

2023 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

Organization: School District No. 69 (Qualicum)

Declaration statement:

This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2023 to minimize our GHG emissions and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2024 and beyond.

Emission Reductions: Actions & Plans:

The Board of Education concluded the creation of a District wide Strategic Plan in 2023. This plan included the following items which are applicable to environmental sustainability:

- Under Values: “Sustainable: Stewardship and care for relationships, personal well-being, finances, and the environment”.

As well the Board has included a mandate of the Finance and Operations Committee of the Whole: “To discuss and make recommendations to the Board on financial, facilities, maintenance, technology and transportation matters with a view to environmental sustainability.”

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 project development. In 2023, the district initiated or maintained 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 the past 6 years the District has invested heavily in Solar/Photovoltaic (PV) array placements and 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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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 Board created a Climate Action Task Force in 2019, with the intention of broadening the dialogue to include other educational partners including students, staff and administration. The mandate to promote action to decrease greenhouse emissions, help develop plans to educate our learning community and advocate for progressive policy solutions has now been embedded in the work of the Education Committee of the Whole.

In 2023 we introduced 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.

2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table:

School District No. 69 (Qualicum) GHG Emissions and Offsets for 2023	
Total BioCO ₂	23
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	1,830
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	1,291
Offset Investment (\$25 per tCO ₂ e)	\$ 32,275

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and the 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 2023 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 29, 2024
Signature	Date
RON AMOS	SECRETARY TREASURER
Name (please print)	Title