

WEST VANCOUVER SCHOOLS 2025 PSO CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

Title: 2025 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

Organization: West Vancouver Schools (School District 45)

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.

Emission Reductions: Actions & Plans

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

West Vancouver Schools' 2025 capital projects included HVAC system installations that have significant impacts on the school district's energy consumption.

- **New Childcare Centre.** In 2025, West Vancouver Schools completed construction of a new 10,000 sq ft childcare facility under the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund. The building was designed from the ground up with long-term emissions reduction in mind. It operates entirely on electricity, using air source heat pumps for both heating and cooling, and is fitted with low-energy LED lighting throughout. High-efficiency vinyl windows were selected to further minimize energy loss, while generous overhangs on several sides of the building provide shade and contribute to the overall efficiency of the structure.
- **HVAC System Installations.** West Vancouver Schools continues to investigate and plan for future HVAC ventilation system installations. This includes working with school district mechanical engineers to design systems that include boilers, air handling units and unit ventilators that are highly efficient models.
- **Direct Digital Controls.** West Vancouver Schools continues to enhance integration of Direct Digital Controls (DDC) into all mechanical, electrical and building systems. This includes installing DDC systems as a part of all new mechanical installations. Also, the school district aims to include lighting controls and building access controls into the DDC system as much as possible to ensure energy consumption is reduced by lights working on schedules and doors being closed automatically when not in use.

- **HVAC Device Audits.** In November 2022, a mechanical consultant was commissioned to conduct an audit of all the HVAC devices in the district's facilities. The assessment included items such as dampers, sensors, and other controls, to verify if these devices performed as intended. Whenever maintenance work is completed in the school district, HVAC service contractors always refer to the device audits to inquire if changes could be implemented to increase efficiencies.
- **HVAC System Studies.** In consultation with contracted mechanical engineers, the school district is exploring the feasibility of gas absorption heat pumps and dual fuel heat pumps for heating. The prospect of using this technology as an alternative heating method for our facilities is exciting as they are much more efficient (over 100%) than common boilers, including condensing boilers. These gas absorption heat pumps are an interesting prospect for the school district as many of our school sites do not have enough electrical capacity to install electric heat pumps. Fortis BC is offering considerable rebates for feasibility studies; West Vancouver Schools will look to pilot this initiative as funding becomes available.

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

Clean Fleet Plan

West Vancouver Schools operates a modest vehicle fleet and does not have a formal Clean Fleet Plan in place. As noted in the previous year's report, the Facilities department's operational needs typically require vehicles with heavy cargo capacities — a category where electric options have remained limited. While fiscal constraints currently preclude fleet replacement, the possibility of transitioning to electric vehicles has not been set aside. One near-term opportunity being considered is replacing a gas-powered van used by either the district locksmith or grounds crew, where the lighter payload requirements would be well-suited to an available electric model.

A BC Hydro voltage conversion project at Sentinel Secondary, which began in 2023, was completed in early 2024. Working alongside its electrical consultant, the district took the opportunity to build capacity for up to ten EV chargers into the school's upgraded infrastructure — a forward-looking measure that positions the site for future installation when the time is right.

A comparable voltage conversion is currently underway at West Vancouver Secondary. This upgrade will similarly expand the school's electrical capacity and open the door to EV charging infrastructure down the line.

Finally, the district continues to reduce the frequency of supply runs and inter-office mail deliveries by consolidating shipments and coordinating scheduling more efficiently.

C. Paper Consumption

West Vancouver Schools continues to rely on PaperCut™ print management software as a key tool for reducing paper waste. A notable milestone was reached in 2024 when the software was successfully deployed on devices that had previously been incompatible. Combined with school-based reduction efforts, these measures led to a meaningful drop in paper consumption compared to the prior year — one of the more encouraging findings when reviewing 2024 outcomes. The district remains committed to identifying further opportunities to cut paper use as part of its broader sustainability action plan.

In 2025, the district transitioned to a new printer supplier across its schools. Rather than replacing all existing units, many printers were simply retired, and tighter controls were placed on printing activity — signaling a deliberate move toward leaner, more sustainable print practices going forward.

Also introduced in 2025 was the use of sugar stock paper in select applications. Early feedback has been favorable, and the district intends to broaden its use of this more sustainable paper alternative in the future.

2025 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

West Vancouver Schools 2025 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary	
GHG emissions for the period January 1 - December 31, 2025	
Total BioCO ₂	41.2
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	1,881
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	1,881
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)	1,881
Offset Investment at \$25 per tCO ₂ e (\$)	47,025

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, West Vancouver Schools (**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.

PART 2. Public Sector Climate Leadership

2A. Climate Risk Management

Since 2021, heavier and more frequent rainfall has proven to be the most significant climate-related challenge facing West Vancouver Schools. This trend has persisted in the years since, with district maintenance staff regularly responding to flooding events. The financial toll has been considerable, encompassing both overtime costs for in-house staff and contractor fees for the more specialized work of rebuilding and repairing storm drain infrastructure.

This reality underscores the importance of maintaining permeable surfaces across school properties. The district will continue to steer away from additional hardscape installations as year-round play surfaces, instead prioritizing the retention of grass and gravel fields.

- **No-Mow Meadows.** Rather than maintaining sharply defined boundaries, the district's grounds crew will allow grasses to grow naturally, trimming only where they meet hardscape edges. Taller grasses help slow stormwater runoff, reduce erosion, and hold up better during dry spells — while also sequestering carbon and providing broader ecological benefits.
- **Drainage Improvements.** West Vancouver Schools continues to expand its network of drainpipes and catch basins to move stormwater more efficiently into the municipal system. Though a notable expense, this investment pays dividends by reducing the risk of water damage and minimizing disruptions to school operations.

Beyond increased precipitation, West Vancouver is also experiencing more pronounced summer drought conditions. In response, West Vancouver Schools plans to plant drought-tolerant trees and shrubs across district properties, building on existing forested areas within school grounds. Species selected for their resilience in both wet winters and dry summers will support the district's broader sustainability goals while thriving across seasonal extremes.

In 2024, West Vancouver Schools partnered with the District of West Vancouver to plant more than 50 trees on school grounds. The initiative served a dual purpose — offering a hands-on learning experience for students while advancing the district's goal of expanding its forested areas. Drought-resistant species were selected throughout, with accompanying plantings arranged around tree bases. Sites were chosen with erosion control and increased shade in mind. The program was a strong success and one the district hopes to build on in the years ahead.

2B. Other Sustainability Initiatives

The initiatives established in prior years remain active heading in 2025, spanning building control optimization, renewable energy integration, and standardized specifications for building materials. Looking ahead to 2026, West Vancouver Schools plans to expand its design standardization efforts,

with measures such as unfinished floor tiles, millwork cut to fixed lengths to minimize offcuts and waste, and lighter, brighter wall paint colors chosen for their ability to improve light reflectivity throughout its facilities.

2C. Success Stories

The majority of West Vancouver Schools' annual funding and grants go toward maintenance and system renewals, yet the district has developed a business model that effectively channels these investments toward climate adaptation. At its core, the approach is straightforward: select building system components with greater efficiency and design them with future capacity in mind. The boiler replacement at Westcot Elementary illustrates this well — a relatively simple project, but one whose schematic design was deliberately planned to accommodate air source or gas absorption heat pumps down the road, further cutting energy use. For West Vancouver Schools, even modest projects are viewed as incremental progress toward a broader sustainability vision.

Executive Sign-off:



May 29, 2026

Sig	Date
Julia Leiterman	Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Name (please print)	Title