

Cowichan Valley School District

2020 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report



Declaration statement

This Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 summarizes our emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2020 to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2021 and beyond.

By June 30, 2021 Cowichan Valley School District's final CCAR will be posted to our website at www.sd79.bc.ca.

Overview

The Cowichan Valley School District continues to work towards reducing its Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions as a long-term contribution to GHG reductions. The focus remains on upgrading to cleaner energy sources, education and awareness, and support for climate action programs. COVID 19 presented unique challenges that did have a negative impact on energy consumption and those impacts will be reviewed and a plan will be put in place to further offset those impacts.

Starting in 1998, through the support and leadership of the Boards at the Cowichan Valley School District, the district has been very proactive with climate and environmental action initiatives. Such initiatives included replacement of heating systems with high efficiency systems, Biomass boiler to replace the furnace oil heat at Lake Cowichan Secondary School, various other mechanical and lighting upgrades, building envelope upgrades of Drinkwater, Lake Cowichan, and Mt Prevost. Other initiatives included the introduction of an anti-idling campaign for bus fleet, student-initiated energy upgrades (solar preheat on domestic hot water systems at 3 Secondary schools) and the introduction of high-volume eco-friendly wastepaper products in school washrooms and classrooms.

A climate emergency was declared by the Board Jan/Feb of 2020 which reinforced the district commitment to climate action and created greater awareness not only among district

staff and students but the broader community. The district continues making reductions by finding impact in cost effective approaches, new innovative ideas, and partnerships. Aligning goals with those of neighbouring communities and organizations contribute to regional targets and trends is also important.

Actions Taken in 2020 to Minimize Emissions

There is an ongoing Building Envelope project at Mill Bay Nature School that reopened in 2018; this project will be complete this year and will enhance occupant comfort and reduce the consumption of heating energy. An OBS agreement with Honeywell was secured and is underway to further optimize the existing mechanical systems which will result in a significant reduction in electricity, natural gas and fuel oil consumption. The district continues to do end-to-end reviews of all HVAC DOC systems annually. This identifies and corrects issues that occur throughout the year which cause inefficiencies in the heating systems. The Cowichan Valley School District acquired its first fully electric school bus and will be reviewing the viability of further acquisitions in 2021.

Plans to Continue Reducing Emissions 2021 and Beyond

The district will continue to implement projects to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The district will carry on with lighting projects, including the continuation of the installation of LED light fixtures at schools across the district.

The district will also be completing a major heating plant upgrade at one of our larger school facilities as well as the maintenance shop and bus garage. The heating plants for the maintenance shop and bus garage will have a large impact on emissions reduction with the conversation of oil-fired boilers to heat pumps. The district is also continuing a building envelope project at one site. These projects will have a large impact on occupant comfort and the reduction of heating energy and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Cowichan Valley School District acquired its first fully electric school bus and will be reviewing the viability of further acquisitions later this year. The district is also exploring the viability of introducing two EV's as a car share program as well as EV or hybrids within the maintenance fleet.

The promotion of energy efficiency and sustainable practices will continue district wide to increase the overall awareness of sustainability issues.

[Cowichan Valley School District] 2020 GHG Emissions and Offsets	
GHG Emissions created in Calendar Year 2020	
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	2191
Total BioCO ₂	15.5
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	1670
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	-202
Grand Total Offsets for the 2020 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e) to be Retired for 2020 Reporting Year	1468
Offset Investment (\$25 per tCO ₂ e) [Grand Total Offsets to be Retired x \$25/tCO ₂ e]	\$36,700

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, Cowichan Valley School District (**the Organization**) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2020 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years (if applicable). The Organization hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (**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.

Executive sign-off:

Signature _____ Date _____

Name (please print) _____ Title _____

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