



2025 Climate Change Accountability Report

Prepared May 2026 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 Board (VSB) has a long-standing commitment to sustainability. For many years, VSB has implemented energy conservation activities and retrofits. In 2025, these initiatives included retrofitting lighting systems at school sites, optimizing energy use through controls adjustments, and installing new high-efficiency heating systems. These projects have reduced utility costs, improved operating practices, and supported a positive learning environment.

Provincial Policy

The Province of British Columbia (the Province) enacted the *Climate Change Accountability Act* (CCAA) in 2007 (formerly the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act* GGRTA 2007). The CCAA requires that public sector organizations (PSOs) be carbon neutral beginning in 2010 and for each year thereafter. VSB 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, 2025 to December 31, 2025 summarizes VSB’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions taken in 2025 to minimize GHG emissions, and plans to continue reducing emissions in 2026 and beyond.

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, VSB is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported below for the 2025 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 VSB’s behalf, VSB will pay, within thirty (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 26, 2026
Signature	Date
Helen McGregor	Superintendent / CEO
Name (please print)	Title

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

2025 Emissions and Offsets

For the 2025 calendar year, Greenhouse Gas (GHG) offset-requiring emissions were 14,959 tonnes of CO₂.

As required, VSB 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 \$373,975 (+ GST).

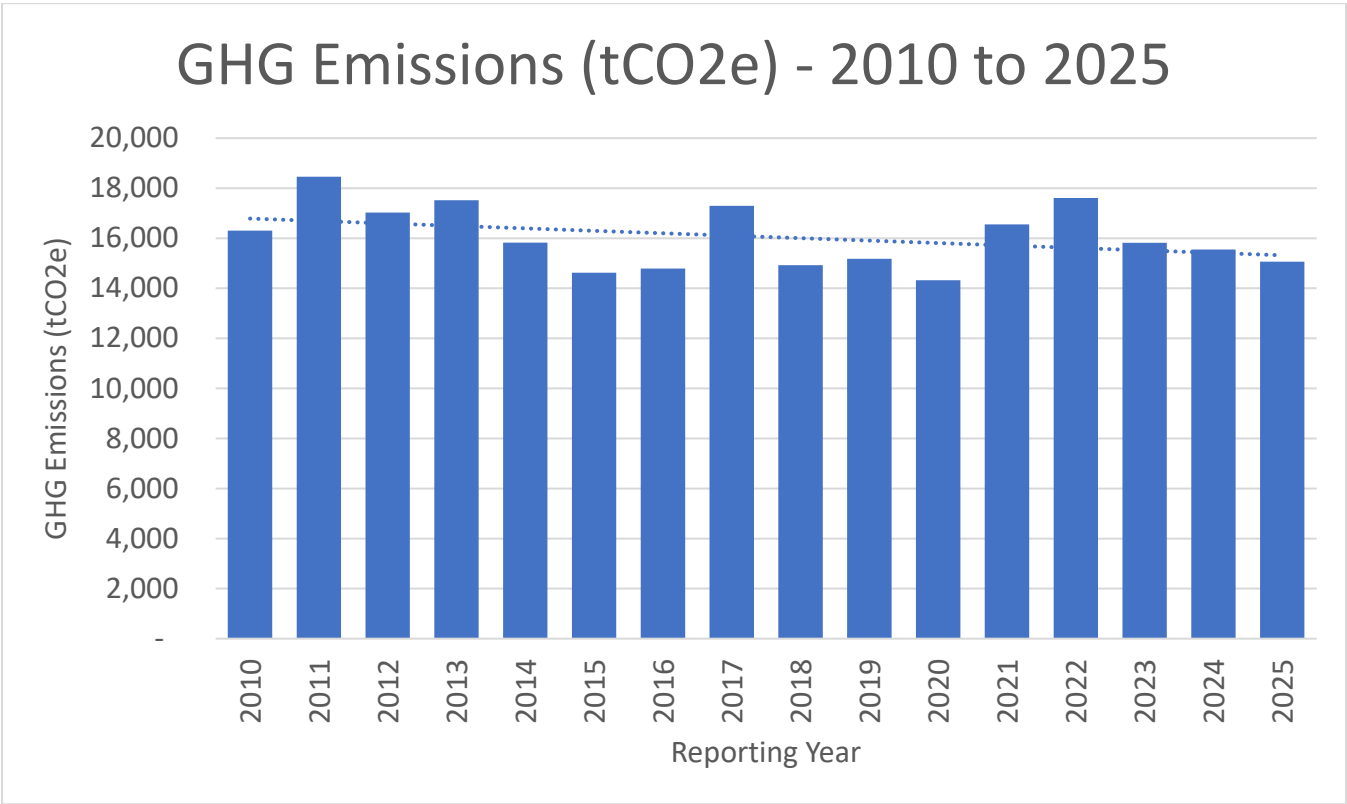
Vancouver School District 2025 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary (tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent)	
GHG emissions for the period January 1 – December 31, 2025 [Note 1]	
Total BioCO ₂	350
Total Emissions of carbon (all types) (tCO ₂ e) [Notes 2, 3]	15,309
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	14,959
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustments (tCO ₂ e)	0
Grand Total Offset for the 2025 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2025 Reporting Year (tCO ₂ e)	14,959
Offset Investment \$ (\$25 per tCO ₂ e) [Note 3]	\$ 373,975

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.

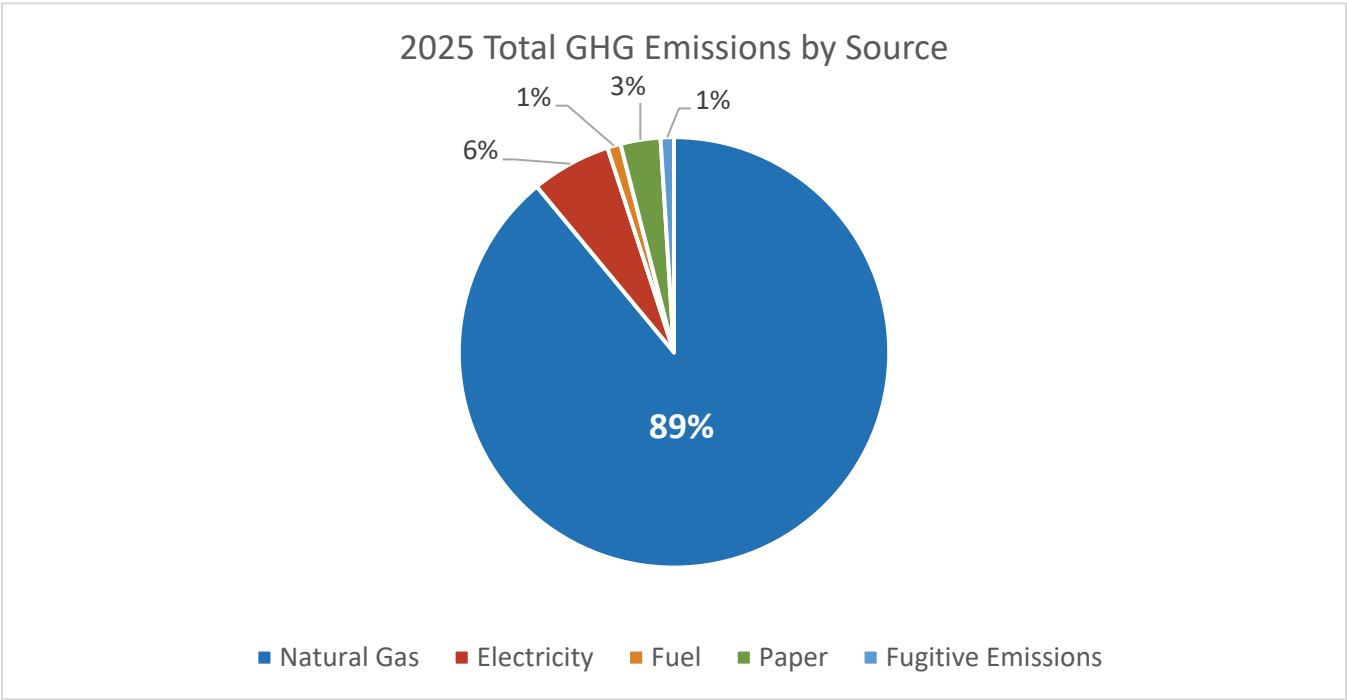
Emissions Trends

The following graph shows VSB’s annual GHG emissions since 2010 – the first benchmark year of GHG reporting – highlighting a declining trend. In 2010, VSB’s GHG emissions were 16,302 tCO₂e. In 2025, VSB’s GHG emissions are calculated at 14,959 tCO₂e. VSB has implemented numerous initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and this decreasing trend reflects the results of those efforts, including heating plant upgrades, heat pump installations, operational efficiency adjustments to HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems and the implementation of other energy conservation measures. Variations in GHG emissions can be a result of specific weather-related events within a given year or operational adjustments to mechanical systems. In 2026, VSB will continue to plan for and implement energy efficiency measures to support the ongoing reduction of GHG emissions.



Emissions Profile

When emissions are broken down into subsets, the largest contributor is natural gas, accounting for 89% of all emissions, followed by electricity at 6%; paper use at 3% and both fleet fuel and fugitive emissions at 1% each.



Emissions Reduction Activities 2025

Actions to Reduce Reportable Emissions in 2025

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

- upgrading the lighting systems with LED technology at John Oliver Secondary (classrooms);
- upgrading boiler plants from a low-efficiency to high-efficiency systems at University Hill Elementary and Windermere Secondary (shop wing);
- upgrading furnaces at Van Horne Elementary, xpey Elementary, South Hill Education Centre and the grounds building;
- performing building controls recommissioning at L'Ecole Bilingue Elementary and Tennyson Elementary resulting in energy conservation savings;
- reducing the availability of virgin paper by limiting the purchase of paper to 30%, 50% or 100% recycled content or alternative fibres, when available.

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

- reduced electricity consumption of 258,697 kWh annually;
- reduced natural gas consumption of 1,061 GJ annually;
- reduced utility bill spending of over \$43,000 annually;
- improved occupancy/building comfort;
- improved lighting and seismic restraint of lighting fixtures within upgraded classrooms.

Actions to Reduce Non-District GHG Emissions in 2025

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 with active travel planning to reduce congestion and improve commuting to and from school sites.



Figure 1 Eric Hamber Bike Cage

Actions to Enhance Overall Sustainability in 2025

The District has taken actions that improve the overall sustainability of its schools and community. These include:

- updating the [Environmental Sustainability Plan](#) to advance the next phase of sustainability education initiatives, climate action, and GHG reduction across buildings, fleet, and paper consumption;
- increasing biodiversity at 20 elementary schools through funding from the BC Parks Foundation biodiversity grants;
- continuing to support students to organize the district-wide Sustainability Conference (VSBSC) to network with each other and learn from leading sustainability thinkers;
- continuing to support educators in the Environmental Educators Provincial Specialist Association (EEPSA) to increase and celebrate land-based learning throughout VSB;
- commencing the implementation of nature parks at two schools, Grenfell Elementary and David Lloyd George Elementary.

Future Activities

In 2026 and onwards, numerous activities are underway to continue to reduce energy use and carbon emissions, and to improve the overall sustainability of VSB.

Actions to Reduce Reportable Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2026

Actions planned for 2026 include:

- continuing to upgrade inefficient lighting systems at John Oliver Secondary (shop wing);
- installing high-efficiency boilers at Cavell Elementary and Charles Dickens Annex;
- implementing building controls recommissioning at Norma Rose Point Elementary and Queen Mary Elementary;
- upgrading building control systems to improve building efficiency and occupant comfort;
- continuing to implement new facility designs that ensure low carbon and low energy intensive facilities become the standard for VSB;
- transitioning to electric power tools and electric fleet vehicles where feasible.

Actions to Reduce Non-District GHG Emissions in 2026 and Onward

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

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

Actions to Enhance Overall Sustainability in 2026

Efforts will continue in 2026. Specific actions include:

- implementing the newly adopted [Environmental Sustainability Plan](#);
- expanding bike rack infrastructure, working with the City of Vancouver to improve cycling network and safe routes to and from school, and undertaking an active travel survey to understand commuting behaviors;
- facilitating sustainability and outdoor learning focused professional development opportunities for educators;
- developing additional facilities resources for schools to take steps towards sustainability;



Figure 2 Learning in the Indigenous garden at Vancouver Technical Secondary

- enhancing biodiversity on school grounds as a founding school district member in the BC Parks Foundation's Learning by Nature program.

Closing

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