



2024 Climate Change Accountability Report

Prepared May 2025 in accordance with British Columbia's Climate Change
Accountability Act and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulations.

With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Introduction

The Vancouver School District (District) has a long-standing commitment to sustainability. For many years, the District has implemented energy conservation activities and retrofits. In 2024, these included retrofitting old lighting systems at school sites, optimizing energy use through controls adjustments, and installing new high efficiency heating plants. These projects have reduced our utility costs, improved our operating practices, and supported a positive learning environment.

Provincial Policy

The Province of British Columbia (Province) enacted the Climate Change Accountability Act (CCAA) in 2007 (formerly the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act* GGRTA 2007). The CCAA requires, among other things, that public sector organizations (PSOs) be carbon neutral beginning in 2010, and for each year thereafter. The District is subject to this requirement.

Being carbon neutral requires an organization to:

- take action to reduce its Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions,
- measure and report its carbon emissions (or carbon ‘footprint’), and
- purchase carbon offsets for any remaining emissions to effectively ‘neutralize’ the environmental impact of these emissions.

The Province has defined criteria for reporting and has developed a web-based system for tracking and reporting emissions.

Declaration Statement:

This Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 summarizes the District’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions taken in 2024 to minimize GHG emissions, and plans to continue reducing emissions in 2025 and beyond.

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, Vancouver School District is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported below for the 2024 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years (if applicable). The District hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions (the Ministry) ensuring that these offsets are retired on the District’s behalf, the District 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:

(Original Signed)	May 29, 2025
Signature	Date
Helen McGregor	Superintendent / CEO
Name (please print)	Title

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

2024 Emissions and Offsets

For the 2024 calendar year, Greenhouse Gas (GHG) offset-requiring emissions were 15,548 tonnes of CO₂.

As required, the District purchases certified carbon credits to offset these emissions through the Ministry of Environment. Carbon offsets are currently priced at \$25 per tonnes of CO₂ resulting in a cost of \$388,700 (+ GST).

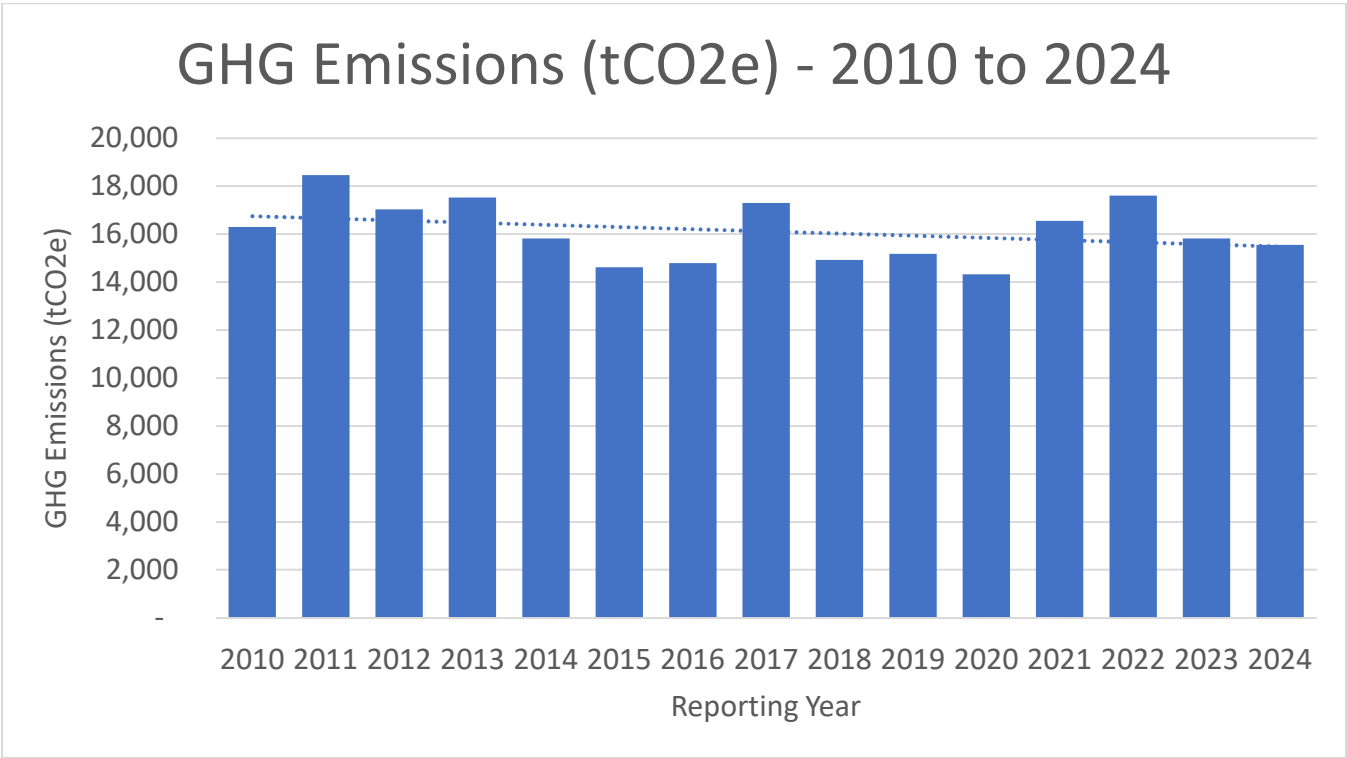
Vancouver School District 2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary (tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent)	
GHG emissions for the period January 1 – December 31, 2024 [Note 1]	
Total BioCO ₂	70.4
Total Emissions of carbon (all types) (tCO ₂ e) [Notes 2, 3]	15,619
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	15,548
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustments (tCO ₂ e)	0
Grand Total Offset for the 2024 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2024 Reporting Year (tCO ₂ e)	15,548
Offset Investment \$ (\$25 per tCO ₂ e) [Note 3]	\$ 388,700

Notes:

- [1] GHG emissions are measured in tonnes of CO₂ 'equivalent' (tCO₂e).
- [2] Total GHG emissions include emissions from the biofuel component of vehicle fuels - which do not require the purchase of offsets. Offsets are only purchased for the fossil fuel component of emissions.
- [3] There may be adjustments and corrections to utility bill statements that occur following the offset calculations for each calendar year. These are reported as adjustments in prior years.

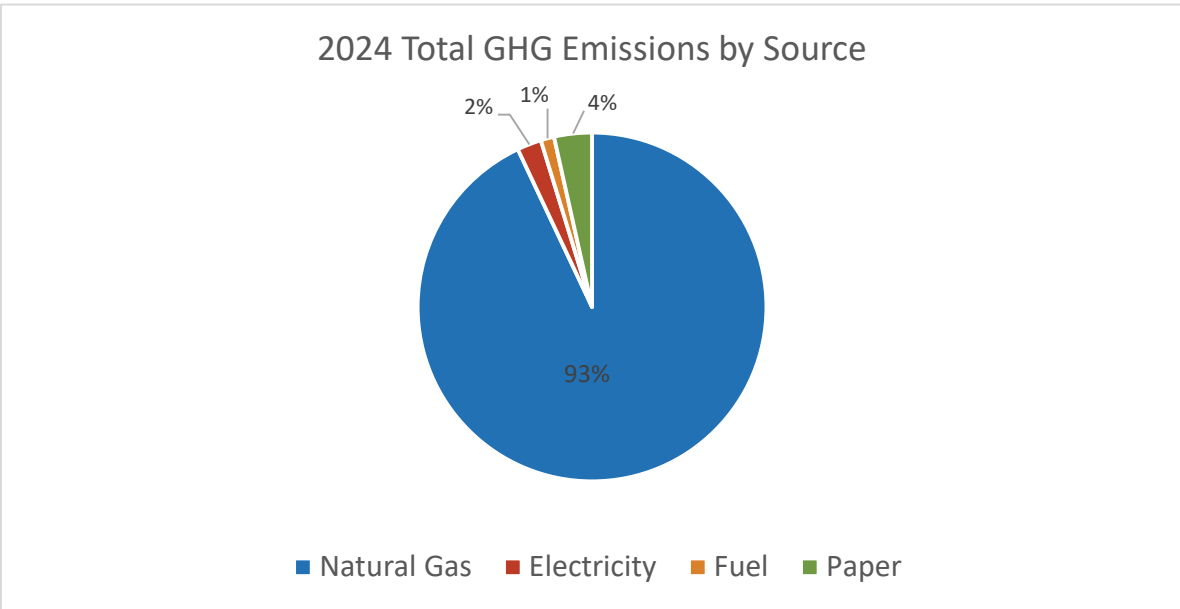
Emissions Trends

The following graph shows the District’s annual GHG emissions since 2010 - the first benchmark year of GHG reporting – highlighting a declining trend. In 2010, the District’s GHG emissions were 16,302 tCO₂e. In 2024, the District’s GHG emissions are calculated at 15,548 tCO₂e. The District has implemented numerous initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and this decreasing trend reflects the result of those efforts, including heating plant upgrades, heat pump installations, operational efficiency adjustments to HVAC systems and the implementation of other energy conservation measures. Variations in GHG emissions can be a result of specific events within a given year or operational adjustments including increasing ventilation frequency, particularly during the COVID pandemic in 2021 / 2022. In 2025, the District will continue to plan for and implement energy efficiency measures to support the reduction of GHG emissions.



Emissions Profile

When emissions are broken down into subsets, the largest contributor is natural gas, accounting for 93% of all emissions; paper use accounting for 4%; electricity accounting for 2%; and fleet fuel accounting for 1% of all emissions.



Emissions Reduction Activities 2024

Actions to Reduce Reportable Emissions in 2024

Several actions were taken in 2024 to reduce energy use and GHG emissions, including:

- upgraded the lighting systems with LED technology at eight schools;
 - Britannia Elementary, Champlain Heights Elementary, Champlain Heights Annex, Dickens Elementary, Douglas Annex, Tillicum Annex, Lord Elementary, John Oliver Secondary (cafeteria wing)
- upgraded heating plants from a low efficiency system to a high efficiency system at Britannia Elementary and Magee Secondary;
- installed heat pumps at two schools through the seismic mitigation program at Hamber Secondary and Hudson Elementary;
- performed ‘building tune-ups’ at Maple Grove Elementary resulting in both energy conservation savings and electrification opportunities;

- reduced the availability of virgin paper by limiting the purchase of paper to 30%, 50% or 100% recycled content when available.

As a result of these actions, the following deemed savings and facility improvements have been achieved:

- reduced electricity consumption of 317,668 kWh annually;
- reduced natural gas consumption of 798 GJ annually;
- reduced utility bill spending of over \$47,600 annually;
- improved occupancy/building comfort;
- improved lighting within upgraded classrooms;
- improved seismic restraint of lighting fixtures within the District.

Actions to Reduce Non-District GHG Emissions in 2024

The District has participated in several activities that reduce GHG emissions in the community that are not specifically “in scope” for our required carbon neutral reporting. These typically focus on active transportation such as Bike to School Week events, bike rack infrastructure improvements, and supporting schools on active travel planning to reduce congestion and improve active commuting to and from school sites.

Actions to Enhance Overall Sustainability in 2024

The District has taken actions that improve the overall sustainability of our schools and community.

These include:

- provided sustainability grants to 53 elementary schools and 25 secondary schools to support a total of 78 student and educator-led sustainability initiatives;
- continued supporting students to organize the district-wide Sustainability Conference (VSBSC) to network with each other and learn from leading sustainability thinkers;
- partnered with Recycle BC to pilot collections of flexible plastics at schools for proper recycling (over 6,000 kilograms were collected in 2024);
- facilitated a professional development program for kindergarten teachers to support outdoor learning for our youngest learners;
- hosted the 2024 Classrooms to Communities Teacher Conference.



Bike rack infrastructure at Vancouver Technical Secondary

Future Activities

In 2025 and onwards, numerous activities are underway to continue to reduce our energy use and carbon emissions, and to improve the overall sustainability of our District.

Actions to Reduce Reportable Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2025

Actions planned for 2025 and beyond include:

- continuing to replace inefficient lighting systems at John Oliver Secondary;
- installing high efficiency boilers at University Hill Elementary and Windermere Secondary (shop wing);
- implementing 'tune-ups' at Norma Rose Point Elementary, Queen Mary Elementary, Tennyson Elementary;
- upgrading building control systems to improve building efficiency and occupant comfort;
- continuing with new facility designs that ensure low carbon and low energy intensive facilities become the standard for the District;
- transitioning to electric power tools and electric fleet vehicles where applicable.

Actions to Reduce Non-District GHG Emissions in 2025 and Onward

Several activities help reduce carbon emissions in our community that are not considered “in scope” for our carbon neutral reporting requirements. These include:

- promoting active transportation initiatives like ‘Bike to School Week,’ ‘Walking School Bus,’ ‘School Streets,’ and cycling and pedestrian education programming;
- supporting schools in school active travel planning to increase understanding of travel options for school staff and students and to make infrastructure improvements;
- improving bike and scooter parking infrastructure at schools to support active travel options for staff and students.

Actions to Enhance Overall Sustainability in 2025

Our efforts will continue in 2025. Specific actions include:

- updating the [Environmental Sustainability Plan](#);
- focusing on carbon emission reductions through building and fleet emissions;
- facilitating sustainability and outdoor learning focused professional development opportunities for educators;
- developing further facilities resources for schools to take steps towards sustainability;
- Enhancing biodiversity in school yards as a founding school district member in the BC Parks Foundation’s Learning by Nature program.



A group of students in the garden at Crosstown Elementary

Closing

The District is proud to maintain its commitment to promoting sustainability within our schools, programs, sites and our community. The District will continue to reduce energy use and our GHG emissions and continue to build on past efforts and work to incorporate sustainability into all aspects of our operations.