

## 2021 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

**Organization:** School District No. 69 (Qualicum)

### **Declaration statement:**

This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2021 to reduce our GHG emissions and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2022 and beyond.

### **Overview:**

The district concluded the creation of a Board wide Strategic Plan in 2019. This plan included the following items which are applicable to emission reduction:

- Under Values: “Social responsibility and environmental sustainability” and “Innovation as a means of ensuring that we respond and adapt to a changing world and new understandings”.
- As a Guiding Principle: “Stewardship of the public investment in education in our community is crucial. This requires an unwavering commitment to fiscal responsibility and allocation of resources based on identified needs and strategic priorities.” We see this guiding principle as including environmental stewardship as part of fiscal responsibility.

Energy conservation is part of our ongoing work. Efforts to conserve energy are included throughout our 5 year Capital Plan and our Annual Facility Grant projects. In 2021, the district initiated or completed the following projects which will directly reduce carbon emissions:

- The district continues to evaluate every bus replacement in the context of carbon footprint, so with that in mind, we received our first electric bus in August 2021. We now feel we have some understanding of the right “fit” for an electric vehicle, but recognize that with the current technology the pay back on investment could extend beyond the life of the vehicle. That said, we will continue to review the size and type of buses required to continue to conserve energy.
- During summer 2021 the District constructed a Photovoltaic (PV) array placement on the roof of Qualicum Beach Elementary. This is the districts 5th solar power initiative that continues to help reduce our use of diesel and natural gas and take advantage of this alternate energy source.
- The district continued its waste program at 4 pilot schools to encourage the reduction in the amount of waste removed from school sites, with separation between food waste, recyclables and landfill. The program is expected to expand to 4 additional schools in the 21/22 school year.
- The district engaged an Engineering firm to review the energy usage of five of its buildings. The goal of the project is to identify opportunities to enhance the buildings’ performance through a process of “tuning up” building systems. In doing so, the intent is to save energy and improve operations without having to undertake a major capital investment.

Energy conservation continues to be a goal for the district. Our Operations and Maintenance department has completed several projects that have implemented controls for heat and lights, retrofits for lighting and

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replacing plumbing fixtures with low flow units. Operations has continued to monitor the water usage on school fields with meters being installed where possible to monitor the water usage to reduce the need to water, particularly in summer. These are all part of the day to day operational work as well as project based work when Ministry or other funding permits.

Recognizing their role as the leaders of educational change in the School District, the School Board created a Climate Action Task Force in 2019. This group includes membership from all educational partners including students, staff and administration. Its mandate is to promote action to decrease greenhouse emissions, help develop plans to educate our learning community and advocate for progressive policy solutions.

### Emissions and Offset Summary Table:

School District No. 69 (Qualicum) GHG Emissions and Offsets for 2021	
Total Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	2,072
Total BioCO <sub>2</sub>	19
Total Offsets (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	1,596
Offset Investment (\$25 per tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	\$ 39,900

### Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, School District No. 69 (Qualicum) (**the Organization**) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2021 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:

_____	MAY 24, 2022
Signature	Date
RON AMOS	SECRETARY TREASURER
Name (please print)	Title