



School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)

2025 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

Emissions Reduction Report

Declaration Statement

This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR) for the period January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, summarizes the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions and the actions School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) (the “District”) has taken in 2025 to reduce the GHG emissions and the plans to continue reducing emissions in 2025 and beyond.

By June 30, 2026, the District’s final CCAR Report will be posted to the website at www.sd5.bc.ca.

Overview

The District has continued work on emissions reduction with the overarching goal of carbon neutrality.

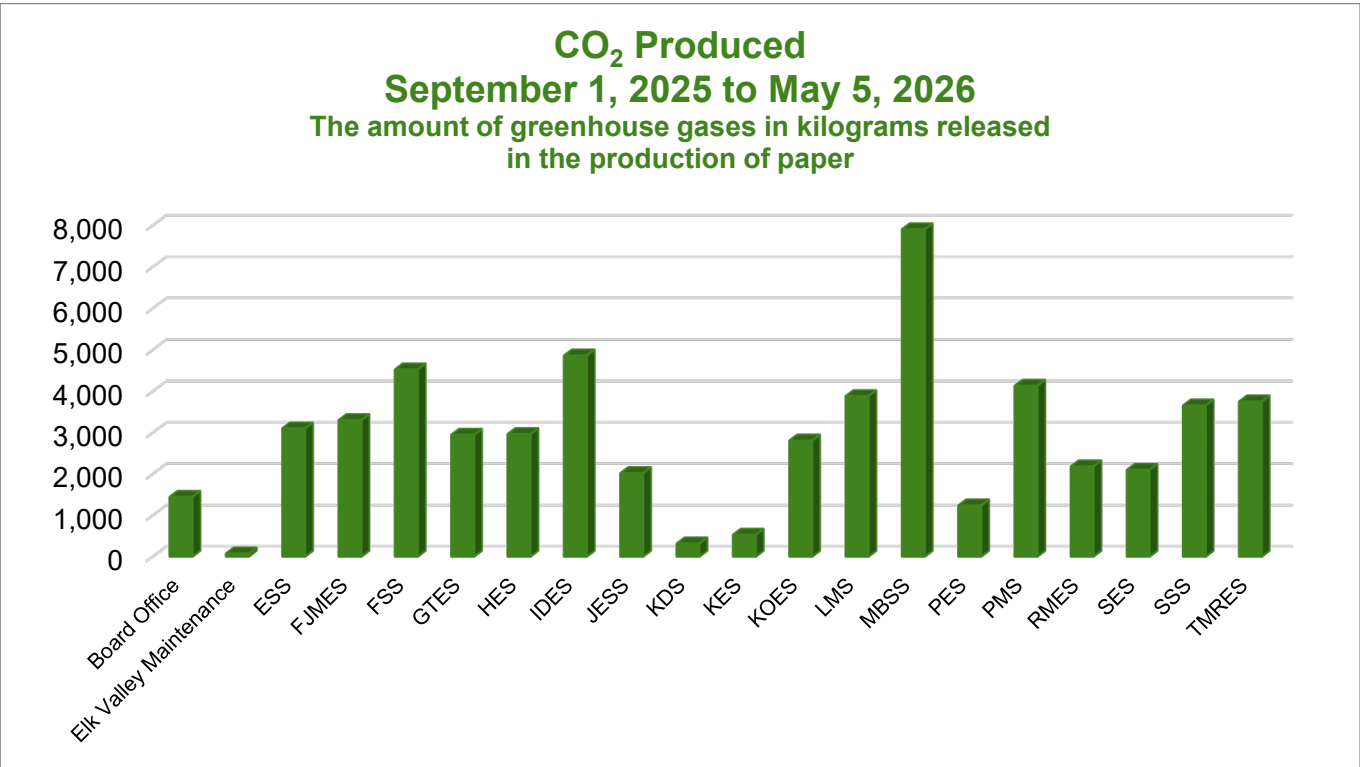
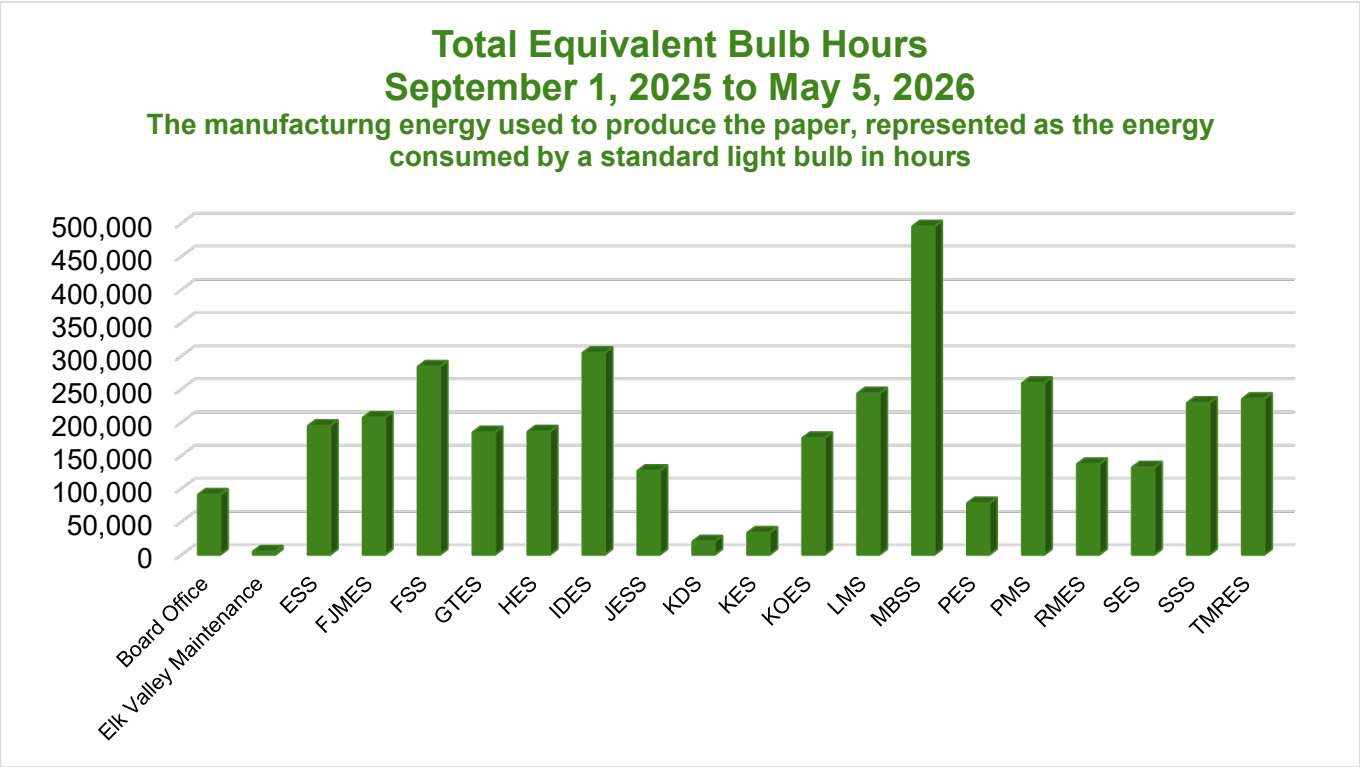
All departments continue to be in the mindset of reducing unnecessary emissions by removing inefficient printers and purchasing energy-saving appliances. The District believes the goal of collaborating with staff and students to become more energy-wise has paid off and will continue to pay off in the years to come.

Technology

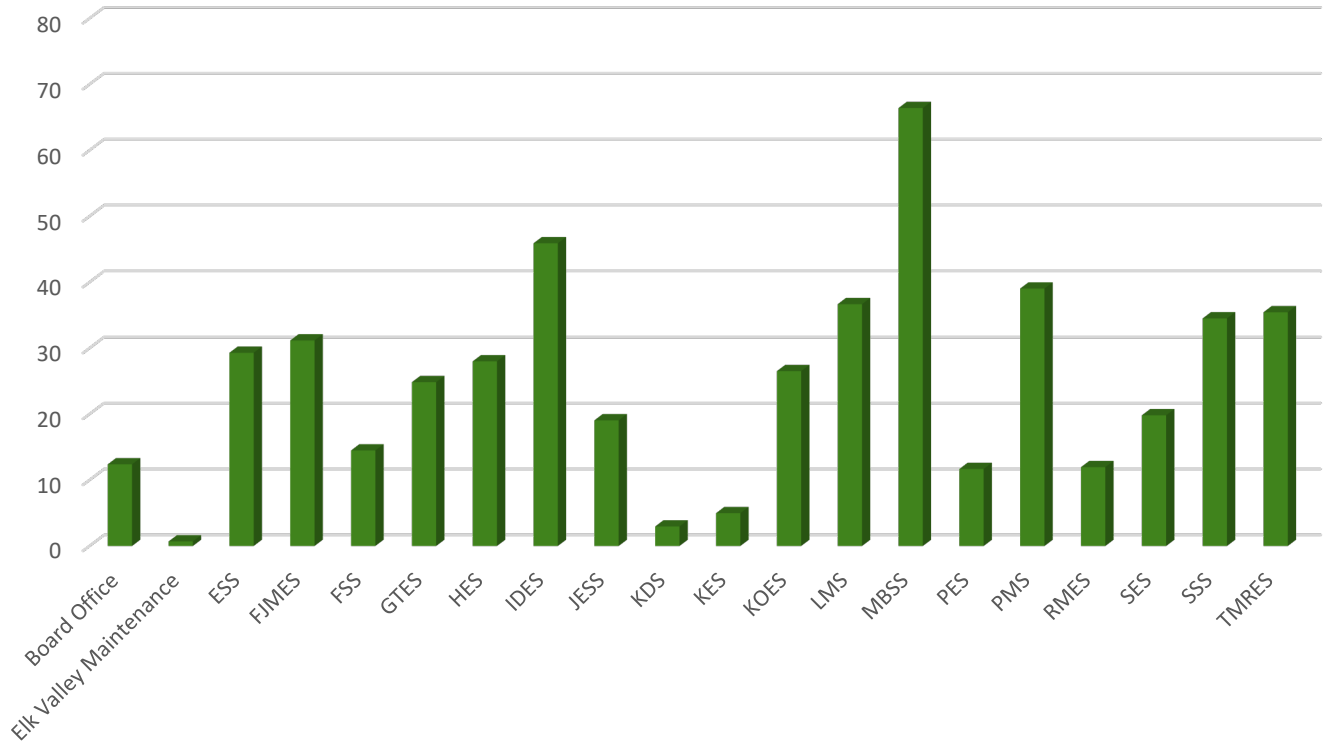
The District continues moving forward with the revised Five-Year Technology Plan. This ongoing plan involves replacing older computers, photocopiers, and projectors with new, more efficient models.

-  The District uses Paper Cut software to monitor and reduce printing and paper output.
-  The District is shifting towards online forms, where possible, to reduce paper.
-  The District is encouraging online meetings with platforms such as Microsoft Teams to cut down on travel emissions.
-  The District is decreasing the need for paper-based resources and transportation of physical resources.
-  Remote software tools assist in diagnosis and repair of equipment without the need for travel.
-  Technology equipment is being delivered through the District courier to reduce the impact of mileage.

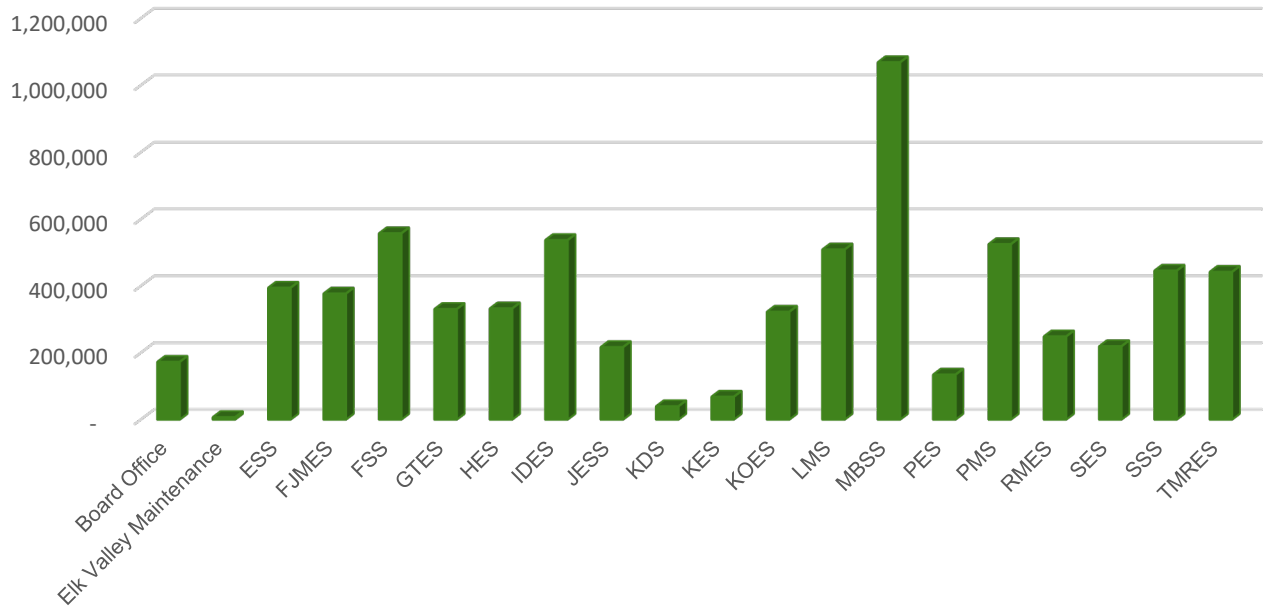
The following charts summarize the District printer environmental impact:



Total Trees Consumed September 1, 2025 to May 5, 2026



Total Pages Printed September 1, 2025 to May 5, 2026



Electrical

Electrical infrastructure upgrades to provide more electric vehicle (EV) chargers at the Cranbrook Board Office will be completed in Fall 2026 and the District has been approved for similar upgrades at the Fernie maintenance shop to be completed by Summer 2027.

HVAC

The District had no major HVAC upgrades this last year. Funding has been approved for a boiler upgrade at Gordon Terrace Elementary School to be completed by Fall 2026.

Transportation

The District continues to use electric buses on daily bus routes to reduce diesel emissions. There were savings of approximately 25,427 litres of diesel and 84,927 kg of CO₂ by using electric buses in place of combustible engines.

As discussed above, the District has received capital funds to continue to support electrical infrastructure upgrades in Cranbrook and Fernie. Prism Engineering Limited (Prism and Falcon Engineering) is assessing the District's current fleet to identify fleet electrification options. This plan will be used to help guide future vehicle purchasing decisions and facilitate strategic electric vehicle selection and fleet decarbonization efforts.

The following chart summarizes the environmental impact of electric buses in the District:

Year	Month	Number of buses	Total Distance Travelled (km)	GHG emissions - Diesel Bus Equivalent (kg CO ₂ -e)
2025	January	4	5,108	7,662
2025	February	4	5,264	7,896
2025	March	4	3,945	5,918
2025	April	4	5,653	8,480
2025	May	4	6,849	10,274
2025	June	4	7,107	10,661
2025	July	4	67	101
2025	August	4	-	-
2025	September	4	5,282	7,923
2025	October	4	6,467	9,701
2025	November	4	6,224	9,336
2025	December	4	4,648	6,972
2025	Total	4	56,618	84,927

Five Year Plan

The District's five-year plan includes continued replacement of older boiler systems within the schools. The new boiler systems are more energy efficient.

The District continues to use an energy monitoring company to oversee the use of energy systems. Prism Engineering provides an overview for year-to-date performance immediately through a customizable dashboard. This clearly identifies utility spending and savings across multiple sites.

The District is looking into solar initiatives and considering heat pumps, where possible.

The District continues to consider electric or hybrid vehicle options when replacing aging fleet vehicles.

Our Schools

The District continues to use the Foodcycler (indoor composter that works overnight) for the Cranbrook Board Office and a few pilot schools to reduce food waste volume. The District is supporting schools with garden beds, greenhouse projects, and planting trees to reduce environmental impacts.

The following are some of the initiatives the schools have taken during the year:

School	Contact	Carbon Footprint
Elkford Secondary	Thomas Skelton	 Recycling bins in the school hallways, classrooms, and common spaces  Maximize the number of students on school bus trips  Students ride bikes daily  Earth Day – students participated in garbage clean up  Filtered water fountains to encourage students to bring their own water bottles  Motion activated lights  Idle Free Zones  Scrap paper re-use programs  Walk to School days  Go by Bike days
Fernie Secondary	Jason Sommerfeld	 Students ride bikes daily  Resource room students collect recyclable bottles daily. Bins are placed in the hallways.  Earth Day – Community Clean Up, school awareness and recognition, classroom resources provided.  Cafeteria uses all biodegradable one-use containers (will be exploring options in future)  Motion activated lights and heat  Disposed old, inefficient refrigerators  Filtered water fountains encourage students to bring their own bottles  Paper recycling  Pencil/pen recycling program (Staples)  Walking field trips all over the community  Gardening and food security program  Hydroponics systems for Science and foods using LED lights  Environmental Science Education for Grade 11  Staff carpool when possible

FJ Mitchell Elementary	Jennifer Adams	 Paper/cardboard recycling program  Foods to Farm program – each class puts food scraps in after lunch. Buckets are collected and sent off to a local farm to feed the animals  Filtered water fountains  Motion activated lights and dimmer switches  Ride your bike or walk to school initiative (active transportation) – many students bike, walk, or scooter to school  Staff carpool  Encourage students to bring their own refillable water bottles  Walk vs bus to swimming and skating (weather permitting)  Marker recycling program  Promotion of garbage free lunches  Participation in Community clean-up  Growing own plants that students take home over the summer  Battery recycling  Recycling bins in classrooms, offices, and staffroom  Motion activated lights in some rooms  Planted trees around the playground  The playground has been resurfaced with recycled tires
Gordon Terrace Elementary	David Martin	 A recycling program for both refundable and non-refundable materials  Composting program that grade 3 is responsible to manage  School Garden that we harvest and make soup/meals  Many students bike to school  Recycling bins in all classrooms  Idle Free signs /zones  Marker recycling program  Battery recycling program  Walking field trips as much as possible  When busses are needed for field trips, we only book when we need and can fill them
Highlands Elementary	Carlene Lochrie	 Maximize the number of students on school bus trips  Multiple garbage pickup days throughout the year.  Rotary “We Bike” participation  Motion activated room lights  Filtered water fountain (reduced use of plastic water bottles)  Idle-free zones  Encourage students and staff to walk or bike to school  Scrap paper re-use bins.  Walking field trips to Idlewild and Community Forest  Greenhouse in the courtyard.  BC Agriculture Harvest Bin participation  Recycle bins throughout school

Isabella Dicken Elementary	Nicole Neufeld	 Yearlong Recycling Program – grade six  Yearlong Composting Program - grade four  Earth Day "Remote" Clean Up's - promoted by teachers for interested families  School yard Clean Up - April (and yearlong with various classes)  Water Walker Protectors Project  Filtered water fountain stations  Encouraging personal water bottles vs single use in all classes (has created a significant reduction in bottle recycling according to Gr 6 classes!)  Many grades walk to outings (swimming pool, skating, library, arts station)  Garden Boxes made from school recycled stairs wood & grow pumpkins (that were ready last fall!!)  Many classes grow plants from seeds for family gifts  Lots of staff bike & walk to school (especially during Bike to Work Week. This year is a bit different but lots of "Green" commuting to work)  Bike Road-rodeo & biking activities (to tennis courts for grade six students)  Planting more trees in the playground  Encouraging using reuseable cutlery and dishes at functions
Jaffray Elementary Junior Secondary	Bill Johnson	 School wide recycling program  Composting grades 3 and 4  Boxed garden project  Earth Day - school yard and community cleanup  Recycling bins in the school hallways, classrooms, and common spaces  Concession – no single use plastics  Motion activated room lights  Filtered Water Fountains  Reuseable lunch bags distributed on Earth Day
Kootenay Orchards Elementary	Carissa Hart	 Composting for the school garden · students gather compostable materials weekly in buckets  Encourage biking to school (participate in “WE Bike” yearly)  Encourage walking to field trips  Filtered water fountains  Grade six recycling programs  LED lighting installed  Participate in Earth Day – ‘Spring Spruce Up’ the community  School garden  Use of reusable water bottles  Classroom recycling  Battery recycling

Laurie Middle	Chris Spanos	 Recycling - early stages of greater buy in  Cardboard, paper, and plastics refundable (sold to support an African school project)  Composting - started last year -beginning stages of promoting awareness  Battery recycling  Students ride bikes daily  Walking field trips  Participating in Earth Day, students picked up garbage
Mount Baker Secondary	Aaron Thorn	 Earth Day - cleaning garbage around the community.  Bee garden in our courtyard to encourage bees.  Ride your Bike to Work week.  Idle-free zones.  Leadership students are doing a reusable straw campaign  Green Alliance Club  Mason Bees and our indigenous pollinator  Recycling bins in all areas  Maximize number of students on bus trips  Filtered water fountains to encourage students to use their own bottles  LED lighting  Motion activated lights  Battery recycling  Used pen, highlighter, white board marker recycling
Parkland Middle	Brenda Tyson	 Recycling bins in the school hallways, classrooms, and common spaces.  Recycling program for both refundable and non-refundable materials  Students ride bikes, scooters, and walk daily  Students use public transportation system  Ride your bike to school initiative  Filtered water fountains encourage students to bring their own bottles  LED lighting installed  Motion activated lights  Battery recycling  Used pen, highlighter, white board marker recycling  Spring Spruce Up – neighborhood clean up  Concession – no single use plastics  Hot Lunch – no single use plates or cutlery  Paperless report cards  Paper reduction for visitation day

Pinewood Elementary	Jill Carley	 Recycling program  Filtered water fountains encourage bring your own bottle  Idle-free zones  School yard and community clean up – Earth Day  Used pen, highlighter, white board marker recycling  Battery recycling  Composting
Rocky Mountain Elementary	Jennifer Attorp	 Paper recycling program  Milk and juice container recycling program  encourage bring your own bottle--do not sell juice boxes for events  Filtered water fountains  Motion activated lights  Walking field trips as much as possible  When busses are needed for field trips, we only book when we need and can fill them (with cohorts)  Greenhouse  Earth Day school yard clean up days  Idle free zones  Many classes grow plants  Many staff and students ride bikes or walk when possible  LED lights installed  School yard cleaned up by students  Recycling Club
Sparwood Secondary	Erin Hay	 Earth Day – school yard clean up  Refundable and non-refundable recycling  Hydroponics - science students grow food for the foods classes  Recycling toner cartridges for photocopier  Avoiding single use cutlery and dishes with staff events  Teachers carpool to work  Motion light sensors in classrooms.  Changing lights to LED  Walking to the swimming pool and skating rink  Bring your own water bottle  Water-bottle filling station to reduce single use water bottles  Hot meals lunch program to reduce food packaging waste  Bus sharing for trips with Elkford and Fernie  Earth Science 11  New energy efficient appliances

Steeple Elementary	Scott Holt	 “Keepers of the Earth” (on-going school grounds clean-up)  Battery recycling  Photocopier supplies recycling  Walking to field trips/events whenever possible  Recycling program for both refundable and non-refundable items  Courtyard garden  Worm composting  Motion-activated, LED lighting  Filtered water fountain  Non-food/drink product recycling bins in classrooms and common spaces
TM Roberts Elementary	David Doll	 Reuse scrap paper  Earth Day clean-up  Garden beds for food; expansion of garden  Some classes do composting  Cardboard and Paper Recycling and recycling bins in common spaces and classrooms  Garden Club, to teach students how to grow their own food  Students ride bikes, scooters, and walk daily  Many teachers teach students to plant food  Students encouraged to bring water bottles and use the filtered water refilling stations and drinking fountain  Students discouraged from bringing juice boxes  Kindergarten learning about different ways to grow food  Ink cartridge, pen, and battery recycling  Walking for field trips when possible  Motion-activated, LED lighting

Conclusion

The District is working to reduce the use of energy and save resources where possible. In the future, the District will become more energy efficient to further reduce our consumption.

School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) 2025 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table	
GHG emissions for the period January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025	
Total BioCO ₂	99.4
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	3,082
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	3,181
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	-
Grand Total Offsets for the 2025 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2025 Reporting Year (tCO ₂ e)	2,623
Offset Investment (\$)	2,623 x \$25/tCO₂e = \$65,575

Retirement of Offsets

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, the District is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offset obligation reported above for the 2025 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 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.

Public Sector Leadership

Not applicable

Climate Risk Management

-  Currently the District has not engaged in conducting a climate risk assessment to understand the organization's risk exposure.
-  The District is investigating future opportunities to invest in heat pumps and solar energy.
-  In terms of operational and infrastructure changes in preparation for future climate impacts, the District has been investing in energy efficient boilers and hot water tanks in older schools to improve efficiency and reduction in GHG emissions. The District has started electrical infrastructure upgrades to accommodate future charging stations and electric vehicles in our fleet.
-  The District is using the Electric Vehicle Ready Fleet Plan.

Other Sustainability Initiatives

-  As indicated in the report above, the District has small sustainability initiatives in the District schools and at the board office. These initiatives include the following:
 -  Microsoft Teams meetings rather than travelling;
 -  Carpooling when travelling for meetings;
 -  Placement of recycling bins in classrooms and common areas;
 -  Using reusable water bottles and lunch bags;
 -  Walking/cycling for field trips;
 -  Using E-forms and E-Docs to reduce paper printing;
 -  Continuing to investigate utilizing hybrid and electric vehicles for the white fleet.

Executive sign-off

Signature:



Date:

May 28, 2026

Name: Nick Taylor

Title: Secretary Treasurer / CFO