



Climate Change Accountability Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines School District No. 43's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, offset purchases, and climate action initiatives for the 2025 calendar year.

The district continues to align with BC's Climate Action Legislation and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act. Climate education and energy conservation are integrated into daily practices, reflecting our commitment to environmental sustainability.

In 2025, SD43 sustained a culture of carbon awareness through infrastructure upgrades, behavior-based programs, and the approval of a Low Carbon Sustainability Action Plan. Our annual goal of a 3% reduction in energy use has helped cut GHG emissions by 39.45% since 2010.

Highlights of the year include:

- Lighting and HVAC upgrades, boiler replacements, RTUs, DHW and DDC upgrades.
- Ongoing expansion of EV infrastructure, with 4 chargers supporting users from two schools.
- Ongoing efforts to reduce paper use and switch to Sugar Sheet paper, made from sugarcane byproduct.

The district will continue advancing sustainability through education, operational efficiencies, and leadership in climate action.

PART 1: LEGISLATIVE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

DECLARATION STATEMENT

This SD43's Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2025, to December 31st, 2025, summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken during this year to minimize our GHG emissions, and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2026 and beyond.

EMISSION REDUCTIONS: ACTIONS & PLANS

Since 2010, SD43 has partnered with BC Hydro as a Power Smart Partner, employing an Energy Manager through the Energy Manager Program. The district also participates in FortisBC's Energy Specialist Program, enhancing the depth and effectiveness of our Energy Management portfolio.

Our Energy Management team works closely with the Facilities department to implement a variety of carbon reduction initiatives, including lighting retrofits, HVAC upgrades, DDC (Direct Digital Controls) improvements, building energy assessments, and energy-efficient designs for new construction and renovations. In addition, the team engages staff and students in behavioral and educational programs to strengthen sustainability awareness and promote climate-friendly practices.

STATIONARY SOURCES

Mechanical

Aging infrastructure presents ongoing challenges as components such as boilers, water heaters, ventilators, DDC systems and air handling units required replacement. SD43 addressed these needs through continuous upgrades, coordinated with Capital Projects to align with the district's sustainability goals. In 2025, the following key upgrades were completed:

Como Lake Middle School

Phase 1: Heating Plant Upgrade

Replacement of 2 aging mid efficient boilers with high efficiency condensing boilers, new piping and pumps with VFDs.
Replacement of heating plant pneumatic controls with DDC system.

New chemical treatment and make up water station.



Baker Drive Elementary School

Heating Plant Upgrade

Replacement of existing boilers with three new IBC wall mounted boilers.
Replacement of the existing distribution pumps with new circulation pumps with integrated VFD's.



Central Elementary School

Phase 5: Heating Plant Upgrade

Replacement of Gym furnace with split system air source heat pump with gas back up.
Upgrade Admin area radiant panel heaters to RTU with gas pack up.



Hillcrest Middle School

Phase 2: Heating Plant Upgrade

Upgrade Multipurpose room RTU to heat pump with gas back up
Upgrade remaining Gym gas fired AHU to hydronic AHU.
Replacement of 8 exhaust fans and addition of two destratification ceiling fans to Gym.



Citadel Middle – Meadowbrook Elementary – Harbour View Elementary – Riverside Secondary

DHW Upgrade

- 2 Naviens and 1 storage tank at Citadel
- 2 Naviens at Meadowbrook
- 4 Naviens and 1 storage tank at Riverside
- 2 Naviens at Harbour View



Electrical

During 2025, SD43 converted 4 schools over from primarily fluorescent lights to LED lighting. These conversions are expected to reduce our electrical use by 381,000 kWh annually.

Site	Expected Annual Saving kWh
Pitt River Mid.	96,000
Centennial Sec.	160,000
James Park El.	75,000
Coquitlam River El.	50,000
	381,000

These LED conversion projects included new controls and occupancy sensors for rooms and hallways to further increase kWh savings. In line with our District's strategic goals, we are also transitioning learning spaces to dimmable LED lights where possible, with controls to provide a better learning environment that can adapt to the needs of teachers and students.

MOBILE SOURCES

SD43 has taken a proactive approach towards reducing emissions by providing our staff and students with an extensive EV charging infrastructure. We now have a total of 66 EV chargers at 13 sites. These EV chargers are available exclusively to our staff and students. At this time, we have 200 staff and students registered to charge their EVs.



Our staff and students used 78,531 kWh in 2025 to charge their EVs at our stations. This equates to approx. 63.19 Ton CO₂ eq of GHG savings. For this we generated approximately 50 carbon credits which have been added to the 55 credits generated in 2024. We hope to sell these credits in 2026 and use the funds for further charging infrastructure investment.

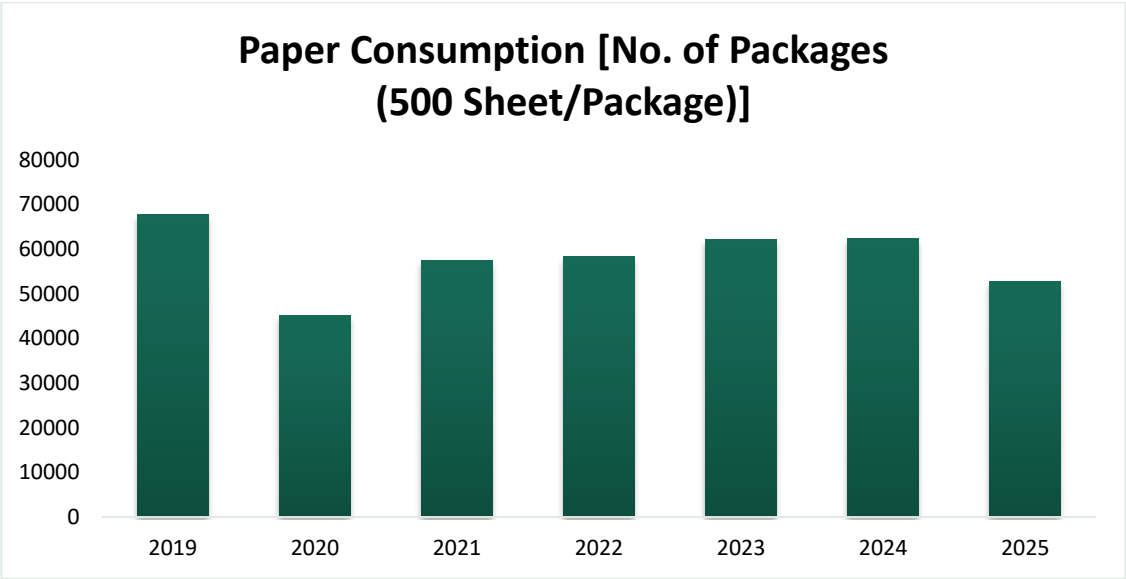
Our district is fully committed to transitioning its fleet to 100% electric vehicles. However, the availability of practical and suitable options continues to be a challenge. In 2024, SD43 added four fully electric vehicles and three hybrids to its fleet. In 2025, we developed an EV Fleet Plan to outline the best path for electrification, support future purchasing decisions, and guide strategic vehicle selection and fleet decarbonization efforts.

As a next step, the district will begin upgrades at the Maintenance Yard to support the EV charging infrastructure required to implement this plan.

Finally, we are continuing to add “NO IDLING” signs across the district to encourage parents and employees not to run their cars when waiting.

PAPER CONSUMPTION

Coquitlam School District remains committed to reducing paper use and its associated GHG emissions. We continue to collaborate with teachers and administrators to promote paperless practices, such as adopting digital signatures and setting double-sided printing as the default across all printers. Additionally, offices are equipped with “good on one side” paper trays to encourage reuse and minimize waste.



In 2025 the district was focused on transitioning to digital formats and defaulting printers to double-sided printing. Additionally, it’s working on standardizing on a more sustainable core paper list (higher recycled content). During 2025, the district sampled Sugar Sheet paper to ensure it was compatible with equipment. As there have been no issues, the district plans to include Sugar Sheet in its paper selection to all schools in 2026. This will be part of the measurable sustainable actions of the Low Carbon Sustainable Action Plan approved in November 2025.

2025 GHG EMISSIONS AND OFFSETS SUMMARY TABLE

An offset summary of GHG Emissions of our district for 2025 is tabulated below:

SD43 2025 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary	
GHG emissions for the period January 1 - December 31, 2025	
Total BioCO ₂	179
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	7191
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	7012
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	40.9
Grand Total Offsets for the 2025 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2025 Reporting Year (tCO ₂ e)	7053
Offset Investment (\$)	\$176,325

RETIREMENT OF OFFSETS

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, School District No. 43 Coquitlam (**the Organization**) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offset's obligation reported above for the 2024 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years. 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 ton of offsets retired on its behalf plus GST.

PART 2: PUBLIC SECTOR CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

As a signatory to the climate action charter, SD 43 is committed to supporting continued planning for emission reduction and climate change adaptation initiatives across its operated schools. As part of this commitment, SD 43 has undertaken several initiatives mentioned below:

2A. CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT

Coquitlam School District (SD43) recognizes the risks posed by climate change and has initiated a comprehensive approach to reducing emissions. In 2023, we began developing a Low Carbon Sustainability Action Plan (LCSAP). This was adopted by our Board of Education in the Winter of 2025 with implementation beginning over the 2026/27 school year. This plan aims to embed sustainability into every aspect of the district, from new construction and capital upgrades to maintenance, procurement, and education.

SD43's commitment is further reinforced by Administrative Procedure 547: Energy and Resource Conservation, which guides responsible resource use in daily operations, including energy, water, fuel, and paper. These efforts not only reduce environmental impacts but also support the financial sustainability of District operations.

As a signatory to the Climate Action Charter, SD43 is mandated to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. To meet this goal, we collaborated with BC Hydro and FortisBC on various energy and carbon reduction initiatives. Our annual Strategic Energy Management Plan (SEMP), submitted to BC Hydro, outlines ongoing projects and timelines to ensure we stay accountable to our emission reduction targets.

2B: OTHER SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

The SD43 energy management and sustainability team continues to develop and maintain sustainability initiatives to engage staff and students across the district. These initiatives are listed below:

1. District Sustainability Leadership (DSL) and Student Sustainability Council:

We continue to grow and strengthen sustainability programs across all schools. Monthly meetings are held with secondary students who are passionate about environmental issues and eager to support green initiatives within their schools and the wider community. Together with staff, these students actively participate in programs such as the Earth Day Eco Week Challenge, Holiday Shutdown campaigns, tree planting, garden clubs, and bike schools.



2. Garden Clubs:



Connecting students with nature and highlighting the value of plants and trees is a key focus for SD43. We support this by providing trees for outdoor learning spaces and shade, as well as supplying herbs and vegetables to over 45 active garden clubs across the district.

3. Holiday Shutdown



Before each major school break—Winter, Spring, and Summer—SD43 runs a Holiday Shutdown campaign to reduce energy use. Staff and students are encouraged to unplug or power down all equipment, including lights, projectors, and small appliances. Schools with the highest participation are recognized and rewarded. This initiative has become a regular and impactful part of our sustainability efforts.

4. Energy Wire Newsletter:

We publish a monthly newsletter called “Energy Wire” to highlight sustainability initiatives that are going on at our schools. These newsletters are published every month during the regular school months from September through to June. We have now published our 46 monthly Energy Wire Newsletter.

5. Clothing Swap Event:



We had the opportunity to work with our DSL team in an outstanding event filled with energy as students, parents and staff came together from all over our district to share, swap and celebrate. 7 of our Secondary Schools, collected over 200 bags—about 3,000 clothing items. The remaining clothing items were donated to Big Brothers.

2C: SUCCESS STORIES

Coast Salish Elementary in Coquitlam has made history as British Columbia's first net-zero energy school. This groundbreaking achievement is the result of a collaboration between School District 43, the Province of B.C. and BC Hydro.

The school is designed to produce as much energy as it consumes annually, thanks to features like high-efficiency heat pumps, LED lighting, and a rooftop solar array. These innovations not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also serve as a living classroom, inspiring students to engage with sustainability firsthand.

This milestone reflects a shared commitment to environmental stewardship and sets a new standard for sustainable education in our province.



EXECUTIVE SIGN-OFF

Signature

Date

April 28, 2020



Ivano Cecchini

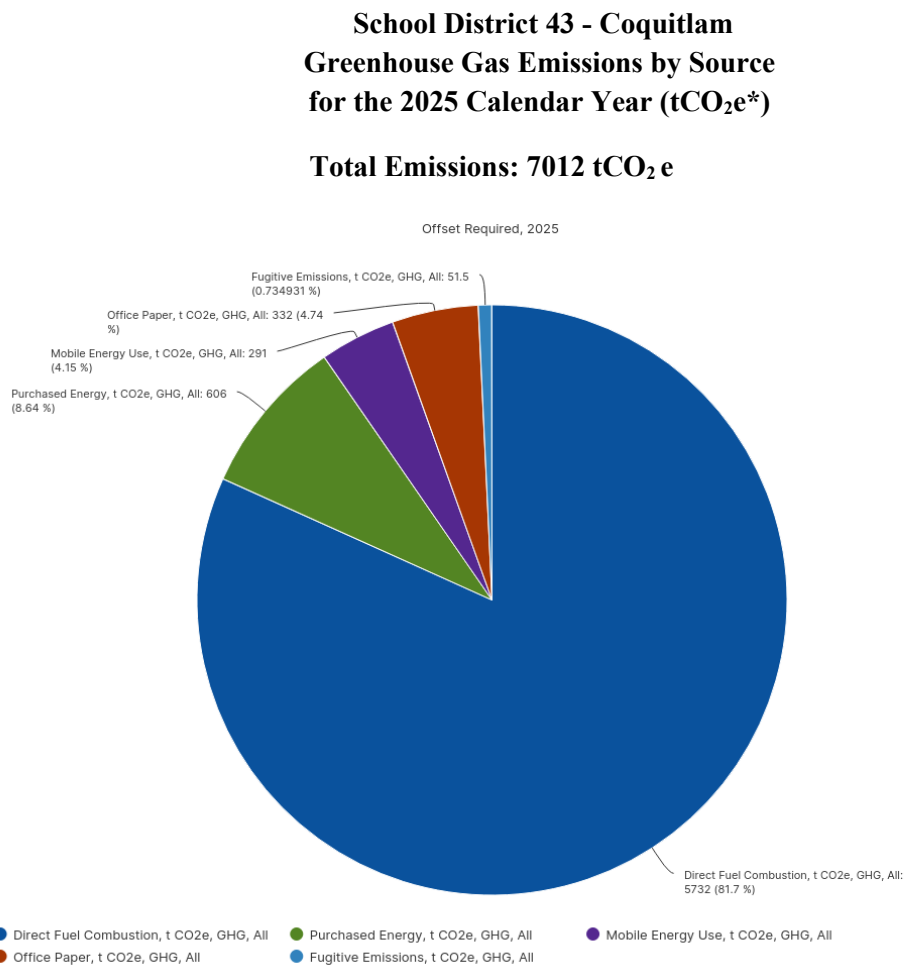
Title: Executive Director Facilities

*Signature by a senior official such as CEO, COO, Secretary-Treasurer, or Superintendent

APPENDIX

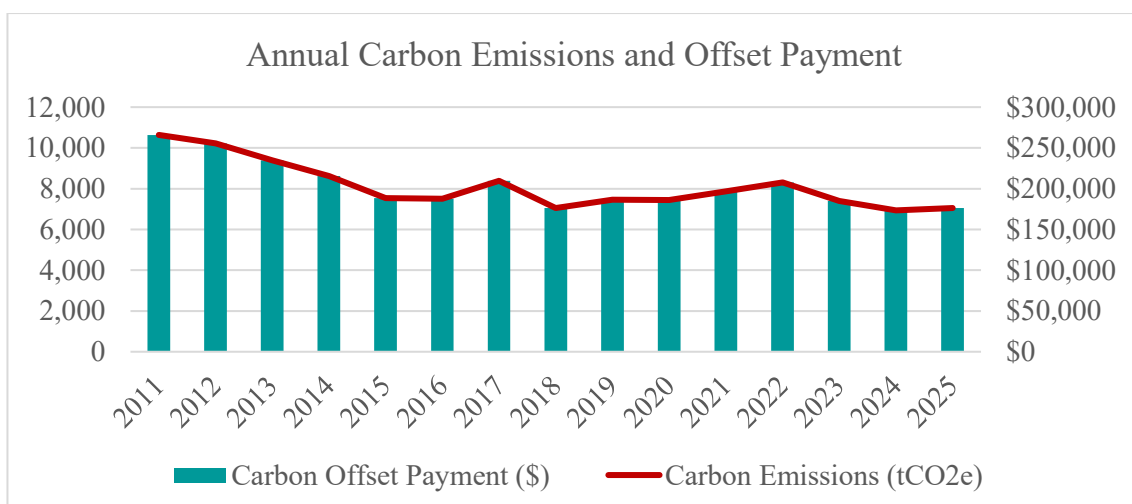
A. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS SOURCE BREAKDOWN

The chart below shows the breakdown of Greenhouse Gas Emissions by source in 2025 at SD43.



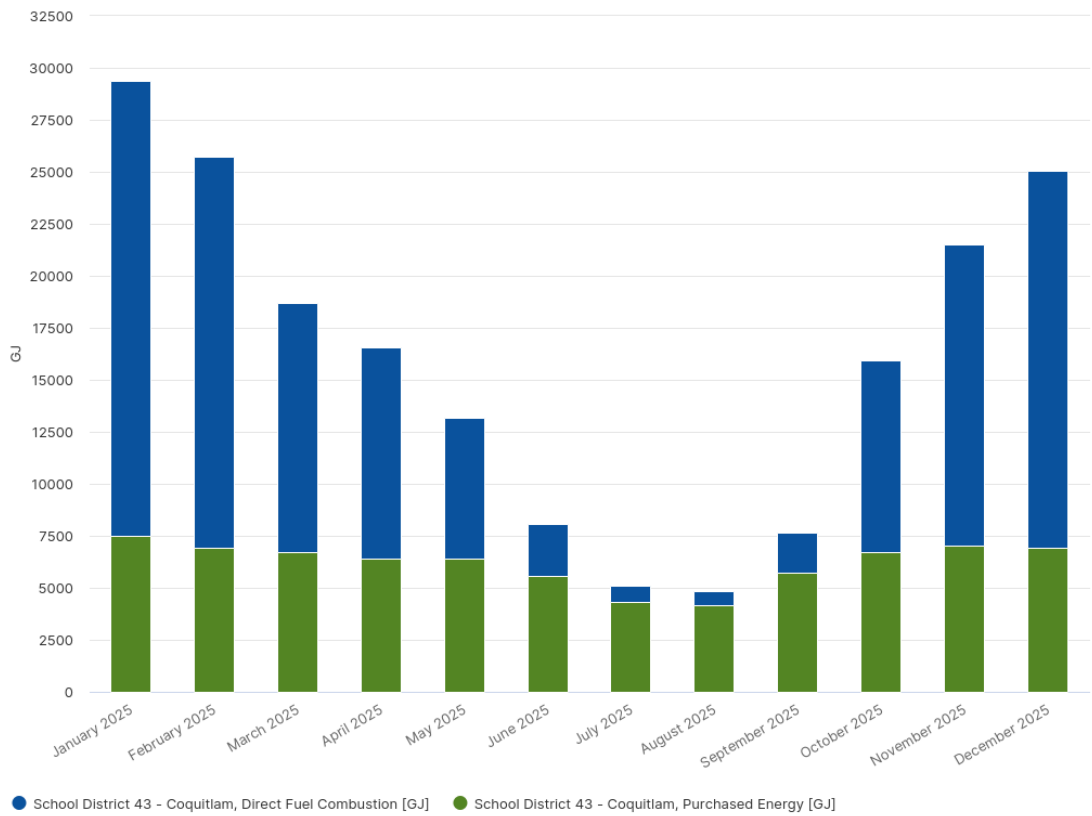
B. ANNUAL EMISSIONS AND OFFSETS YEAR OVER YEAR

The chart below shows the annual carbon emissions by the district and offset payments made.



C. STATIONARY ENERGY USE BY MONTH, 2025

The chart below shows the monthly gas and electricity consumption.



D. STATION ENERGY USE TREND, 2025

The chart below is the trend of gas and electricity used from 2017 through 2025.

