

SFU

2025

# PSO CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

Halpern Centre

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In 2025, SFU recommissioned the Segal Building, achieving annual savings of 151,000 kWh of electricity and 220 GJ of natural gas.

## 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 and data exceptions

In 2025, Simon Fraser University's (SFU) total offsettable GHG emissions were 8,436 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, a 56 per cent reduction from the 2007 baseline, exceeding our Race to Zero Target of 50 per cent by 2025. The total GHG emissions including bioCO<sub>2</sub> were 26,422 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

The Climate Solutions Division, formerly the Climate Action Secretariat, continues to require tracking biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from biomass plants. Therefore, this year's accounting includes SFU's biomass emissions for the second year.

The offsettable emissions include two significant one-time impacts: an extra 1,478 tCO<sub>2</sub>e was due to a significant increase in the emissions factor for BC Hydro electricity impacting most BC PSOs, and an additional 425 tCO<sub>2</sub>e was due to a refrigerant leak from the TASC-2 chiller in 2025.

Separately, a reduction of approximately 60 tCO<sub>2</sub>e was due to the exclusion of the TRIUMF building, which was co-owned by UBC, UVic, and SFU; the building is now an independent entity and therefore out of scope.

GHG reporting for this building was backdated to 2022, by recommendation from the province.

Excluding the biomass portion and the one-time factors, SFU's net emissions of 6,533 tCO<sub>2</sub>e demonstrate a continued downward trend compared to preceding years. The reduction in emissions realized in 2025 is a result of our continued and sustained efforts to optimize energy consumption and transition to renewable sources of energy.

Key milestones and actions taken in 2025 to minimize emissions include:

- Lighting projects on the Burnaby campus led by an SFU co-op student
- Retrofit bag filters in the Sustainable Engineering (SEE) building on the Surrey campus
- Utilizing incentives for recommissioning projects in the Segal building on the downtown campus
- Developing an in-house building recommissioning strategy
- Connecting McTaggart Cowan Hall to the Burnaby Mountain District Energy Utility system
- Overhaul of the Lorne Davies Complex mechanical systems to increase efficiency



### **Emission Reduction: action and plans**

SFU has a 5-year [Strategic Energy Management Plan](#) (SEMP) with emission reduction actions for existing and new buildings throughout all campuses until 2027. A new SEMP is in development throughout 2026. The plan supports the University Energy Utilization Policy (GP 43), SFU's [commitment to the UN Race to Zero Targets](#), and the newly released [2025-2030 Sustainability, Climate, and Resilience Strategy](#) with the following high-level goals:

- Catalyze climate leadership, action, and innovation
- Advance sustainability, resiliency, and well-being in communities, and;
- Engage in protecting and restoring nature through an Indigenous lens

and targets:

- 85 percent GHG emissions reductions by 2030,
- Net zero reductions of direct emissions (Scope 1 and 2) by 2035, and;
- Net zero of all emissions by 2050 (Scope 1, 2, and 3)

SFU will continue to advance energy and carbon reduction from Scopes 1 and 2 through the following strategies, which are the foundations of SFU's SEMP:

- (i) High Performance Building Standards
- (ii) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Projects
- (iii) Low Carbon Electrification
- (iv) Renewable Energy Investment
- (v) District Energy System Infrastructure Upgrade

This report covers the following categories: energy conservation, renewable energy and district energy modernization, and decarbonization studies. This report also highlights SFU's continued efforts in climate resilience, and SFU's new sustainability, climate, and resilience strategy.



The SFU Surrey campus launched a two-year lighting upgrade, expected to save over 378,000 kWh annually by 2027.

## STATIONARY SOURCES

### Energy Conservation

SFU is committed to recommissioning five buildings per year. This ensures safe and proper operation of building systems and achieves energy efficiency.

In 2025, SFU Facilities Services hired a co-op student to identify and implement lighting projects throughout the Burnaby campus. The student successfully initiated and supported two projects to completion: exterior lighting at Bollards and Maggie Benston Center (MBC) and perimeter lights at Facilities and Shell buildings. These projects resulted in over 18,000 kWh savings on behalf of SFU with little to no operational disruptions. The student was also involved in the first phase of a Continuous Optimization program at the Sustainable Energy Engineering (SEE) building. This investigation required a thorough review of the building control system's programming to identify opportunities for improvement. In 2026, these recommendations will be implemented.

At the Surrey campus, SFU initiated a two-year lighting upgrade project for the entire campus; upon completion in 2027, the savings are expected to be over 378,000 kWh per year.

The Surrey campus also introduced retrofit bag filters in the SEE building. The former configuration, built with a traditional multi-stage filtration approach consisting of pre-filters, final filters, and electrostatic components, had served its purpose but was inefficient from both operational and cost management perspectives.

Instead of replacing filters on a quarterly basis, the new system is not only projected to be more efficient but also requires less servicing, only every 18 to 24 months, depending on environmental conditions and system usage. Replacement project work was completed in August 2025. The results have been immediate and impactful: from November 2025 to February 2026, there has been an average of a 13 per cent decrease in year-over-year monthly BC Hydro costs.

The successes and multiple benefits from this pilot project inspired SFU Facilities Services to implement this technology in other buildings, initiating a multi-year project, with multi-year savings and benefits across all campuses. The team plans to publish a case study in the APPA Facilities Management journal in 2026 to showcase the benefits of this project to other communities and organizations.

In 2025, SFU joined the Building Automation System Specialist (BASS) program jointly sponsored by FortisBC and BC Hydro. As part of the program, SFU hired a building automation systems specialist. This role focuses on recommissioning existing buildings, upgrading automation systems, and ensuring optimal operational efficiency.

As part of this program, SFU completed several recommissioning projects including the Segal building at the Vancouver downtown campus. This thorough review and optimization of the 'historic' building for graduate studies equated to annual savings of 151,000 kWh electricity and 220 GJ natural gas per year.



At SFU's Lorne Davies Complex, mechanical systems were fully replaced as part of a multi-phase project, with building envelope upgrades planned for 2026.

## Renewable Energy

SFU's commitment to sustainability and energy management extends to its energy procurement strategies across campuses. As of 2025, SFU has displaced approximately 10 per cent of its natural gas usage on the Burnaby campus with renewable natural gas (RNG). SFU plans to continue to expand its RNG portfolio on the Burnaby campus.

Overall, the renewable energy sources on the Burnaby campus' district energy system have increased to approximately 93 per cent for the period of April 2023 to January 2026. This is largely due to the ongoing system optimization through our partnership with Corix. This equipment optimization was achieved through efforts such as shifting scheduled plant operations earlier and generating heat before demand peaks. This load shift provided sufficient heating without overworking the equipment and without the need to fire up backup boilers. The Corix Burnaby Mountain District Energy Utility plant is a key emissions reduction tool in SFU's journey towards net zero.

At the Surrey campus, the SEE building is connected to the city's district energy system. Since 2021, this facility has been fueled partly by RNG sourced locally from the Surrey Biofuel Facility. SFU continues to develop a strategic partnership with the City of Surrey in its efforts to integrate sewer waste heat recovery into its energy infrastructure.

Similarly, on the Vancouver campus, four buildings are currently powered by steam provided by Creative Energy. In 2025, as an early adopter, SFU signed a letter of support with Creative Energy for its downtown core decarbonization and electrification project. Creative is experiencing a delay in operations; however, SFU continues to support this project.

## District Energy

SFU is committed to enhancing the sustainability of the Burnaby Mountain District Energy Utility (BMDEU) while actively engaging in discussions with Corix to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions associated with biomass utilization. In 2025, the McTaggart Cowan Hall residence building was added to the BMDEU system, successfully converting the living quarters of 200 undergraduate students from natural gas to biomass heating.

Additionally, the Lorne Davies Complex (LDC) mechanical systems were completely replaced in the first of a multi-phase project. Looking ahead, building envelope improvements are currently in the design phase to significantly improve the entire building's efficiency and reduce heat loss, and the pool's mechanical system is also being upgraded in 2026.



## Decarbonization Studies

Several energy studies focusing on conservation and decarbonization were completed in 2025 at the Burnaby and Surrey campuses. SFU is in the process of implementing recommendations. In 2025 the following actions took place:

- SFU completed the first participation in BC Hydro's Integrated Energy Audit (IEA) program, focusing on five high-opportunity buildings: AQ, EDB, RCB, SWH, BLU. In the coming fiscal years, SFU will pursue more granular engineering to design and implement the recommended measures at each of these buildings.
- The gas hot water tank was replaced in Facilities Services with an electric unit, which serves the staff kitchen and bathroom sinks and showers.
- The gas boiler in the Discovery 1 building is in the planning phase to be replaced with an electric unit, per recommendations from the CleanBC study conducted in 2025. Both the Facilities hot water tank and gas boiler replacement to an electric unit eliminate onsite combustion of fossil fuels and use a cleaner source of power, therefore reducing GHG emissions.
- Strand Hall lighting upgrades are in progress throughout 2025 and into 2026.



## MOBILE SOURCES

### Strategies To Reduce Emissions From Mobile Sources

SFU has a decentralized structure for fleet and mobility, with several departments owning and procuring vehicles and motorized equipment. While SFU's fleet may have a small impact on overall GHG emissions, these vehicles are a visible part of SFU's operations and have an impact on local air quality. To align with SFU's 2025-2030 Sustainability, Climate, and Resiliency goals, and CleanBC's [zero emission vehicles \(ZEV\) goals](#), Facilities Services, Parking and Sustainable Mobility Services and Campus Public Safety (CPS) are actively pursuing the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) for their respective fleets.

SFU Facilities is implementing its EV Ready Fleet Plan, developed by Prism Engineering, to support the electrification of a portion of Facilities Services' 63 vehicle fleet through BC Hydro's EV Ready Fleet and Electrical Infrastructure incentive funding programs. In 2025, Facilities Services added two new zero emissions vehicles to their fleet and plan to add two more in 2026.

SFU Parking and Sustainable Mobility services have had a 100 per cent ZEV fleet since 2024 and are proposing 14 additional level two charging ports in 2026. SFU has a leased campus shuttle for community use; it is a low-emissions vehicle powered by natural gas. Once the contract expires for this vehicle, the intention is to require the next shuttle to be a ZEV.

SFU continues to participate in TransLink's Mobility Sub-Committee (NMSC) of the Regional Transportation Advisory Council (RTAC).

SFU continues to work towards its Race to Zero Targets, which includes Scope 3 emissions. Business travel is included in Scope 3. Currently, SFU does not have a policy regarding business travel; however, the university is in the process of developing a new procurement policy and guidelines that will include recommendations for reducing emissions from business travel.

## PAPER EMISSIONS

Paper purchasing at SFU is decentralized; however, the majority of paper use is Sustainable Forestry Initiative (FSC) certified. SFU uses Papercut to track and monitor paper consumption by departments. Document Solutions, SFU's print and digital services department, is committed to sustainable business practices and reducing waste by reducing errors, reusing existing materials where possible, striving to eliminate single-use products, and promoting digital options. The team has worked with suppliers to ensure that their users have the best products possible while reducing their carbon footprint.

## FUGITIVE SOURCES

SFU Facilities Services are responsible for fugitive sources and have service contracts to maintain chillers, avoid leaks, and ensure optimal operations. All leaks are logged and reported. SFU has existing plans to replace R22 refrigerants with low-GWP refrigerants. In 2025, the Maggie Benston chiller was replaced.

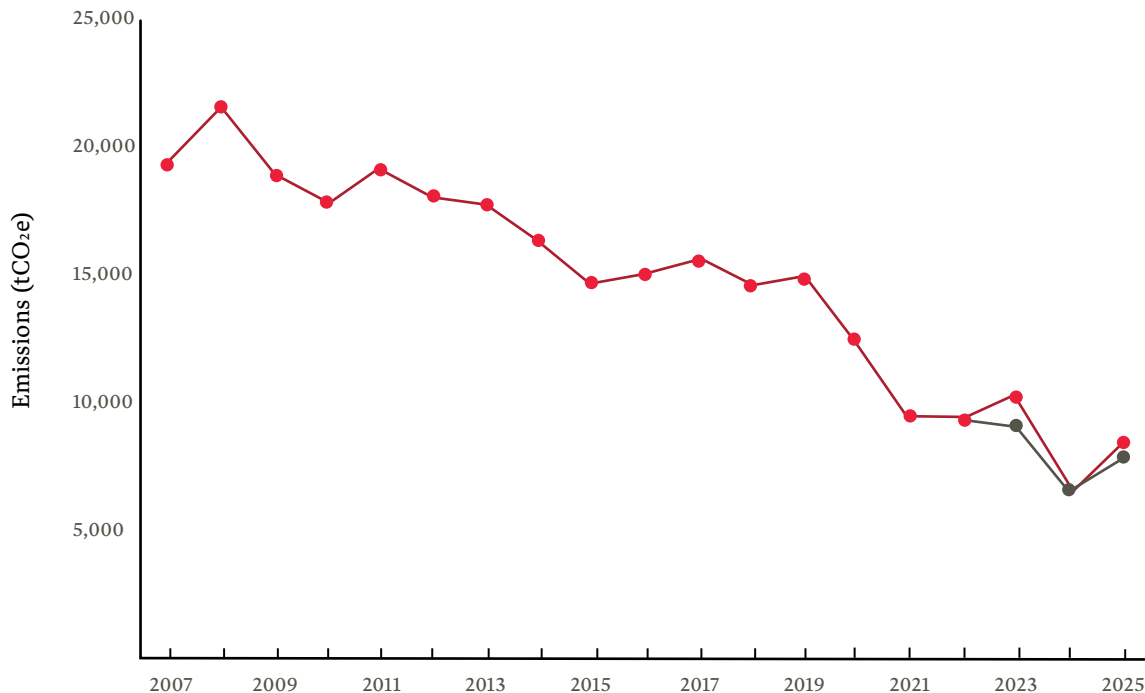
This reduced fugitive sources of emissions by minimizing the escape of gases, requiring less fuel and lowering operating pressure and heat demand, and ensures that the system operates at only the required capacity through advanced controls; the benefits of a new chiller reduce the chance for potential leaks.

## 2025 GHG EMISSIONS AND OFFSETS SUMMARY TABLE

GHG emissions for the period January 1 - December 31, 2025

Total BioCO <sub>2</sub>	17,986
Total Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	26,422
Total offsets (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	8,436
<b>Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years</b>	
Total offsets adjustment (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	-150
<b>Grand total offsets for the 2025 reporting year</b>	
Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2025 Reporting Year (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	8,286
Offset investment (\$)	\$207,150

BioCO<sub>2</sub> is included in Total Emissions but not Total Offsets.



SFU's offsettable GHG emissions 2007 - 2025. The gray line represents what SFU's emissions would have been without refrigerant leaks. The increase in 2025 is largely due to the electricity emissions factor change. Compared to 2007, the campus total building area has also increased by over 30 per cent.



## Retirement Of Offsets

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

## PUBLIC SECTOR CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

### Climate Risk Management

SFU conducted a [Climate Risk Assessment](#) in 2021 specific to SFU's unique, forested, mountain location. The report identified projected climate impacts, SFU's vulnerabilities to these impacts (70 unique risks), assigned risk ratings, and posed 80 potential actions. SFU's Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) framework is made up of 12 cross-cutting themes that include a dedicated Climate Resilience category.

SFU's Safety and Risk Services department provides leadership around climate and emergency risks at the university, including coordinating with internal subject matter experts to manage the risk register and track risk mitigation plans and activities. The SFU Sustainability and Climate Office (SCO) is the assigned institutional lead for tracking and reporting on the Climate Resilience risk theme within the ERM framework.

Throughout 2025, The SFU Sustainability and Climate Office worked with the Vice-President Finance and Administration (VPFA) to verify and assess relevant risks and hazards and actions and began updating the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) to integrate climate resiliency. The actions discussed below were implemented.

### Climate Risk Actions

SFU undertakes numerous processes to manage and respond to its climate risk. 2025 focused on strengthening SFU's partnership with the City of Burnaby and implementing detection systems for extreme weather and wildfire heat in buildings and other climate reliance and emergency programs.

In 2025, SFU:

- Prepared for extreme weather, specifically hot and cold buildings
- Identified risks at the Trans Mountain Expansion project and is building relationships to mitigate those risks
- Hired for a new emergency preparedness role whose portfolio includes climate resiliency and climate risk management
- Partnered with the City of Burnaby to:
  - Implement robust monitoring systems and technology to detect smoke, wildfires, and gas. This work will be completed in 2026;
  - Plan and secure a mass care facility for emergencies on campus, and:
  - Develop an accessible and paved evacuation route off Burnaby Mountain.

## Preparing For Future Climate Impacts

SFU is preparing for future climate impacts through university services, assets, and infrastructure. All new SFU construction must be LEED Gold Certified version five (V5) and BC Building Code (BCBC) step code 4. New buildings using V5 of LEED must undergo a Climate Risk Assessment as a prerequisite. Two buildings that were completed in 2025 (The First People's Gathering House, and the Gibson's Art Gallery) targeted LEED Gold V4 (V5 was not released during the planning and constructions phases). Student housing phase 3 is also targeting LEED Gold V4.

SFU's new buildings planned for 2026 and beyond (the Medical School and Childcare Center) are targeting LEED Gold V5. SFU is also assessing all buildings for earthquake readiness and ensuring that all buildings are earthquake ready.

The temperature of buildings, specifically in classrooms, is a primary concern for service delivery on campus. The Safety and Risk Services department works closely with the registrar's office to assess classroom capacities and prepare for extreme heat and ensure occupant comfort. As noted below, SFU added monitoring systems in 2025 to detect extreme temperatures and prepare buildings for occupant comfort when buildings are affected by severe temperature changes. Safety and Risk Services and Facilities Services work together to [communicate severe weather and heating or cooling conditions](#) to the SFU community.

### Identifying Data And Tools For Decision Making

SFU uses its Climate Risk Assessment to inform climate resilience efforts and operational decisions. The study, completed by consultants, shows that SFU can expect to experience various climate change impacts, including warmer temperatures, increased rainfall, increased extremes, and longer growing seasons.



SFU can also expect an overall increase in temperatures across all seasons. Warmer summers are anticipated with hotter days, more heat waves, longer dry spells and air quality impacts from growing wildfire risk in the province; winter highs and lows will both be warmer.

SFU measures and [reports on GHG emissions](#) using the [GHG protocol](#) developed by the World Resources Institute and The World Business Council for Sustainable Development and tracks its progress using internal tools and data files.

SFU does not currently have a real-time or ongoing tracking method for climate resilience progress.

### Continued Efforts to Manage Climate Risk

Additional efforts to adapt to a changing climate include:

- Faculty and staff contributing to committee work, shared learning opportunities, public and stakeholders' awareness events, and knowledge and research initiatives.
- Disclosing relevant climate risks based on the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures Framework.
- Revised investment policies inclusive of climate risk considerations.
- SFU also has a history of climate adaptation planning, publishing the [Stormwater Management Strategy](#) in 2017, ongoing [Wildfire Management Plans](#), [Emergency Management and Risk Management policies](#), and broader sector leadership such as [Action on Climate Team's Low Carbon Resilience framework](#).

Lastly, added expenses due to climate risk incurred in 2025 included hiring consultants and securing data for operational decisions. No additional equipment expenses were incurred in 2025 to manage climate risk.



## ADDITIONAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES AND SUCCESS STORIES

### Divestment and the launch of SFU’s 2030 Sustainability, Climate and resilience strategy

SFU continues to work diligently to reduce emissions (beyond provincial reporting requirements) in alignment with the UN Race to Zero Campaign which sets the target of reaching absolute net zero by 2050. SFU is on track to meet these goals.

In 2025, SFU reached a [significant milestone](#) to reduce a sizable portion of its Scope 3 emissions – divesting its public equity and fixed income portfolios from fossil fuel investments. As of June 30, 2025, SFU’s total investment portfolios exceeded \$1.2 billion and all assets of SFU endowment and non-endowment investment portfolios that carried direct fossil fuel exposure were transitioned into fossil fuel-free investments. As of March 31, 2025, SFU’s investment holdings show a 74 per cent carbon footprint reduction against the 2016 baseline, representing a nine-year decarbonization journey for SFU’s investment program. The university is updating its responsible investment policy; community consultation occurred in 2025 and will be completed in 2026.

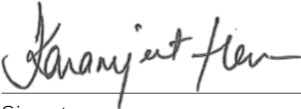
The Sustainability and Climate Office also completed SFU’s [Sustainability, Climate and Resiliency Strategy 2025-2030](#), which establishes the university’s sustainability, climate action, and resiliency priorities for the next five years—providing a roadmap for meaningful progress. Approved by the board in fall 2025, this plan builds on [SFU’s Embedding Sustainability and Climate Action](#) (ESCA) approach in which each Provost and VP is accountable for contributing to achieving the strategy and allows departments to co-lead and design how projects are implemented.



The strategy includes four signature projects that will take place over the next five years. Each project includes stakeholders from across the university and from the communities that SFU serves. These four projects are: clean energy powered communities; utilizing anchor institutions for well-being and resiliency in the Fraser Health region communities; land-based learning and research; and advancing green AI innovations. Additionally, [community-centered climate innovation](#), an SFU research priority, aims to unlock the climate action and innovation potential of communities to respond to the impacts of climate change across Canada and beyond.

The total reduction in emissions resulting from this strategy is in alignment with SFU’s net zero, research, and teaching and learning goals. In conjunction with the new strategy, SFU is developing an evaluation and impact measurement framework to measure the progress of the strategy, intangible risks and benefits, and provide a framework for reporting successes and challenges. SFU also continues to work closely with [student](#) and faculty leaders to advance sustainability and climate efforts across the university in [teaching](#), [learning](#), [research](#), [knowledge mobilization](#), and [community engagement](#).

**EXECUTIVE SIGN-OFF**



May 22, 2026

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Signature

Date

Karamjeet Heer

Interim Vice-President Finance & Administration

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