



School District No. 74 (Gold Trail) 2025 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

May 31, 2026



Land Acknowledgement

Gold Trail acknowledges with respect that it is situated on the traditional territory of the Nlaka'pamux, St'át'imc and Secwépemc people.

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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. 74'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.

By June 30, 2026, the 2025 Climate Change Accountability Report will be posted on SD 74's website at <https://www.sd74.bc.ca>

Executive Summary

Gold Trail School District's Commitment to Energy Management and Carbon Reduction

SD 74 is committed to a carbon-neutral future. It 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 2007 baseline. The district aims to reduce its carbon footprint and improve its sustainability performance by participating in sustainability programs and ensuring environmentally responsible practices. As part of the district's Strategic Plan for 2022-2026, SD 74 aims to improve the condition and performance of district facilities and infrastructure, promote and incorporate sustainable practices, as well as address facility and infrastructure needs because of changing demographics.

2025 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Offsets

The district's emissions come from four categories: mobile sources such as district maintenance vehicles and buses; stationary sources including the natural gas and electricity used to operate schools and district buildings; fugitive refrigerant emissions from space cooling and refrigeration equipment, and paper consumed at all district facilities. In 2025, mobile energy use accounted for 66.0% of SD 74's total annual emissions, followed by stationary sources (28.3%), then fugitive refrigerant emissions (5.0%) and lastly, paper sources (0.7%). 2025 marked the first year that SD 74 reported their fugitive refrigerant emissions. SD 74's total greenhouse gas emissions for 2025 were 1,232 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e), including biogenic emissions. This equates to a decrease in emissions of 2.5% compared to 2010 and an increase of 34.7% 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 74's offset retirement costs equal \$12,731.50.

Emissions Reductions Actions

As part of SD 74's commitment to reducing its energy consumption and associated emissions, energy efficiency projects are prioritized and selected based on resource availability, feasibility, and potential impact. As a result, most projects completed in 2025 and planned for 2026 focus on reducing stationary energy use through electrical and mechanical upgrades at schools.

Climate Risk Management

Increasingly, SD 74 schools feel the impact of climate events from flooding, wildfires and extreme temperatures. Wildfires and associated smoke have particularly affected staff, faculty, and students and road conditions are an ongoing concern that SD 74 regularly monitors. The district plans to continue refining its existing strategies related to climate adaptation to improve climate resilience in the future.

Overview

About SD 74

The Gold Trail School District (SD74) has 8 schools in the beautiful British Columbia interior. There are three K–12 schools; one rural one-room school; one secondary school; and three elementary schools.

Gold Trail is a unique school district as it is a geographically vast school district. The school district lies in the traditional territory of the Nlaka’pamux, St’át’imc, and Secwepmec people. Within the boundaries are five municipalities and nineteen Indigenous communities. As each community is distinct, so is each school in the district. The eight schools in the district each reflect the community, local Indigenous culture and children and families they serve. Its wide geographic area also results in mobile emissions contributing to a larger proportion of SD74’s total emissions, whereas building emissions typically make up majority of total emissions for other school districts.

This report provides a comprehensive overview of SD74’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.

The funding for available projects in SD 74 is much lower than that of larger districts. All the projects listed below are funded by the Ministry or utility providers, with a small portion coming from the district. None of the funding comes from the Ministry’s Major Capital Project funding stream.

SD 74’s Commitment to Energy Management and Carbon Reduction

SD 74 is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and improving sustainability through environmentally responsible practices. Fossil fuel consumption is always top of mind, and the district aims to minimize it without compromising the comfort of the schools they oversee.



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=925214536289447&set=pb.100064027273163.-2207520000&type=3>

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Overview

Emissions Trends

Figure 1 illustrates SD 74's total annual GHG emissions trend from 2010 – 2025 in comparison to annual heating degree days (HDDs). 2010 was selected as the baseline year because it marks the first year in which SD74 collected complete GHG emissions data. All emission totals seen below include biogenic emissions.

As the graph shows, energy consumption and HDDs slightly increased in 2011, followed by a steady decline each year until 2015. Energy consumption then increased alongside HDDs from 2015 to 2017. While HDDs remained higher than 2015 levels, energy conservation measures in 2018 and 2019 helped to reduce total energy consumption and associated greenhouse gas emissions. In early 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic struck, reducing onsite activity, and associated stationary, mobile, and paper GHG emissions. Most onsite activities resumed in September 2022 bringing with them an increase in energy consumption and emissions. In 2023, energy consumption and emissions decreased slightly as the need for heating (shown as HDD's) also decreased. There was a slight rise in emissions in 2024 (likely from an increase in HDD's compared to 2023). In 2025, there was an overall increase in emissions as this is the first year SD 74 included fugitive refrigerant emissions in their reporting. There was a slight decline in stationary energy emissions, likely as a result of transitioning some school heating systems to electricity, along with the installation of solar panels at Kumsheen School. Mainly, the increase is attributed to mobile energy use, as the district had an increase in field trips in 2025, leading to increased travel distances for school buses and higher fuel consumption over the course of the year.

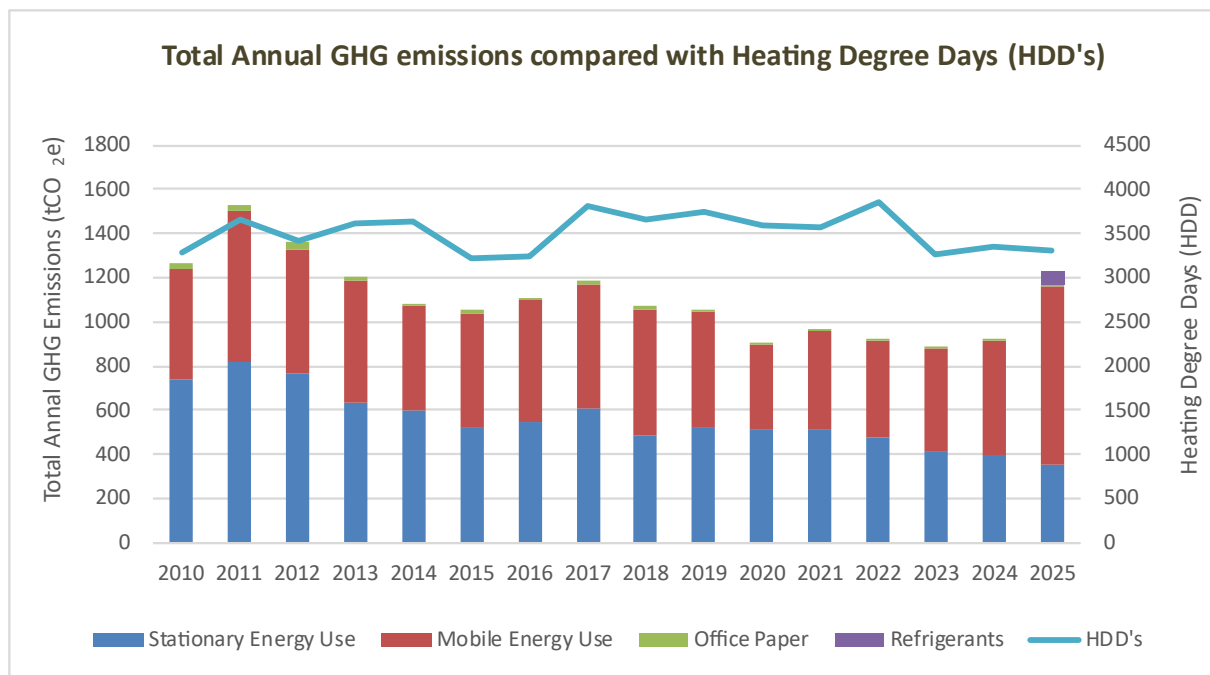


Figure 1. SD 74's Total Annual GHG Emissions Compared with Heating Degree Days from 2010-2025

Figure 2 illustrates this story from the perspective of the total annual costs the district is required to offset. While offset costs increased in 2011, and slightly in 2016/17, the overall trend line of carbon offset costs continues to decrease. The carbon offset costs in 2025 have decreased by 34.4%, compared to 2010 values.

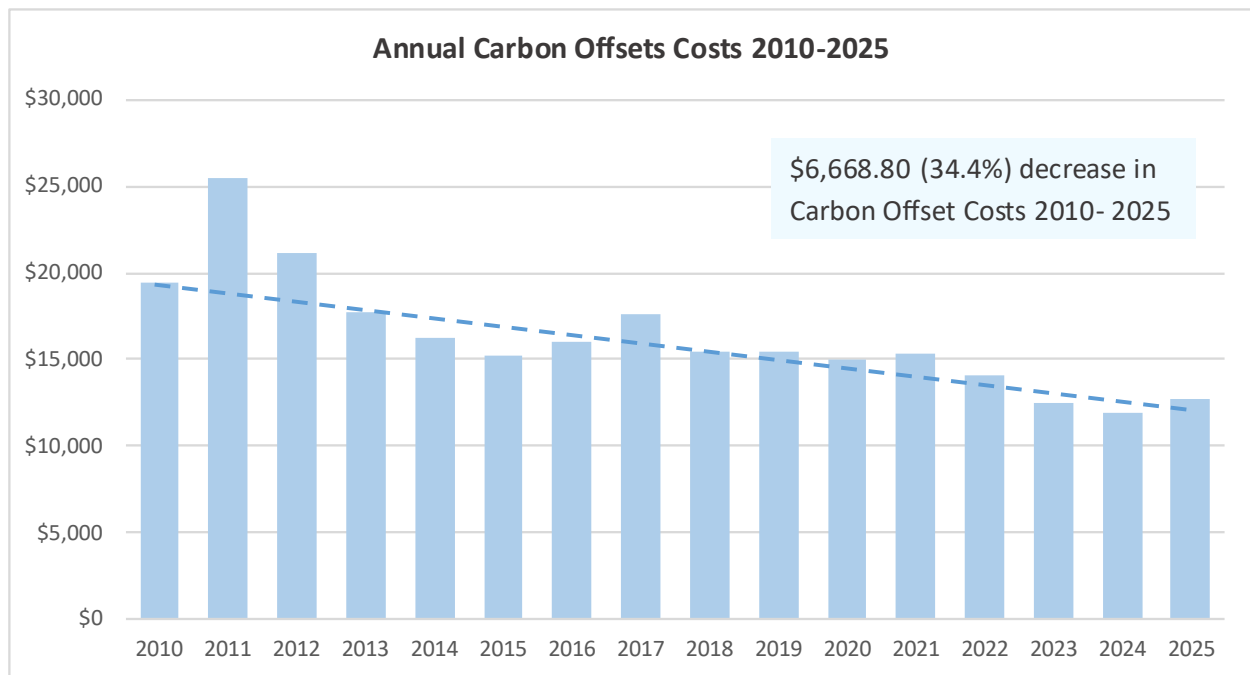


Figure 2. SD 74's Annual Carbon Offset Costs from 2010-2025

2025 Emissions

As Figure 1 describes SD 74's 2024 total GHG emissions decreased by 2.5% compared to 2010 levels and increased by 34.7% compared to 2024 levels.

GHG Emissions by Source

Mobile Sources



Mobile sources accounted for 813 tCO₂e (66.0%) of SD 74's total 1232 tCO₂e, including biogenic emissions, in 2025. SD 74 currently has a 100 percent gasoline and diesel-powered fleet, with 17 buses, 31 white fleets for maintenance and 4 pieces of non-road equipment.

Stationary Sources



The second greatest source of emissions, stationary sources accounted for 349 tCO₂e, including biogenic emissions or approximately 28.3% of SD 74'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.



Fugitive Refrigerant Emissions

Fugitive refrigerant emissions accounted for 61 tCO₂e or approximately 5.0% of SD 74’s total emissions in 2025. Emissions in this category are associated with refrigerants used in the building’s mechanical cooling systems, as well as smaller appliances like refrigerators and freezers.



Paper

Paper consumption accounted for 8.99 tCO₂e or approximately 0.7% of SD 74’s total emissions in 2025. This represents the smallest source of SD 74’s total emissions.

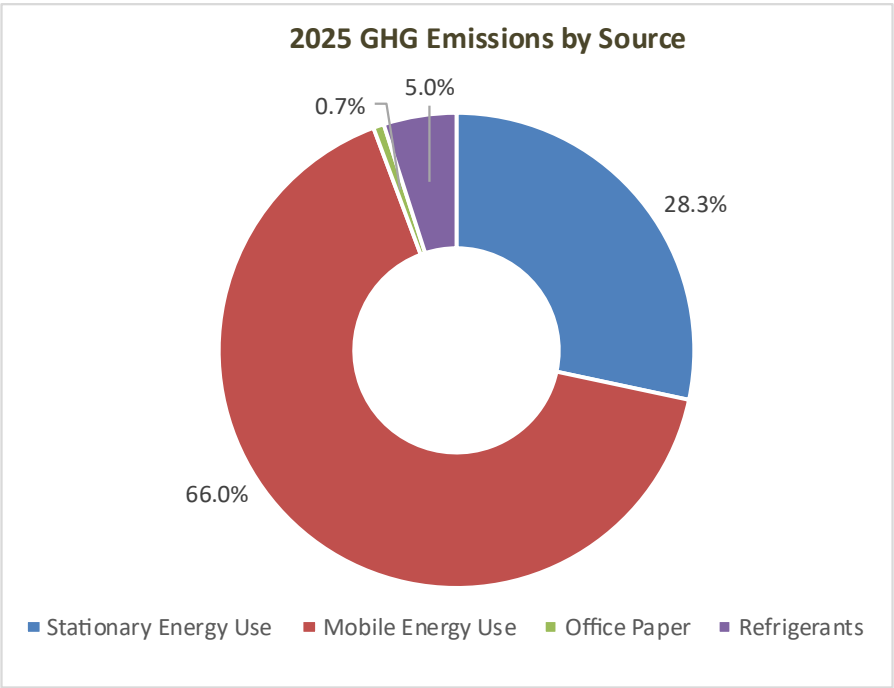


Figure 3. Breakdown of SD 74’s 2025 GHG Emissions by Source

How Do We Compare?

As of 2024, the Gold Trail School District was one of the ten highest emitters in the province in terms of GHG emissions per student (Figure 5). Its GHG emissions per student were 82% above the provincial average. However, between 2010 –2024, the District achieved above average emissions reduction (Figure 6) resulting in a 30% decrease in weather-normalized emissions compared to a provincial average emissions reduction of 22%.

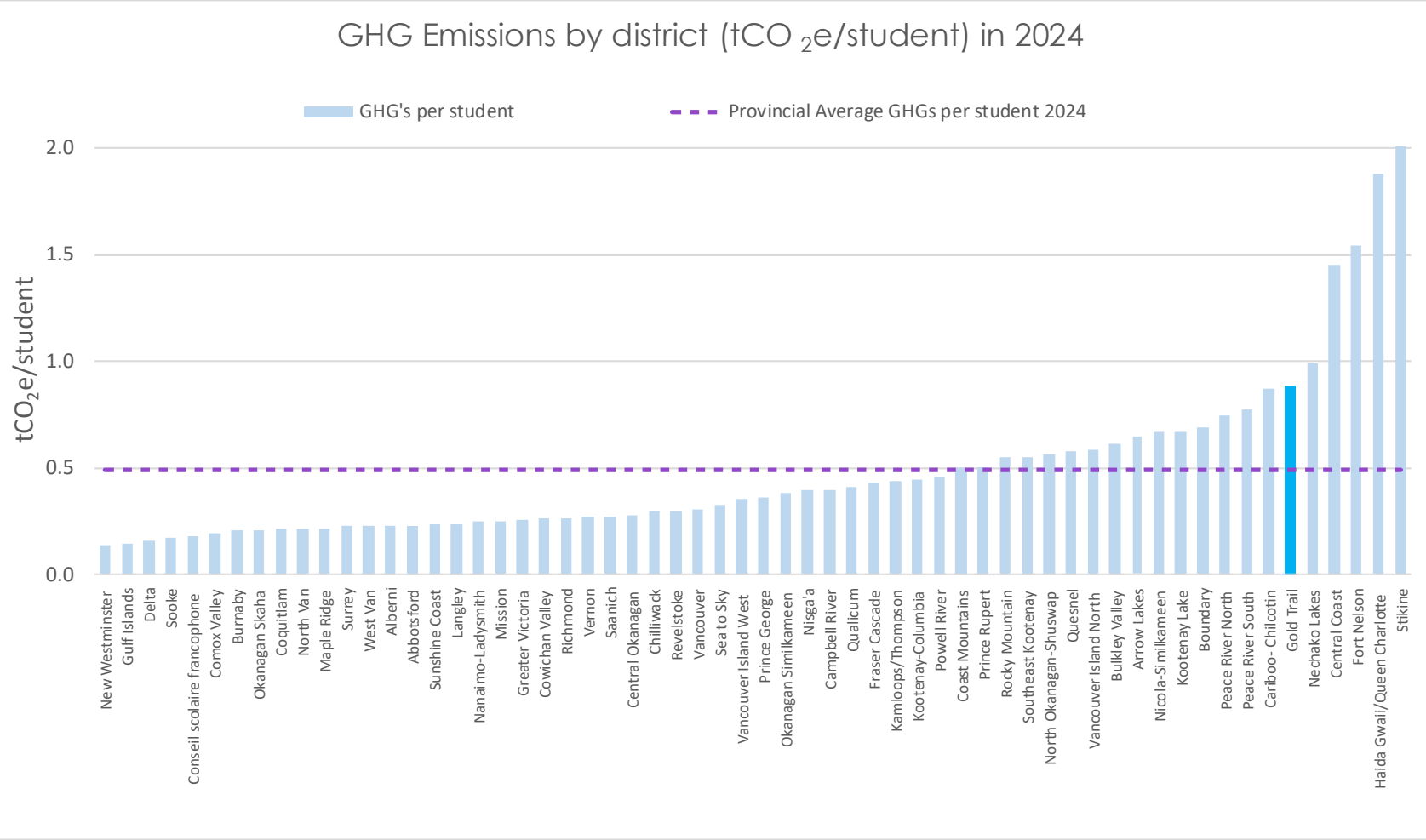


Figure 4. SD 74's 2024 GHG Emissions in tCO₂e per student compared to other districts in British Columbia

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 FTE by Grade Report

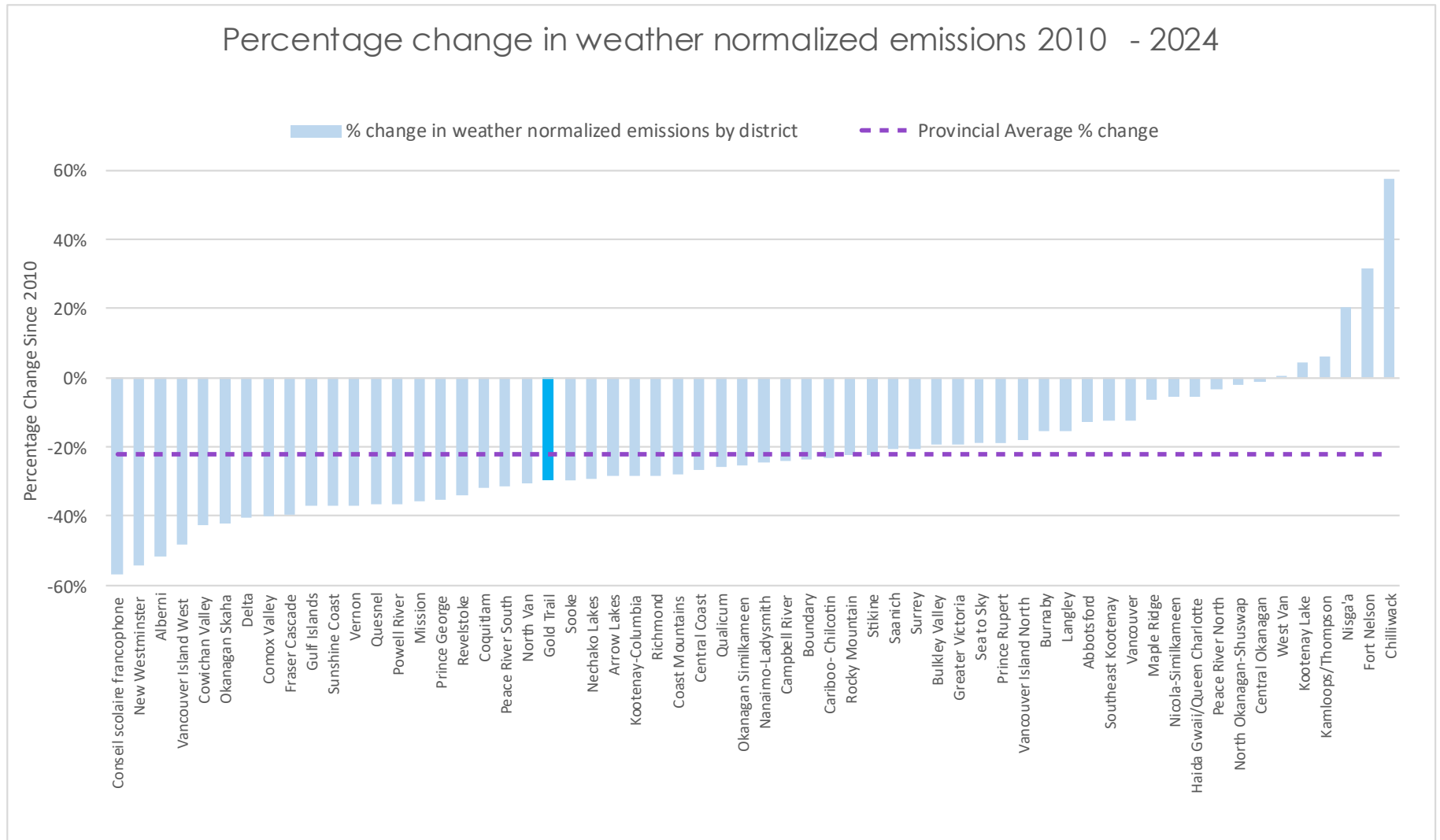


Figure 5. 2024 GHG percentage change in weather normalized GHG emissions per student

Data Sources: This graph was generated using data from CleanBC's 2024 Carbon Neutral Government Year in Review: Summary, and The Government of Canada's historical weather database, https://climate.weather.gc.ca/historical_data/search_historic_data_e.html, accessed May 15, 2026.

Summary of 2025 Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Actions

As part of SD 74's commitment to reducing its energy consumption and associated emissions, measures are prioritized and selected based on feasibility, resource availability and impacts achieved.

The schools in SD 74 are located in remote areas, which can sometimes make operations difficult. The district cannot control energy usage when winter temperatures drop below -25 to -35 degrees. In those circumstances, the schools must use more fuel whether it be fossil fuel or electricity. Summers in this region have been consistently hot, with temperatures often reaching the high 30s and low 40s in recent years. That creates an extra electrical consumption load as cooling becomes a necessity. As a result, most projects in 2025 focused on reducing stationary energy use. These projects are described in the tables below.

 Stationary Sources	
Electrical	
• Kumsheen Elementary installed 99 kW of solar photovoltaic panels on site.	
Mechanical	
• David Stoddart School in Clinton: Upgraded to electric unit ventilators to add cooling and higher efficiency hydronic heating in three classrooms. • Board Office: Building envelope improvements were completed in 2025, including window replacements. • Cayoosh Elementary in Lillooet: This school upgraded their existing propane boilers with electric boilers. In addition, the remaining classrooms that did not receive electric unit ventilators in 2024 had them installed in 2025. Control upgrades were also commissioned this year. This school is now fully electric.	

 Paper Consumption	
Change in material	
• 2025 was the first full year of the district purchasing solely sugarcane bagasse paper.	

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
Mechanical
• Cayoosh Elementary in Lillooet: The district would like to install solar panels on the roof in 2026. • David Stoddart School in Clinton: Plans to upgrade electric unit ventilators to add cooling and higher efficiency hydronic heating in remaining classrooms. • Desert Sands Community School: All exterior doors of the building will be upgraded to improve building envelope thermal efficiency and reduce drafts. • George Murray: The district is looking at replacing one of the electric heating units and a potential roofing replacement to allow for solar panel input. • The district plans to improve duct sealing at Lillooet Secondary. • The district plans to increase the insulation in the roof at Cache Creek Elementary. • The district will complete C.Ops at three to four sites to identify continuous optimization projects. The studies are expected to be completed in 2026, with potential implementation in the fall of 2026.
Ongoing Strategic Energy Management
With the help of PUMA when Demand Charges and Power Factor issues are identified in monthly reports the district responds right away (time pending) to correct these issues. The district monitors excessive consumption and works to find out why that is happening.

2025 GHG Emissions and Offset Summary Table

By the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, SD 74 recorded activities generating direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions. In 2025, SD 74 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, fugitive refrigerants, and office paper.

SD 74 2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets	
GHG Emissions created in Calendar Year 2024	
Total BioCO ₂ (tCO ₂ e)	63.3
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	1232
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	500
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	9.26
Grand Total Offsets for the 2024 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e) to be Retired for 2024 Reporting Year	509.26
Offset Investment (\$25 per tCO ₂ e)	\$12,731.50

Retirement of Offsets

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, Gold Trail School District (SD 74) 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 74 hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions (the Ministry) ensuring that these offsets are retired on SD 74's behalf, SD 74 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.

Climate Risk Management

Increasingly, SD 74 has felt the impact of climate events from flooding, wildfires and extreme cold temperatures. The mountainous terrain is prone to fires and landslides which can make it difficult for buses to access the area. Wildfires and associated smoke have particularly affected school staff, faculty and students. In the past, some schools have had to be closed for flooding and there was property damage. In the case of a wildfire event, SD 74 has committed to assisting local first nation communities to assist with evacuations.

The district conducts daily assessments of road conditions, and weather warnings to determine the operational feasibility for the schools. There is a daily log, climate patterns are tracked and a response plan is developed for each emergency. Fluctuating water quality was identified as a risk at Kumsheen ShchEma-meet K-12 School in Lytton. The district has developed a mitigation plan to address water quality at this site. SD 74 also restricts water consumption outside of school days to conserve water.

In 2025, SD74 completed site drainage at all schools to make them more resilient to extreme rain. In 2026, SD 74 plans to continue mitigating risks related to extreme weather events such as flooding, wildfire and smoke. Some of these activities include:

- Adding more drought tolerant trees.
- Adding film to windows to reduce heat gain.

The district will refine and formalize its existing processes and strategies related to climate adaptation, as well as build climate resilience into project planning wherever possible and within budget constraints. The district ensures that support is made available to indigenous families and communities in case of extreme weather events and that there is ongoing collaboration and communication from the school district.

The district does not have access to a lot of funding and relies on different grants for various initiatives.

Success Story

The district defines success as the ability to advance the above-discussed projects and secure funding to confidently plan and execute them. The district would like to highlight the Kumsheen school solar panel installation. The 99-kW solar array was commissioned in May 2025 and has delivered strong performance with peak summer months generating more electricity than the building consumed and exporting excess power back to the grid. Based on BC Hydro data, the system has achieved approximately 40% savings in electricity usage (kWh), while overall costs have decreased by approximately 20%. This project has been highly successful, not only delivering measurable energy and cost savings but also advancing the organization's sustainability goals. It has inspired plans to replicate similar solar installations across other schools to further reduce emissions and energy costs. An image of the solar panel installations on Kumsheen's roof can be seen below.



Executive Sign-off



Signature

May 26/2026

Date

Chuck Morris

Name (please print)

Director of Operations, S.D. No. 74 (Gold Trail)

Title