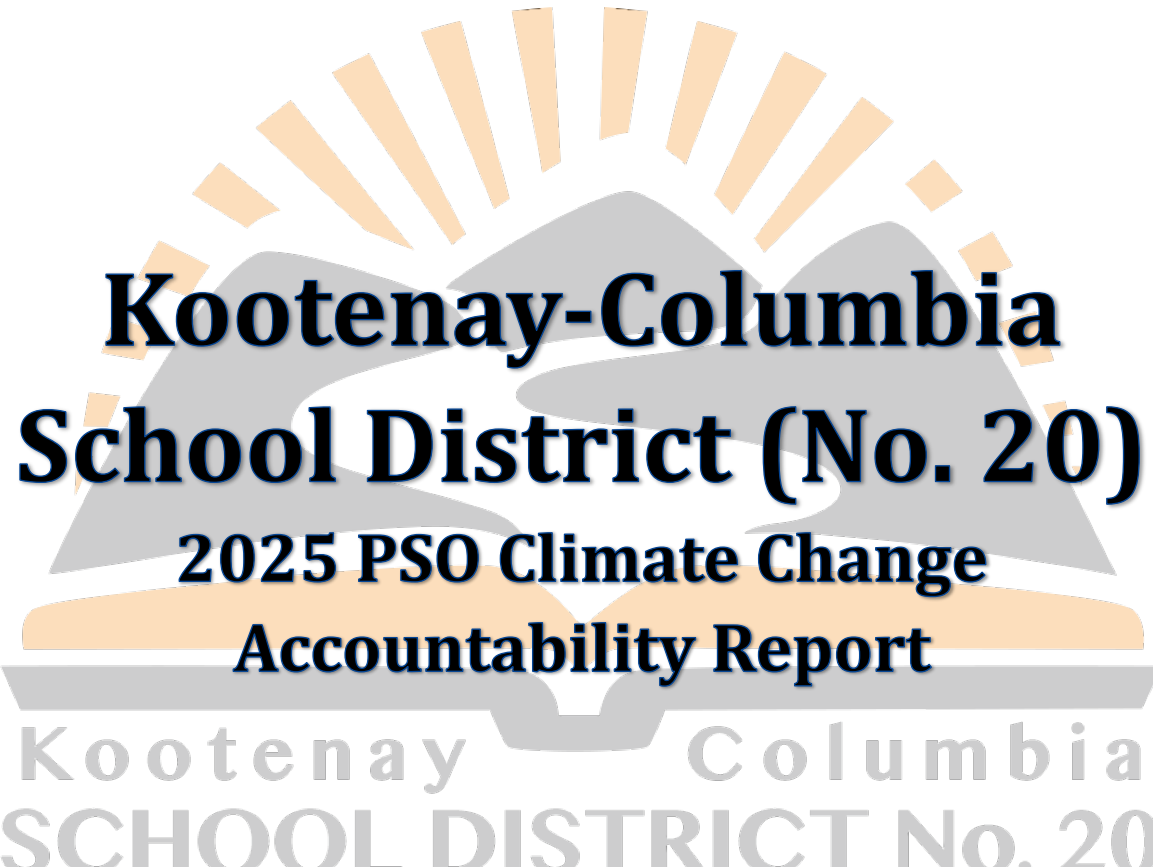




Kootenay-Columbia School District (No. 20)

2025 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

Kootenay — Columbia
SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20

Part One

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 reduce our GHG emissions, and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2026 and beyond.

Emission Reduction Actions and Plans

Stationary Sources

Overall, the district achieved a reduction in emissions from stationary sources. However, some variability remains, with certain buildings showing increased emissions. Efforts will continue to identify and implement strategies to reduce emissions in these facilities.

➤ Actions

In the summer of 2024, we completed the following projects which contributed to reduced carbon emissions for the entire 2025 year:

- Electrical Infrastructure Upgrade at our Castlegar Maintenance site
 - This upgrade increased the number of chargers for electric school buses on the north end of our District and included the installation of a fast charger at the Waneta site (*this enables us to use our electric school buses for charters in between runs because we can quickly recharge the batteries on the bus.*)
- HVAC upgrade at Rossland Summit School
- Direct Digital Control upgrades at Castlegar Primary and Robson Community School which will help to optimize our HVAC units.

In the summer of 2025, we completed the following projects and would have enjoyed the reduction of carbon emissions for the Fall of 2025:

- LED lighting upgrade in the gyms at Fruitvale Elementary and Rossland Summit
- Chiller Replacement at Webster Elementary

Stationary Sources

➤ Plans

While the district continues to make meaningful progress in reducing its overall carbon footprint, increases in stationary emissions were observed at certain sites. Additional work is required to improve data benchmarking and better understand the underlying factors contributing to these increases. Identifying the root causes will enable the development and implementation of targeted strategies to effectively address and reduce emissions at these locations.

Additionally, the district was selected to participate in the School District Energy Management Program, administered by the Capital Management Branch in partnership with Focused Education. Participation in this program will support continued exploration of energy management opportunities as funding permits.

The Minor Capital Program remains the primary mechanism for upgrading major building systems and is critical to achieving meaningful reductions in carbon emissions. Without this program, the district would lack the necessary funding to undertake these essential projects. The Annual Facility Grant continues to support smaller-scale upgrades that also contribute to overall efficiency improvements.

In the summer of 2026, we will be completing the following projects that will contribute to future reductions in carbon emissions:

- HVAC upgrade at Robson Community School
- Upgrade to HVAC units at Castlegar Maintenance Office
- Upgrades to HVAC units at KCLC Trail

Mobile Sources-Actions and Plans

The district's current focus has been on the electrification of its school bus fleet. To date, 10 electric buses have been introduced, resulting in a continued reduction in emissions from mobile sources.

The white fleet remains largely composed of gasoline-powered cargo vans, with the exception of two electric vehicles used for lunch delivery. Through funding received under the Food Infrastructure Program, these delivery vehicles were upgraded to electric models, further contributing to emissions reductions.

Looking ahead, the district will continue to prioritize electrification when replacing vehicles within the white fleet, where financially viable, in order to further reduce its overall carbon footprint.

Paper Consumption-Actions and Plans

The District experienced an increase in paper consumption in 2025. As paper usage is tracked through the PaperCut program, further analysis will be conducted to determine whether this increase is attributable to higher usage or the timing of bulk purchases. Based on these findings, appropriate strategies will be identified and implemented to help mitigate future increases.

Part 2-Public Sector Leadership

Climate Risk Management

To date, our district has not completed a climate risk assessment or made formal plans to prepare for any potential future climate impacts. We are setting up all our Direct Digital Control systems to be ready to switch into 'Wildfire Mode' if required for wildfire smoke.

Other Sustainability Initiatives

The district has been selected to participate in the Energy Management Program, which supports smaller districts without dedicated energy management resources in identifying opportunities to reduce carbon emissions. The results of these energy studies continue to inform the planning and prioritization of capital projects aimed at lowering the district's carbon footprint.

The district will continue to maintain its recycling program; however, due to declining market values for recyclable materials, current service providers have limited collection to paper and cardboard. Plastics, glass, and other materials are no longer accepted as a result of increased processing costs.

At this time, the district does not have additional formal sustainability initiatives in place, such as a low-carbon business travel policy or green procurement standards.

Success Stories

One of the district's most notable achievements in 2025 was the upgrade to the HVAC system at Webster Elementary, which is expected to improve the efficiency of the building's cooling operations. The district also anticipates continued reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through the ongoing electrification of its bus fleet, along with the cumulative benefits of recent building upgrades.

Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

Kootenay Columbia School District (No. 20 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Offsets for 2025 (TCO2E)	
Greenhouse Gas Emissions in calendar year 2025:	
Total BioCO ₂	53.4
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	1,800
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	1,528
Adjustments to GHG Emissions Reported in Previous Years:	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	0
Grand Total Offsets for the 2025 Reporting Year:	
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	1,528
Total Offset Investment	\$38,200

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, the Kootenay-Columbia School District (No. 20) 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). 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.



2025 CNAR prepared by Director of Operations, Heather Simm



2025 CNAR approved by Superintendent, Katherine Shearer