School District No. 62 - Sooke Schools 2025 Public Sector Organization Climate Change Accountability Report

May 31, 2026

SOOKE SCHOOLS 62
Shaping Tomorrow Today

Land Acknowledgement

With gratitude and respect, we acknowledge that we live, learn, and work on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish: T'Sou-ke Nation, SĆIȺNEW (Beecher Bay) Nation, and the Nuu-chah-nulth: Paaʔčiidʔatḥ(Pacheedaht) Nation. We also recognize that some of our schools are located on the traditional territories of the MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nation, and the Lək̓ʷəŋən peoples of Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

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Declaration Statement

This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, summarizes School District No. 62's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, actions undertaken in 2025 to minimize GHG emissions and plans to continue reducing emissions in 2026 and beyond.

Executive Summary

Sooke School District's Commitment to Energy Management and Carbon Reduction

SD 62 ("The District") is committed to effectively reducing its energy use and carbon dioxide emissions in a matter that aligns with SD62's vision and guiding principles. Carbon neutrality is also mandated by the provincial government to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) from buildings by 50% and its GHGs from fleet by 40% by 2030 compared to a 2010 baseline. The District aims to reduce its carbon footprint and improve its sustainability performance by continuing to carry out electrical and mechanical upgrades, transition the fleet to zero-emissions vehicles, consider ways to reduce paper consumption, and improve fugitive refrigerant source data tracking.

2025 Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Offsets

The District's emissions come from four categories: stationary sources, mobile sources, fugitive refrigerant sources, and paper sources. In 2025, the largest source were stationary emissions at 1,647 tCO_2e, or 65% of the total emissions at 2,550 tCO_2e. The second largest source were mobile emissions at 627 tCO_2e, or 25% of total emissions. These follow by fugitive emissions at 180 tCO_2e (7%) and paper emissions at 96 tCO_2e (4%). The District's 2025 emissions have decreased by 12% since the 2010 baseline and have increased by 14% compared to 2024. Each year the District must pay the province an offset value of $25 per tonne for all eligible emissions (biogenic and school bus emissions are omitted). For the 2025 reporting year, the SD 62's offset retirement costs equal $49,973.

Emissions Reductions Actions

In 2025, the District undertook several GHG emissions reduction projects including, but not limited to:

- Electrical upgrades at John Muir Elementary
- Lighting upgrades at John Muir Elementary and Saseenos Elementary
- An air-source heat pump replacement at Belmont Secondary
- New zero-emissions vehicles added to the District's fleet

Looking toward 2026 and beyond, the District has several projects planned, including but not limited to:

- Building commissioning at John Muir Elementary
- Level 2 electric vehicle chargers at Ecole John Stubbs Memorial and Spencer Middle Schools
- Lighting upgrades at Edward Milne Community School and Royal Bay Secondary School
- Gas furnace replacements at John Muir and Sangster Elementary Schools
- HVAC upgrade replacing old rooftop units at Willway Elementary
- Integrated energy audits at four SD 62 schools
- Purchasing new heavy duty battery electric vehicles

Climate Risk Management

Although broader regional climate risks are well documented, the specific risks facing the District are not currently defined, therefore, conducting a climate resilience assessment or climate exposure screen would be a critical first step for the District.

Overview

About SD 62

The Sooke School District (SD 62) is one of the fastest growing school districts in B.C., with 29 schools across communities in Langford, Colwood, Metchosin, Highlands, Sooke, and Port Renfrew. There are 20 elementary schools, five middle schools, four secondary schools, and one online school. This includes about 135,000 m^2 of floor area, 2,362 full-time equivalent employees, and 12,950 students. The Sooke School District ("The District") is guided by pillars of student achievement and well-being and is governed by seven publicly elected school board trustees.

This report provides a comprehensive overview of SD62's GHG emissions for the 2025 calendar year. It also summarizes the initiatives undertaken in 2025 to reduce emissions and manage climate risks, along with planned projects for 2026 and beyond.

SD 62's Commitment to Energy Management and Carbon Reduction

The District is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and advancing sustainability through responsible energy management and environmental stewardship. The District prioritizes fossil fuel reduction while maintaining a safe and comfortable learning environment for all students and employees.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Overview

This section provides an overview of SD 62's 2025 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including both biogenic and non-biogenic sources. It presents a breakdown of emissions by source, compares current emissions with the District's historical trends and reduction targets, and benchmarks performance against other school districts. The section also outlines the actions SD 62 has taken to date and the measures planned to further reduce emissions.

2025 Emissions

SD 62's 2025 GHG emissions from all sources totalled 2,550 tCO2e.

Facilities (Stationary)

The largest source of emissions, was from district facilities, also known as stationary emissions. These accounted for 1,647 tCO_2e or approximately 65% percent of SD 62's total emissions in 2025. Emissions in this category are related to the use of natural gas for building heating, ventilation, and kitchen appliances, and electricity for building cooling, fans, lighting, elevators, plug loads and servers.

Transportation (Mobile)

Transportation emissions (also known as mobile emissions) accounted for 627 tCO_2e (25%) of SD 62's total emissions in 2025. SD 62 currently has 30 battery electric vehicles, four natural gas/propane vehicles, 31 gasoline vehicles, and 35 diesel vehicles.

Fugitive Refrigerant Emissions

Fugitive refrigerant emissions accounted for an estimated 180 tCO_2e or 7% of total emissions in 2025. This is the first year SD 62 reported on fugitive refrigerant emissions as this is new reporting requirement for public sector organizations.

Paper

Paper consumption accounted for 96 tCO_2e or approximately 4% of SD 62's total emissions in 2025. This represents the smallest source of SD 62's total emissions.

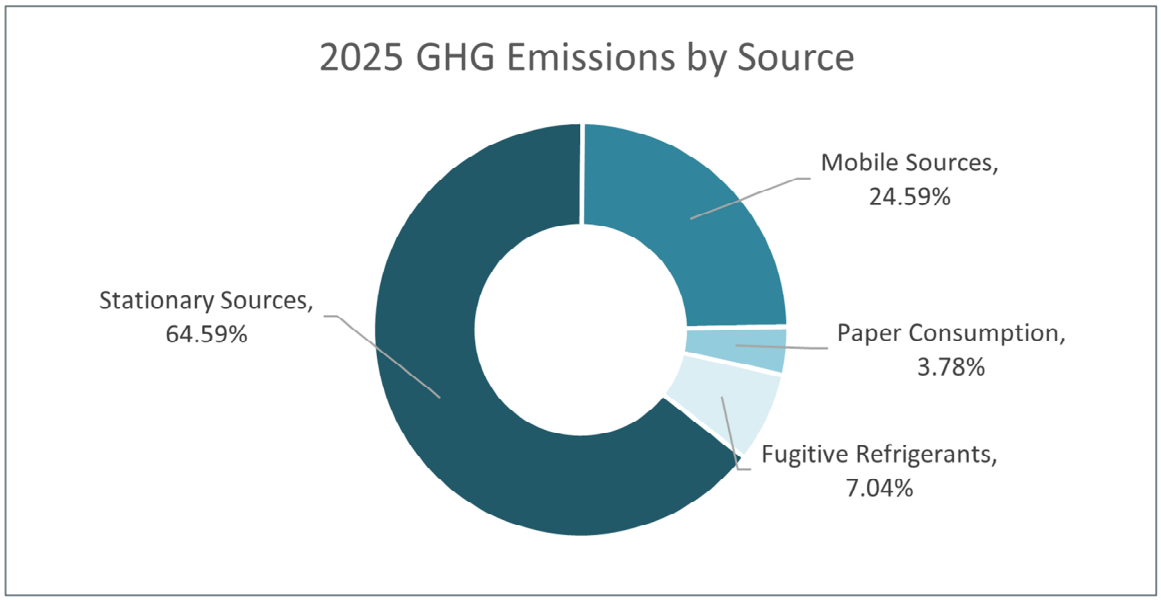


Figure 1. Breakdown of SD 62's 2025 GHG Emissions by Source

Progress Towards Targets

The District has several emissions reduction targets as set out in the 2021 School District 62 Energy Sustainability Plan and provincial target requirements under the Climate Change Accountability Act. The following table shows the District's 2025 emissions compared to their 2030 targets. The District's total GHG emissions have decreased 12% compared to 2010 levels and increased 14% compared to 2024 levels. As a rapidly growing district experiencing increased enrollment, expanded facilities, and rising operational demands, maintaining downward emissions trends while meeting future reduction targets presents an ongoing challenge. To meeting its 2030 targets the District will need to reduce annual emissions by an additional 809 tCO2e. This and the following data is inclusive of biogenic emissions sources for stationary energy and mobile energy sources.

Table 1: 2025 Emissions Sources (Including Biogenic) Compared to 2030 Targets and 2010 Baseline

	Facilities (Stationary)	Transportation (Mobile)	Paper	Fugitive Refrigerants	All Sources
Target Reduction by 2030 compared to 2010 baseline	50	40	No target identified.	No target identified.	40
2010 Baseline Year Values, tCO_2e	2,046	750	106	No 2010 baseline value.	2,902
2025 Emissions Totals, tCO_2e	1,647	627	96	180	2,550
% change since 2010	-12	-16	-9	n/a	-12

In Figure 2, the total annual greenhouse gas emissions are compared with the heating degree days (HDDs) from 2010 to 2025. The graph shows that greenhouse gases decreased from 2011 to 2014 as HDDs decreased. The emissions plateaued similar to HDDs from 2015 to 2016. From 2016 to 2018, the emissions followed a similar trend as HDDs. Energy efficiency measures in 2019 likely helped keep emissions down despite the slight increase in HDDs. From 2020 to 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic struck, reducing onsite activity, especially for mobile emissions sources. From 2021 to 2024, total emissions remained relatively similar despite HDDs declining. In 2025, a prominent rise in emissions is observed which is due to the inclusion of refrigerant emissions for the first time in the District's inventory. Some of these variations observed may also be due to changes in floor area within the District.

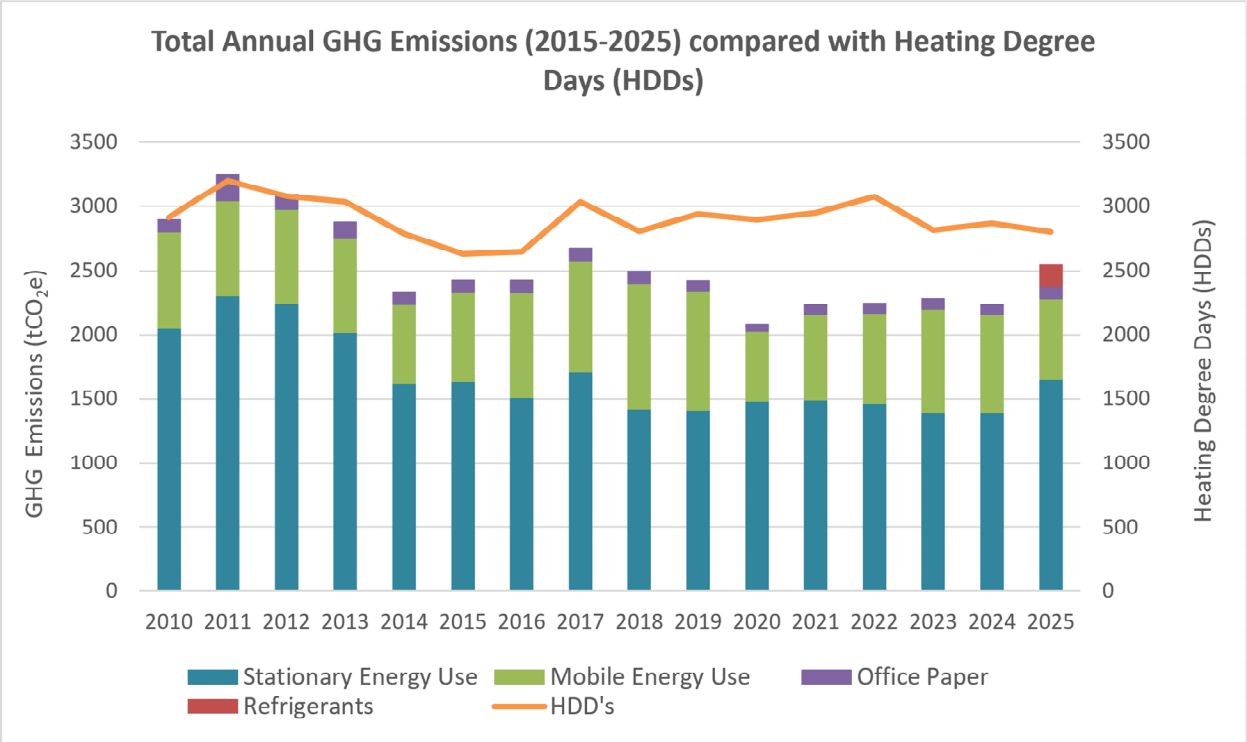


Figure 2. Total Annual GHG Emissions compared with Heating Degree Days from 2015-2025

How Do We Compare?

As of 2024, the Sooke School District was the fourth lowest emitter in the province in terms of GHG emissions per student (Figure 3). Its GHG emissions were 65% below the provincial average. Between 2010 –2024, the District achieved better than average emissions reductions (Figure 4) resulting in a 30% decrease in weather-normalized emissions compared to a provincial average emissions reduction of 22%.

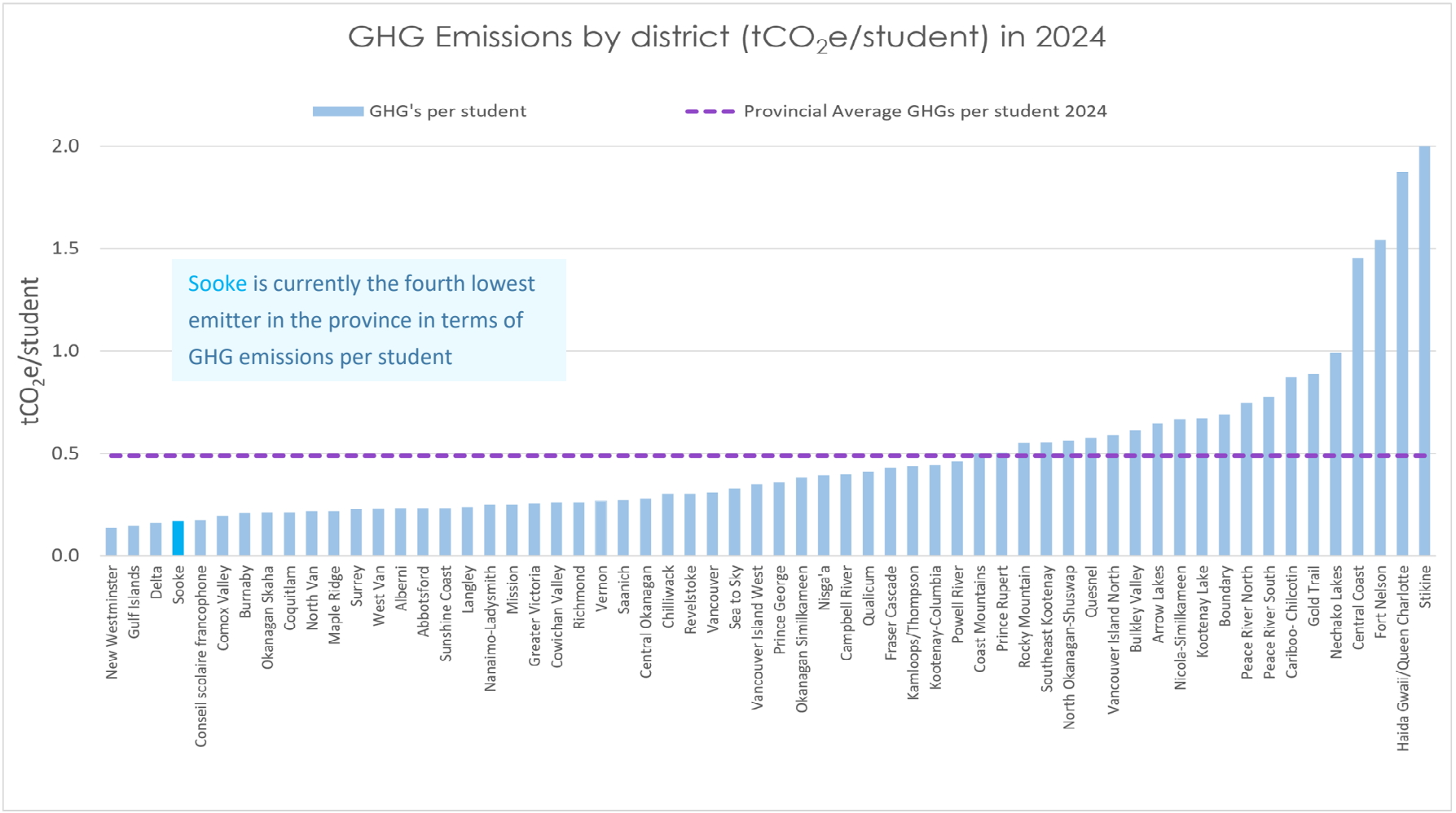


Figure 3. SD 62's 2024 GHG Emissions in tCO_2e per student compared to other districts in British Columbia

Data Sources: This graph was generated using data from CleanBC's *2024 Carbon Neutral Government Year in Review Summary and BC Schools - Student Enrolment and FTEs Report*

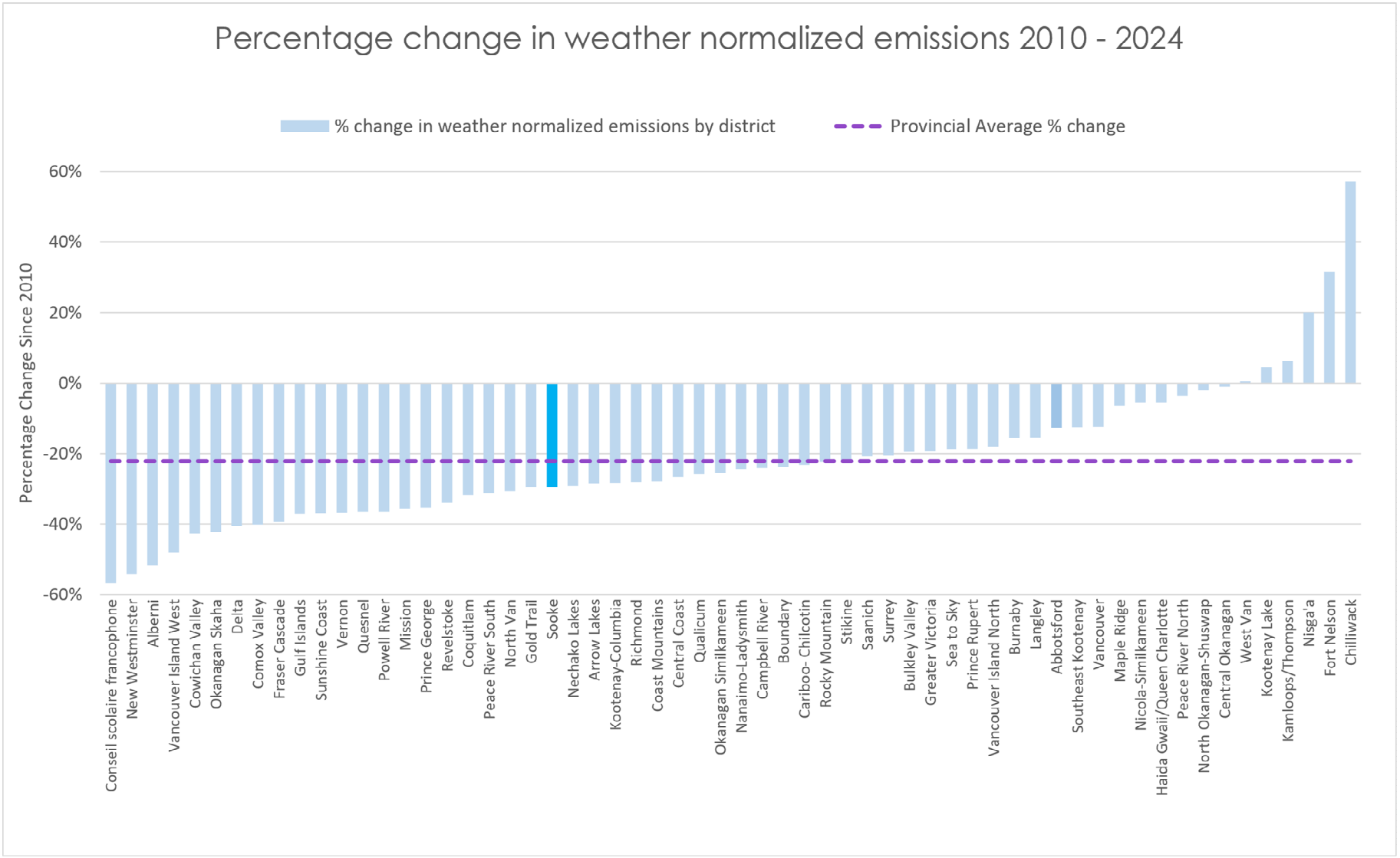


Figure 4. 2024 GHG percentage change in weather normalized GHG emissions per student

Data Sources: This graph was generated using data from CleanBC's *2024 Carbon Neutral Government Year in Review: Summary,* and an in-house weather database

Summary of 2025 Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Actions

As part of SD 62's commitment to reducing its energy consumption and associated emissions, measures are prioritized and selected based on feasibility, resource availability and impacts achieved.

Stationary Sources

Electrical

- Phase 4 electrical upgrade at John Muir Elementary – Removed old roof top units and replaced it with unit ventilators
- Phase 4a electrical upgrade at John Muir Elementary – A full BC Hydro upgrade to add more electrical capacity for heat ventilators and roof top units
- Lighting upgrade at John Muir Elementary – From Fluorescent to LED
- Lighting upgrade at Saseenos Elementary – From Fluorescent to LED

Mechanical

- An air source heat pump replaced with a failed heat pump at Belmont Secondary

Mobile

Electric Vehicles

- Added three light-duty zero-emission vehicles to the fleet

Paper Consumption

Paper Sourcing

- Continued sourcing 100% recycled paper and consider ways to reduce consumption

Summary of Future Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Actions

Projects planned for 2026 and beyond build on the work, learning and success of projects to date. These projects are described in the tables below.

Stationary Sources

Electrical

- Phase 4A building commissioning at John Muir Elementary
- Two Level 2 electric vehicle chargers installed at Ecole John Stubbs Memorial
- Two Level 2 electric vehicle chargers installed at Spencer Middle School
- Lighting upgrade at Edward Milne Community School – Fluorescent to LED
- Lighting upgrade at Royal Bay Secondary School – Fluorescent to LED

Mechanical

- Phase 5 Upgrade at John Muir Elementary – Two roof top units, four unit ventilators, and exhaust fans will be installed, replacing gas furnaces
- HVAC upgrade at Sangster Elementary – Furnace upgraded to four roof top units
- HVAC upgrade at Willway Elementary – Six unit ventilators, four rooftop units replacing old roof top units
- Integrated energy audits for Edward Milne Community, Journey Middle, Lakewood Elementary, and Wishart Elementary Schools

Mobile

Electric Vehicles

- Purchasing two heavy-duty battery electric vehicles

Paper Consumption

Paper Sourcing

- Continue sourcing 100% recycled paper and consider ways to reduce consumption

Fugitive Refrigerants

Data Collection and Analysis

- Refine refrigerant inventory

2025 GHG Emissions and Offset Summary Table

By the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, SD 62 recorded activities generating direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions. In 2025, SD 62 realized direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions measured in tonnes per carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e) in the categories of stationary fuel combustion, mobile fuel combustion, office paper, and refrigerants.

SD 62 2025 GHG Emissions and Offsets	
GHG Emissions created in Calendar Year 2025	
Total BioCO_2 (tCO_2e)	69.4
Total Emissions (tCO_2e)	2,480.78
Total Offsets (tCO_2e)	2,001 [1]
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO_2e)	1.85
Grand Total Offsets for the 2025 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets (tCO_2e) to be Retired for 2025 Reporting Year	1,998.93
Offset Investment ($25 per tCO_2e)	$49,973

Retirement of Offsets

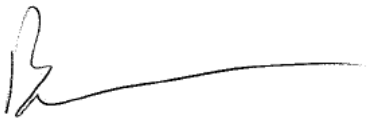
In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, Sooke School District (SD 62) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2025 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years (if applicable). SD 62 hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions (the Ministry) ensuring that these offsets are retired on SD 62's behalf, SD 62 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.

[1] Please note, this offset value is exclusive of the 480 tCO_2e from school buses in SD 62's fleet.

Climate Risk Management

The broader region where SD 62 is located will increasingly feel the impacts of climate change, including but not limited to hotter summer temperatures; less rain and more dry days in summer months; more precipitation in the fall, winter, and spring; less snowfall in the colder months; and extreme rainfall events become wetter[2]. Although broader regional climate risks are well documented, the specific risks facing the District are not currently defined. Conducting a climate exposure screen or climate resilience assessments would be a critical first step in supporting informed long-term climate risk management and planning. There is currently no allocated operational or capital budget at the District level for climate risk management actions.

Executive Sign-off



May 29, 2026

Signature | Date

Brian Jonker | Secretary Treasurer

Name (please print) | Title

Please scan and email the completed form to Carbon.Neutral@gov.bc.ca

[2] Climate Projections for the Capital Regional District, 2024: https://www.crd.ca/media/file/climateprojectionscapitalregion2024