

Nicola Similkameen School District 2025 Climate Change Accountability Report

Title: 2025 Climate Change Accountability Report

Organization: Nicola Similkameen School District

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)

For the 2025 reporting year, the district remains focused on the strategic replacement of aging HVAC equipment, prioritizing the oldest and most energy-intensive units. This ongoing initiative is part of the five-year plan to upgrade all large, high-consumption systems. Our HVAC operations continue to be managed through a Direct Digital Control (DDC) system, which is monitored daily to ensure efficiency and optimal performance across all facilities.

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

The district continues its annual evaluation of all bus routes to ensure each one is operating as efficiently as possible. Adjustments are made as needed to minimize travel distances and eliminate unnecessary mileage, supporting both cost savings and operational efficiency.

The district did not develop or implement any new strategies to reduce fuel consumption or transition to low-carbon fuel in 2025. However, we continue to monitor operational efficiency and explore opportunities for future improvements as part of our long-term sustainability planning. We remain committed to evaluating future opportunities that support operational efficiency and sustainability.

C. Paper Consumption

The District utilizes the Ricoh paper tracking system to actively monitor and manage paper consumption across all sites. This system supports the District's sustainability objectives by providing targeted oversight of printing activity and enabling the implementation of usage controls where appropriate. Staff are encouraged to adopt environmentally sustainable practices through the increased integration of tablets and digital platforms into daily operations and instructional delivery. As a result of these ongoing initiatives, the District continues to achieve measurable year-over-year reductions in overall paper consumption.

The District remains committed to further reducing emissions associated with paper use by continuing to expand digital alternatives for both instructional and administrative functions. Ongoing strategies include increasing the use of tablets and online platforms, reinforcing staff awareness of sustainable printing practices, and leveraging the Ricoh paper tracking system to monitor usage trends and identify opportunities for improvement. In addition, the District will continue to promote paper-reduction initiatives through internal communications and staff engagement efforts, with the objective of sustaining long-term reductions in paper consumption and associated environmental impacts.

D. Fugitive Sources⁵ (e.g., heat pumps, refrigerators, air conditioners)

In 2025, the District continued to take proactive measures to reduce fugitive emissions associated with refrigeration and HVAC equipment owned and operated by the organization. The District maintains an ongoing preventative maintenance program for HVAC and refrigeration systems, which includes regular inspections, servicing, and monitoring of equipment performance to identify potential refrigerant leaks or operational deficiencies at an early stage. Maintenance staff and qualified contractors monitor system pressures, cooling performance, and equipment condition during routine service intervals, with repairs prioritized when leaks or inefficiencies are identified. Refrigerant use and servicing records are also maintained as part of the District's asset management and maintenance practices.

The District is actively renewing and upgrading HVAC systems as budget allocations allow, with priority given to the oldest and least efficient equipment first. Through this phased replacement approach, aging systems that are more susceptible to refrigerant loss and reduced operating efficiency are gradually being removed from service and replaced with newer, higher-efficiency equipment.

⁵ Fugitive sources: sources of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from unintentional releases (leaks) of gases, such as hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerants from equipment

Where feasible, newer systems are selected that utilize lower global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants and improved energy-efficient technologies to reduce overall environmental impact.

In 2026 and beyond, the District plans to continue reducing fugitive emissions through ongoing preventative maintenance, continued monitoring of HVAC and refrigeration equipment, and the systematic replacement of aging infrastructure. Future equipment purchases and HVAC renewal projects will continue to prioritize energy efficiency, reliability, and the use of low-GWP refrigerants where practical and financially feasible. The District will also continue to evaluate opportunities to modernize building control systems and improve monitoring capabilities to assist in identifying operational issues and refrigerant losses more quickly, helping to further reduce emissions and extend equipment life.

2025 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

Nicola Similkameen School District 2025 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary	
GHG emissions for the period January 1 - December 31, 2025	
Total BioCO ₂	30.7
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	1306
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	1104
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)	1104
Offset Investment (\$)	\$27,600

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, Nicola Similkameen School District (**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

In 2025, the District continued to take steps to manage operational risks associated with the changing climate and to improve the resiliency of school facilities, transportation systems, and daily operations. The District recognizes that climate-related impacts such as extreme heat, wildfire smoke, severe winter weather, flooding events, and changing precipitation patterns are increasingly affecting school operations, facility performance, and student and staff safety.

The District continued to assess climate-related risks through ongoing operational reviews, facility inspections, and consultation with maintenance staff, transportation personnel, engineers, contractors, and local agencies. While a formal climate risk assessment has not yet been completed, climate-related considerations are increasingly incorporated into infrastructure planning, maintenance priorities, and capital renewal discussions. The District intends to continue evaluating opportunities to further formalize climate risk assessment and long-term resiliency planning in future years.

Operational procedures were adjusted throughout 2025 in response to climate-related impacts. During periods of extreme heat and wildfire smoke, the District closely monitored indoor air quality, ventilation performance, and cooling systems to maintain safe and comfortable learning environments. HVAC systems and building automation controls were adjusted as needed to improve air circulation and indoor comfort levels. Transportation operations also continued to adapt to increasingly unpredictable weather conditions, including snow, ice, flooding, wildfire risks, and extreme temperatures. Bus route and travel decisions were made using weather forecasts, highway reports, and consultation with local agencies to prioritize student and staff safety.

The District also continued investing in infrastructure renewal and modernization projects that improve resiliency and reduce operational risk associated with climate change. HVAC systems, building controls, roofing systems, drainage infrastructure, and electrical systems continue to be renewed as budgets allow, with priority typically given to the oldest or highest-risk infrastructure first. Improvements to building automation systems and HVAC controls have enhanced the District's ability to monitor equipment performance, manage heating and cooling more efficiently, and respond more quickly to operational issues.

Climate-related considerations are increasingly incorporated into facility design, maintenance planning, and operational procedures. The District utilizes climate and environmental information from provincial weather services, highway reports, engineering consultants, and technical contractors to support operational decision-making and infrastructure planning. These resources assist in managing both climate adaptation efforts and ongoing greenhouse gas emission reduction initiatives.

In 2025, the District also experienced additional operational costs associated with climate-related impacts, including increased maintenance demands on HVAC systems during periods of extreme temperatures, weather-related operational adjustments, emergency responses, and additional staff time required to address facility and transportation challenges.

In 2026 and beyond, the District plans to continue improving climate resiliency through preventative maintenance, phased infrastructure renewal, modernization of building systems, improved operational monitoring, and continued integration of climate considerations into capital planning and operational decision-making. The District remains committed to supporting safe, reliable, and resilient learning environments while adapting to the increasing impacts associated with the changing climate.

2B. Additional Sustainability Initiatives

The District continues to support sustainability through a variety of operational practices, educational initiatives, and environmentally conscious decision-making processes.

Staff are encouraged to coordinate travel and utilize District-provided vehicles whenever possible in order to promote operational efficiency, reduce unnecessary travel, and minimize environmental impacts associated with transportation. Where practical, meetings are also conducted through digital platforms to reduce travel requirements between sites.

The District has implemented waste reduction and diversion programs across many school sites. Schools throughout the District participate in recycling programs that include the collection of paper, plastics, and cardboard. In addition, several schools have introduced composting initiatives to help manage organic waste generated from cafeterias and classrooms. Battery recycling is also available at designated locations within the District. These initiatives support the District's broader commitment to environmental sustainability while also providing students with practical opportunities to learn about responsible waste management practices.

The District continues to pursue water conservation and energy efficiency opportunities through ongoing facility upgrades, preventative maintenance practices, and infrastructure renewal projects. HVAC upgrades, building automation improvements, efficient plumbing fixtures, and modernization of building systems are implemented as budgets allow to improve operational efficiency and reduce resource consumption over time.

Environmental sustainability and climate awareness are also supported through educational programming. Environmental education is integrated into classroom instruction across various grade levels, encouraging students to better understand climate-related issues, sustainability practices, and environmental stewardship. Schools regularly participate in projects and activities that promote recycling, conservation, and environmental responsibility.

Climate-related considerations are increasingly incorporated into operational planning, facility renewal discussions, and infrastructure decision-making processes. When feasible, the District considers long-term efficiency, durability, energy performance, and environmental impacts when evaluating facility upgrades, equipment replacement, and operational improvements.

The District remains committed to continuing these sustainability initiatives in 2026 and beyond through ongoing education, waste reduction efforts, infrastructure renewal, and operational practices that support environmental responsibility and long-term resiliency.

2C. Success Stories

One of the District's key sustainability success stories in 2025 was the continued replacement and modernization of aging HVAC systems across multiple school sites. Several older, less efficient rooftop and mechanical units were upgraded with newer high-efficiency systems designed to improve energy performance, reliability, and overall building comfort. These upgrades are expected to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption while supporting healthier and more comfortable indoor learning environments for students and staff.

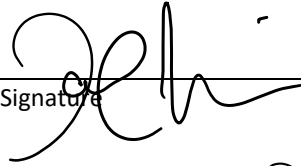
Beyond the environmental benefits, the project is anticipated to provide substantial long-term operational savings through reduced utility costs, lower maintenance requirements, and improved system reliability. The newer systems also offer enhanced temperature control, improved ventilation capabilities, and better integration with modern building automation and monitoring systems, allowing the District to operate facilities more efficiently and respond more quickly to operational issues.

This initiative demonstrated the importance and value of investing in sustainable and energy-efficient infrastructure within educational facilities. In addition to reducing emissions, the upgrades have strengthened the resiliency of school operations during periods of extreme temperatures and changing climate conditions. The project also reinforced the District's commitment to balancing environmental responsibility, fiscal stewardship, and the creation of safe, comfortable, and effective learning environments for students and staff.

The success of these projects has further supported the District's long-term strategy of prioritizing the renewal of older HVAC infrastructure as funding and budgets allow, with continued focus on improving efficiency, reducing environmental impacts, and modernizing school facilities for future generations.

Executive Sign-off:

Signature



Date

May 11, 2026

Name (please print)

David Finnigan

Title

Operations Manager