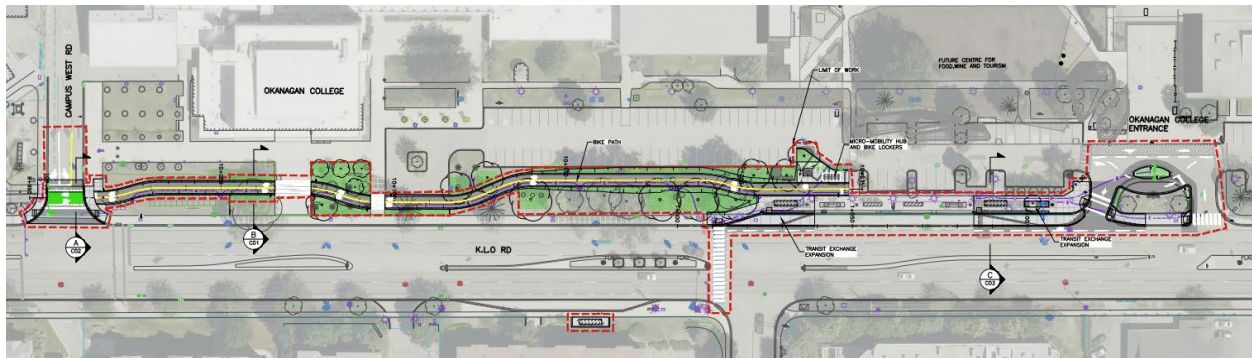
Student Housing Projects - There were two student housing projects under construction in 2025, one in Salmon Arm and the other in Penticton. Salmon Arm opened in January 2025, and the Penticton project is on schedule to be completed by September 2026. Both projects have been built to a Step Code 4 standard as required by the provincial government for all housing projects.

Recreation and Wellness Centre - This project is supported through donations from local supporters including the City of Kelowna. We broke ground in 2025 and are on schedule to be completed by October 2026. The Centre is intended to serve College staff & students as well as the Okanagan community at large. This facility includes a gymnasium and flexible spaces suitable for both competitive and recreational sports, as well as an indoor running track and weight room.





Centre for Food, Wine & Tourism – This project broke ground in the spring of 2025. The building will ultimately support programming in, culinary, business, viticulture, and tourism. Pursuit of sustainability targets includes BC Energy step code 3 as well as the Rick Hansen Gold for Accessibility. This project's design will include a strong integration into the nearby active transportation corridor and also include the expansion of the BC Transit hub directly in front of the building, which will help support our long-term transportation planning and related emissions.



Additional Activities - The College has also received another year of funding from FortisBC to support an Energy Analyst position. This partnership is specifically intended to identify energy reduction opportunities as well as help develop and implement an institutional 'Carbon Zero' action plan. This funding has been in place since December 2022, and the analyst continues to provide us with excellent advice to help us make energy and carbon saving decisions.

Planning also started on a replacement of the heat pumps at the center of our Clearwater Heat Exchange plant that provides the heat for most of the Kelowna Campus. The intent of this replacement is to renew equipment approaching end of life and will also allow us to shift our heating system to use clean-energy heat pumps more often and CO2 producing gas fired boilers less. The replacement is targeted for completion in summer 2027.

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

Fleet Electrification - While Okanagan College did not add any new electric vehicles in 2025, we made operational changes which fostered higher levels of electric fleet utilization by staff and faculty members. The Central Stores intercampus materials delivery system also implemented a 'right-sizing' strategy which saw the larger gas-powered cube van replaced with more carbon friendly vehicles for most trips.

Online Fleet Booking - This system continues to provide value in giving the users easier predictable access to a variety of EV's for intercampus travel, which means more opportunities to 'try-out' electric vehicles, before making their own personal vehicle purchasing decisions. We also continue to participate in the BC EV Alliance Program which is intended to allow our EV charging infrastructure to support province-wide charging services to other provincial agencies.



C. Paper Consumption

Printing – As the College community continues to get more comfortable with the digital data storage and communication mediums, the amount of printed media continues to decline. We are seeing a printing reduction of approximately 50% compared to pre-pandemic levels. This reduction has also compelled the College to close down the on-site print shop and repurpose that space for other activities.

D. Fugitive Sources (e.g., heat pumps, refrigerators, air conditioners)

The College has a limited number of cooling and air conditioning systems using ‘in-scope’ refrigerants. All of our refrigeration work is subcontracted to licensed refrigeration mechanics who follow relevant provincial protocols as well as our need to track any significant leaks. We had no leaks in 2025.

2025 GHG Emissions and Offset Summary Table:

Okanagan College 2025 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary	
GHG emissions for the period January 1 - December 31, 2025	
<i>[See Appendix 1 for instructions on how to access your 2025 emissions data from CGRT. Cells A and B below are identified in Figure 1; cells C and D are identified in Figure 2.]</i>	
Total BioCO ₂	30.8
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	1477
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	1447
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	0
Grand Total Offsets for the 2025 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2025 Reporting Year (tCO ₂ e) <i>[must round to a whole number (no decimal places)]</i>	1447
Offset Investment (\$) <i>[Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2025 Reporting Year x \$25 per tCO₂e]</i>	\$36,175





Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, Okanagan College is responsible for arranging the retirement of the offset obligations reported for the 2025 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years (if applicable). The College hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions, (the Ministry) ensuring that these offsets are retired on the College's behalf, the College 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 Leadership

A. Climate Risk Management

While not as significant as previous years, unusual weather events again factored into our 2025 climate risk management operations.

- Extended hot weather events helped us identify more limitations in cooling systems.
- Limited snowpack in winter 2025 has created the conditions for an active forest fire season in summer 2026. Planning is already underway to ensure we effectively manage indoor air quality.
- Changes in rainfall patterns continue to keep us focused on our stormwater management systems.

Strategic enhancements or replacements for some systems and deeper assessments for others continue to dominate our infrastructure planning.

B. Other Sustainability Initiatives & Success Stories

Carbon Zero Plan - While our overall GHG reduction progress is significant and technically still on target, the Paris Accord and follow-up 2018 report from the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) have illustrated that there is a global need for more ambitious targets. This point is supported by the continuation of unusual weather-related events which seem to be more frequent and more intense. This new reality continues to be the driving force behind the development of our Carbon Zero Plan which will be released in summer 2026.

While the College has historically focused on reducing scope 1 and 2 emissions, tackling significant scope 3 emissions from sources such as commuting, purchasing and waste management cannot be overlooked. Some of the scope 3 groundwork was completed in 2025 with a college-wide



Transportation Study as well as a Trash Audit for the Kelowna campus. The transportation study helped us better understand our commuting patterns and the trash audit shone a light on our purchasing habits. As these two scope 3 vectors contribute significantly more than the scope 1 & 2 emissions we offset through the Provincial Carbon Neutral Government program, we have a strong appreciation for the need to reduce these wherever possible.

The intent of this plan is to understand our complete emissions profile so we can effectively manage and reduce our footprint while ensuring we impart a culture of sustainability into the entire College population and the communities we serve. This plan is also designed to align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS)

September 2025 was the starting point for the 'performance period' for the College's next STARS rating. While we expect to see a significant improvement over our 2023 baseline rating, a drop in enrolment due to various external forces has led to many changes in operational and reporting structures this will likely have an impact on the final results. Regardless, the tracking, reporting and post report evaluation continue to act as powerful tools for fostering continuous improvement.



Executive sign-off:

18 June 2026

Signature

Date

Neil Fassina

President, Okanagan College

Name (please print)

Title