



Central Okanagan
Public Schools
Together We Learn



School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) ("SD23")

2025 PUBLIC SECTOR ORGANIZATION (PSO) CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

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Energy and Sustainability Manager.



PART 1. Legislative Reporting Requirements

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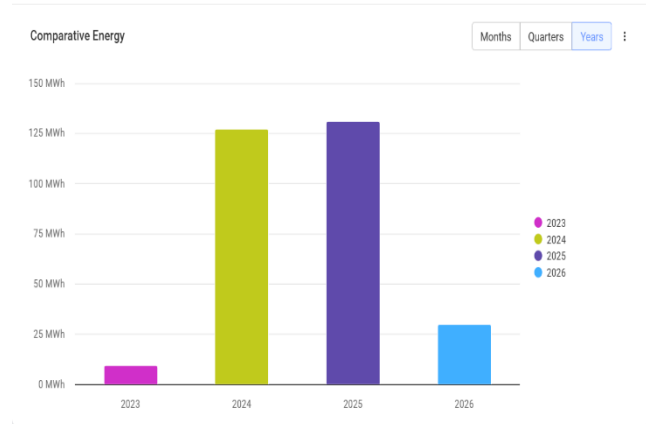


In 2025, SD23 increased the numbers of Electric Charging Stations

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. Plans are in place to continue reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2026.

By June 30, 2026, School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) final 2025 Climate Change Accountability Report will be posted to our website at www.sd23.bc.ca.



École Dr. Knox Middle School – 131 MWh Solar Panel Power consistently working in 2025



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NEWS RELEASE



EOA
EXPO OF AWESOME



CARE
CLIMATE ACTION
RIPPLE EFFECT

YOUTH TAKING ACTION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Central Okanagan Public School learners take over UBC Okanagan for Expo of Awesome

PART 2. Public Sector Leadership

2025 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

SD23 GHG Emissions and Offsets for 2025 (tCO₂e)

BioCO₂ is included in Total Emissions but not Total Offsets. For K-12 and Post-Secondary organizations, and BC Transit, Total Offsets will not equal Total Emissions minus Total BioCO₂ because offset exempt emissions for buses are included within Total Emissions.

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 23 (CENTRAL OKANAGAN) – 2025 GHG EMISSIONS AND OFFSETS SUMMARY	
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	6,507
Total BioCO ₂	187
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	5016
ADJUSTMENTS TO OFFSET REQUIRED GHG EMISSIONS REPORTED IN PRIOR YEARS	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	-410
GRAND TOTAL OFFSETS FOR THE 2025 REPORTING YEAR	
Grand Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e) to be Retired for 2025 Reporting Year	4606
Offset Investment (\$25 per tCO ₂ e)	\$115,150

Total Emissions for Offsets for the 2025 - Reporting Year

SD23 purchased carbon offsets from the Government of BC for the equivalent of 5,016 tonnes of CO₂e to obtain carbon neutral status for 2025.

One hundred eighty-seven tonnes of CO₂e emissions from the combustion of biomass and biomass-based fuels were reported as part of our greenhouse gas emissions profile in 2025.

However, while all CO₂e emissions from these sources must be reported, CO₂ emissions from school buses do not require offsets.

Retirement of Offsets

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, SD23 (the Organization) 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 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.

School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) continues to demonstrate leadership in climate action through ongoing investments in energy efficiency, low-carbon infrastructure, operational sustainability, and climate resilience

planning. The following section highlights key initiatives undertaken in 2025 to support greenhouse gas reduction, environmental stewardship, and adaptation to a changing climate.

2A. Climate Risk Management

School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) continued to strengthen climate resilience planning and operational preparedness throughout 2025 in response to increasing climate-related risks, including extreme heat, wildfire smoke, drought conditions, and severe weather events. SD23 recognizes that climate adaptation and emissions reduction must be integrated into long-term facility planning and operational decision-making.

In 2025, the District continued incorporating climate resilience considerations into capital planning, mechanical system upgrades, and facility renewal projects. Through the Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) three-year capital planning process, SD23 prioritized infrastructure upgrades that improve operational reliability, occupant comfort, indoor air quality, and energy performance under future climate conditions. Projects included rooftop unit replacements, geothermal well upgrades, condensing boiler replacements, roofing renewals, electrical service upgrades, and building automation improvements.

SD23 continued to adapt operational procedures in response to increasing heat events and wildfire smoke impacts experienced across the Okanagan region. Schools implemented enhanced heat response measures during extreme weather events, including adjustments to ventilation scheduling, cooling operations, and occupant comfort strategies. Building operations staff continued to optimize HVAC systems and filtration performance to maintain healthy indoor environments during periods of poor outdoor air quality caused by wildfire smoke.

The District also continued to invest in resilient building systems and low-carbon infrastructure to support both climate adaptation and greenhouse gas reduction goals. Geo-exchange systems remain a central strategy within SD23's long-term decarbonization and resilience planning, helping reduce dependence on fossil fuels while improving long-term operational stability and occupant comfort during extreme weather conditions.

SD23 used multiple climate-related resources and guidance documents to inform planning and operational practices, including:

- BC Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy.
- BC Provincial Heat Alert and Response System (BC HARS).
- Climate Resilience Framework and Standards for Public Sector Buildings.
- Wildfire smoke and indoor air quality guidance for schools and childcare facilities.



Additional expenditures were incurred during the year to address climate-related operational risks, including staff overtime during extreme weather response events, HVAC optimization work, air filtration improvements, hazard tree removals, and preventative maintenance activities intended to reduce service interruptions and improve occupant safety during climate-related events.

Looking ahead to 2026 and beyond, SD23 will continue integrating climate resilience principles into capital planning, building renewal projects, emergency preparedness, and operational practices. The District remains committed to creating safe, healthy, and resilient learning environments capable of adapting to evolving climate conditions while supporting provincial greenhouse gas reduction objectives.

2B. Additional Sustainability Initiatives

School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) continued advancing a broad range of sustainability initiatives in 2025 that support environmental stewardship, operational efficiency, and climate leadership across the District.

SD23 continued promoting low-carbon transportation options through collaboration with municipal and regional partners. The District supported active transportation, carpooling, public transit, and electric vehicle adoption where

operationally feasible. Additional electric vehicle charging infrastructure was added to support the transition toward electric fleet operations and electric school buses.

Waste reduction and diversion programs remained active across District facilities and schools. Recycling, cardboard diversion, battery recycling, and composting initiatives continued to reduce waste sent to landfill while supporting student and staff environmental awareness. Schools also continued efforts to reduce single-use products and encourage sustainable purchasing practices.

The District continued integrating sustainable procurement considerations into operational planning and capital projects where feasible. Energy-efficient equipment, LED lighting systems, low-emission HVAC technologies, and environmentally responsible materials were prioritized in many renewal and replacement projects.

Water conservation measures continued through plumbing fixture upgrades, irrigation improvements, and ongoing monitoring of facility water consumption. Preventative maintenance and system optimization activities supported reductions in unnecessary water use across District operations.

SD23 also continued providing climate engagement and sustainability education opportunities for students and staff. Sustainability initiatives, energy conservation awareness, recycling programs, and environmental stewardship activities remained integrated within school operations and learning environments. The District recognizes the important role schools play in fostering climate literacy and environmental responsibility among students.

Climate change considerations continued to inform long-term facility planning, energy management strategies, and capital investment decisions. SD23 remains committed to aligning operational planning with provincial climate objectives while maintaining safe, inclusive, and resilient educational environments.

2C. Success Stories

One of SD23's most significant climate leadership successes in 2025 was the continued advancement of geo-exchange and high-efficiency mechanical system projects across District facilities. These projects support substantial long-term greenhouse gas reductions while improving energy efficiency, occupant comfort, and operational reliability.

In particular, ongoing geothermal and mechanical optimization work at École Okanagan Mission Secondary School and multiple high-efficiency boiler replacement projects are expected to significantly reduce natural gas consumption and long-term emissions intensity across the District's building portfolio. Additional investments in building automation upgrades and HVAC optimization continued improving system performance and reducing unnecessary energy consumption.

SD23 also continued expanding renewable energy generation capacity through planned solar photovoltaic installations at several schools, building upon the success of previous solar projects, including the École Dr. Knox Middle School solar installation. These initiatives contribute to long-term reductions in grid electricity demand and operational carbon emissions while providing educational opportunities related to renewable energy and sustainability.

Another important success in 2025 was the continued expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure supporting the District's transition toward electric school buses and low-carbon transportation. The installation of additional DC fast chargers strengthens SD23's long-term clean fleet strategy and supports provincial transportation decarbonization goals.

Beyond emissions reductions, these initiatives provide multiple co-benefits, including:

- Reduced utility and operational costs.
- Improved building comfort and indoor environmental quality.
- Increased resilience during extreme weather conditions.
- Reduced maintenance requirements.
- Enhanced educational opportunities related to sustainability and climate action.

SD23 remains committed to continuous improvement in energy management, climate resilience, and environmental stewardship while supporting healthy, future-ready learning environments for students and staff across the Central Okanagan.

Executive Summary

May 28, 2026



School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) respectfully acknowledges and honours the unceded Traditional Territory and the enduring stewardship of the Okanagan (Syilx) People and the Westbank First Nation. We are grateful for the opportunity to live, learn, and work on these lands, and we recognize the important responsibility we share in supporting a sustainable future for generations to come.

As a public education institution, SD23 remains committed to creating safe, inclusive, and inspiring learning environments that positively impact students, staff, families, and the broader community. This work is strengthened through meaningful collaboration with community organizations, health authorities, provincial ministries, municipal governments, Indigenous partners, and many others who continue to support our educational and environmental goals.

As part of our responsibilities under the Climate Change Accountability Act and our ongoing commitment to the CleanBC Plan, SD23 continues to integrate sustainability, energy efficiency, and climate resilience into daily operations and long-term planning.

We are proud to report that in 2025, School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) achieved carbon neutrality for the 16th consecutive year. This milestone reflects the collective efforts of staff, students, leadership teams, operational personnel, and community partners who continue to support energy conservation, emissions reduction, and responsible stewardship of public resources. Through continued investment in British Columbia-based carbon reduction projects administered through the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions, SD23 successfully offset all remaining greenhouse gas emissions for the reporting year.

As we reflect on 2025, we recognize the increasing impacts of climate change across British Columbia, including prolonged wildfire seasons, extreme heat events, drought conditions, and severe weather impacts. These challenges continue to reinforce the importance of resilient infrastructure, adaptive planning, and strong community partnerships. We extend sincere appreciation to District staff for their ongoing dedication, professionalism, and care in supporting students and families throughout these evolving challenges. Their efforts to maintain safe and supportive learning environments are deeply valued.

SD23 remains committed to advancing climate leadership through energy-efficient building upgrades, renewable energy initiatives, fleet decarbonization, sustainable operations, and environmental learning opportunities for students. We are equally grateful for the continued support and engagement of our Board of Education, municipal and provincial partners, contractors, consultants, school communities, and students who help advance this important work.

This 2025 Climate Change Accountability Report highlights the actions undertaken by SD23 during the reporting year to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, maintain carbon neutrality, and strengthen climate resilience across the District. Above all, it reflects our gratitude for the collective efforts of the many individuals and organizations contributing toward a low-carbon, sustainable, and resilient future for public education in the Central Okanagan.

Executive Sign-Off:



Delta Carmichael, CPA CA
Secretary Treasurer/CFO