

## 2022 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

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

### **Declaration statement:**

This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2022 to reduce our GHG emissions and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2023 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 2022, 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 reduce our carbon footprint.
- During summer 2022 the District constructed a Photovoltaic (PV) array placements on the roof of Bowser Elementary, Springwood Elementary and Ballenas Secondary. The District now has 8 sites with placements that continue 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 a total of 8 schools to encourage the reduction in the amount of waste removed from school sites, with separation between food waste, recyclables and landfill.
- The district engaged an Engineering firm to review the energy usage of five of its buildings. The goal of the project was to identify opportunities to enhance the buildings’ performance through a process of “tuning up” building systems. In doing so, the intent was to save energy and improve operations without having to undertake a major capital investment. Throughout 2022 and 2023 the District has been active in operationalizing the recommendations that were in the report.

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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 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.

In 2023 we will be introducing two new initiatives that will further our work in reducing our energy consumption and support sustainability objectives. A new administrative procedure will reinforce the collective responsibility to protect and conserve the environment, and encourage efforts in areas of lighting, heating, ventilation, renovations and new construction and recycling programs. The District will also be exploring with BC Hydro a program to support smaller School Districts in accessing their Energy Manager program.


### Emissions and Offset Summary Table:

School District No. 69 (Qualicum) GHG Emissions and Offsets for 2022	
Total Emissions (tCO2e)	2,106
Total BioCO2	21
Total Offsets (tCO2e)	1,644
Offset Investment (\$25 per tCO2e)	\$ 41,100

### 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 2022 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	MAY 29, 2023 Date
RON AMOS Name (please print)	SECRETARY TREASURER Title