

Okanagan Similkameen SD #53 2025 Climate Change Accountability Report

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)

The Okanagan Similkameen School District has successfully completed its third fully operational geothermal mechanical plant. Although we are a relatively small school district in BC, support from the provincial government has enabled four of our eight schools to operate using geothermal technology. In addition, we have further reduced our reliance on fossil fuels by optimizing the performance of existing systems, eliminating redundancies and upgrading equipment.

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

The upgrade from single-phase to three-phase power at our Transportation Facility in Oliver has enabled the installation of two EV charging stations. As a result, we received two electric buses in early 2026. Both buses will be assigned regular runs.

C. Paper Consumption

Okanagan Similkameen School District has reduced the number of copiers within its schools and implemented print prompts encouraging users to consider electronic versions before printing, helping to ensure that paper copies are produced only when necessary. In addition, the District continues to use paper products containing 30% recycled content.

Okanagan Similkameen SD53 2025 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary	
GHG emissions for the period January 1 - December 31, 2025	
Total BioCO ₂	344
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	909
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	615
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)	615
Offset Investment (\$)	\$15,375.00

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, Okanagan Similkameen/SD53 (**the Organization**) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offset's 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.

2 A. Climate Risk Management

The District has completed another geothermal upgrade, supporting more resilient facilities in response to changing climate conditions. Historical HDD/CDD data shows temperature swings of up to 10 degrees over the past two decades, reinforcing the need for adaptive infrastructure.

We will continue to evaluate geothermal solutions as part of future mechanical upgrades to support student and staff well-being; however, these systems carry increased costs. Service contracts have exceeded initial projections, and the shift from natural gas to electricity has also raised operating expenses.

The installation of EV charging stations is now complete. Although the process took longer than expected, it enabled us to bring our two new 72-passenger electric buses into service.

2B. Additional Sustainability Initiatives

We recognize that water use is a critical issue in our region and that the District is a significant consumer. To reduce our impact, we have transitioned to using community-supplied reclaimed water wherever possible, helping maintain our sports fields for students and community users while conserving potable water resources.

2C. Success Stories

Geothermal Heating and Cooling Update (2025)

In 2025, the District completed its latest geothermal installation at a site selected for its hot climate and aging mechanical system. The previous system was at end-of-life, inefficient and lacked individual room control.

Geothermal systems provide consistent year-round temperatures, reducing strain during peak demand. This project brings the District to four of eight schools equipped with geothermal heating and cooling. One shared system serves two schools in Oliver, while two additional schools operate independent systems.

Executive Sign-off:



May 30, 2026

Signature

Date

Miranda Burdock

Secretary Treasurer

Name (please print)

Title