



School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)

2024 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

Emissions Reduction Report

Declaration Statement

This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR) for the period January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, summarizes the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions and the actions School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) (the District) has taken in 2024 to reduce the GHG emissions and the plans to continue reducing emissions in 2025 and beyond.

By June 30, 2025, the District's final CCAR Report will be posted to the website at www.sd5.bc.ca.







Overview

The District has continued to work towards reducing emissions this year. The District has been working towards the goal of carbon neutrality.

All departments continue to be in the mindset of reducing unnecessary emissions by removing inefficient printers and purchasing energy-saving appliances. The District believes the goal of collaborating with staff and students to become more energy-wise has paid off and will continue to pay off in the years to come.

Technology

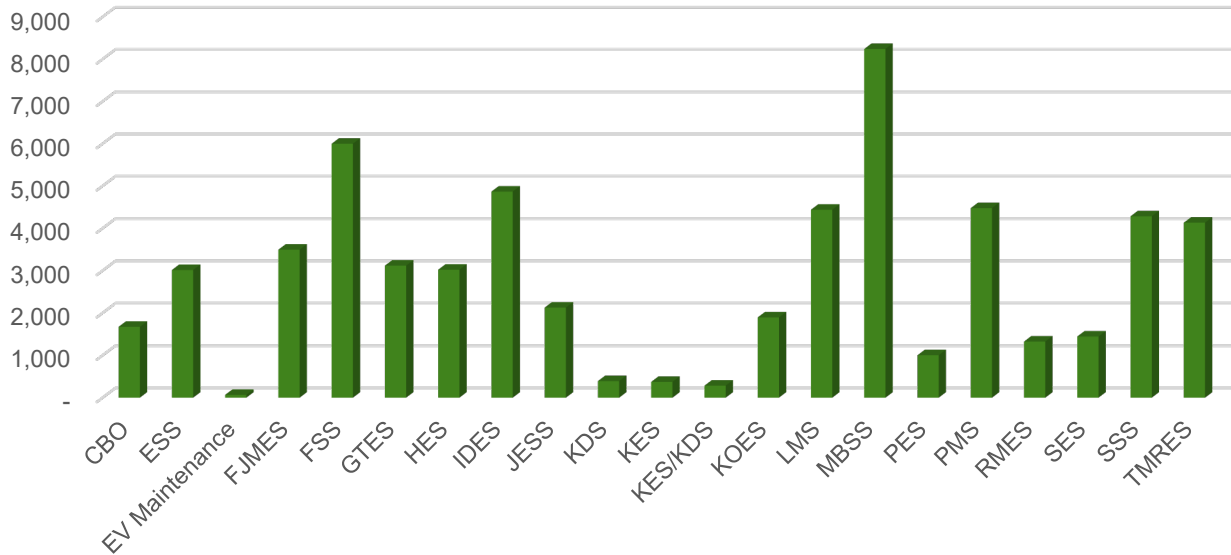
The District continues moving forward with the revised Five-Year Technology Plan. This ongoing plan involves replacing older computers, photocopiers and projectors with new, more efficient ones.

-  The District uses Paper Cut software to reduce printing and paper output.
-  The District is using some online forms to reduce paper.
-  The District is also encouraging online meetings with platforms such as Teams to cut down on travel emissions.
-  The District is decreasing the need for paper-based resources and transportation of physical resources.
-  Remote software tools assist in diagnosis and repair of equipment without the need for travel.
-  Technology equipment is being delivered through the District courier to reduce the impact of mileage.

The following charts summarize the District printer environmental impact:

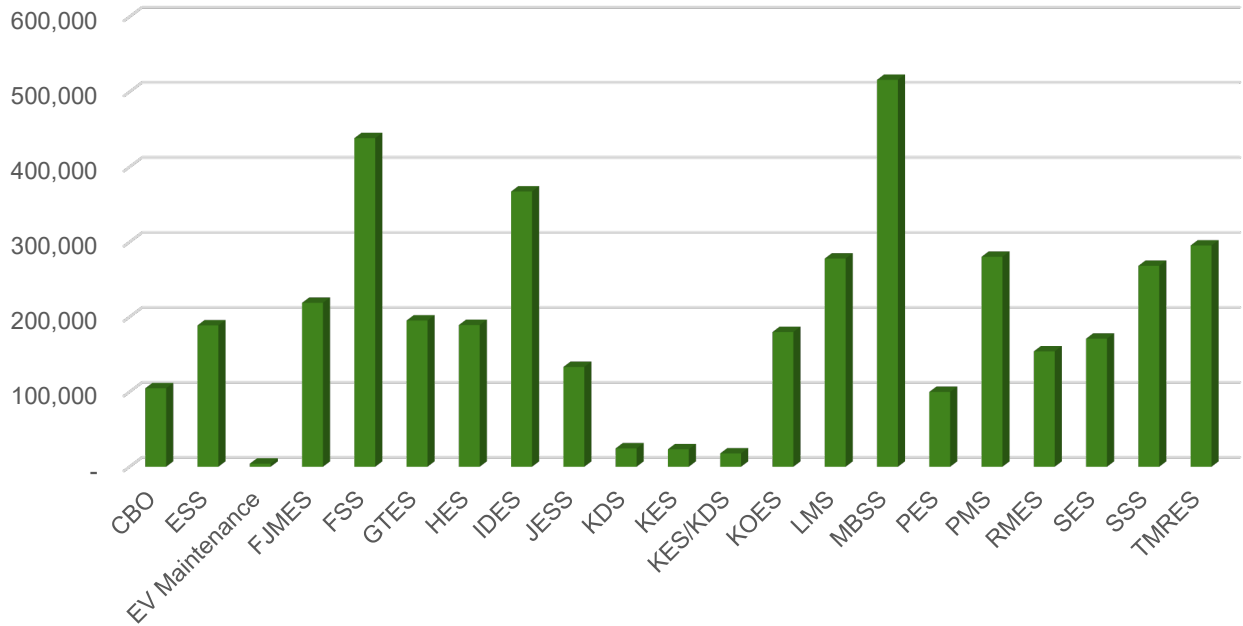
CO₂ Produced September 1, 2024 to May 20, 2025

The amount of greenhouse gases in kilograms released in the production of paper

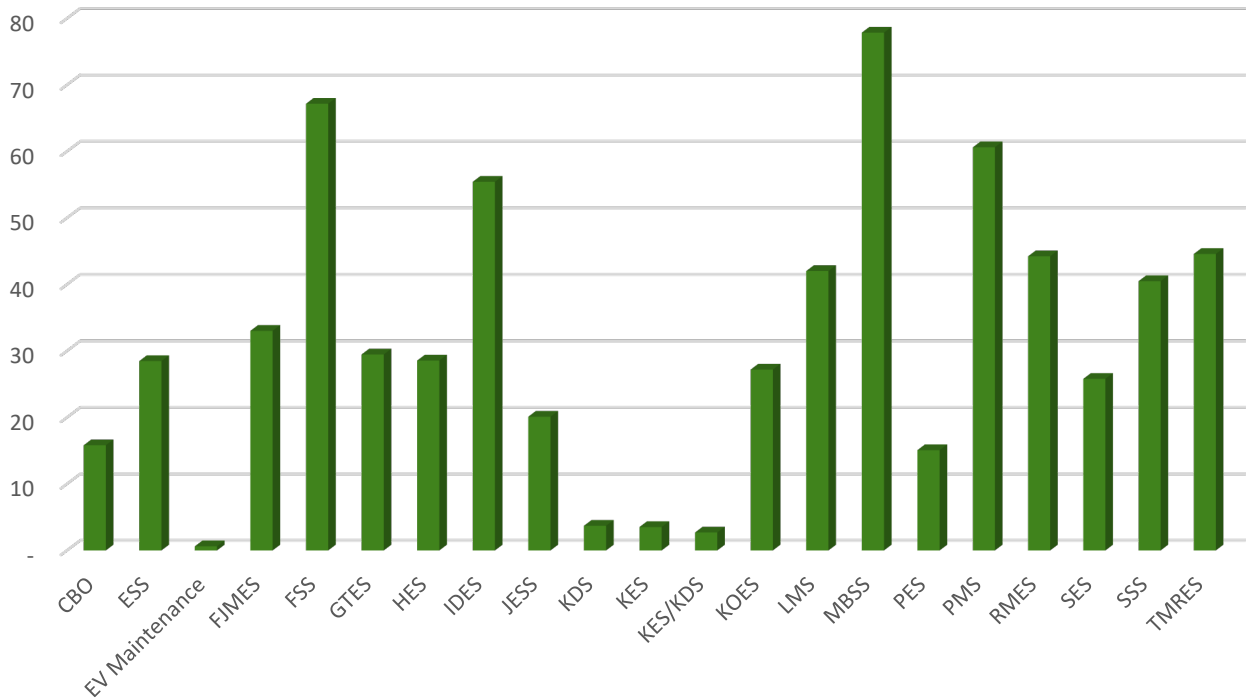


Total Equivalent Bulb Hours (September 1, 2024 to May 20, 2025)

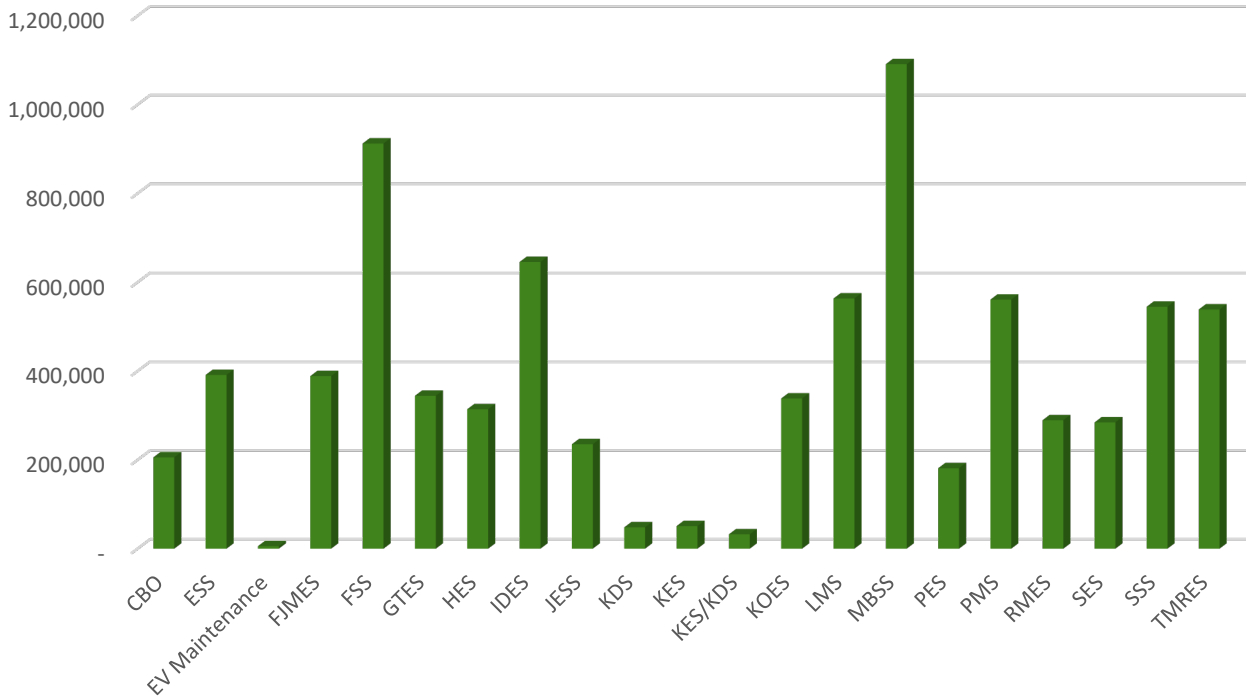
The manufacturing energy used to produce the paper, represented as the energy consumed by a standard light bulb in hours



Total Trees Consumed (September 1, 2024 to May 20, 2025)



Total Pages Printed September 1, 2024 to May 20, 2025



Electrical

The District was approved for an electrical infrastructure upgrade to provide more electric vehicle (EV) chargers.

HVAC

The District had no major HVAC upgrades this last year.

Transportation

The District continues to use electric buses on daily bus routes to reduce diesel emissions. In addition, the District purchased two more electric school buses in 2024. There were savings of approximately 16,136 litres of diesel and 54,370 kg of CO₂ by using electric buses in place of combustible engines.

The District has received capital funds to support an electrical infrastructure upgrade. The District continues to work with Prism Engineering Limited (Prism) to assess the district's current fleet and to identify fleet electrification options. This plan will be used to help guide future vehicle purchasing decisions and facilitate strategic electric vehicle selection and fleet decarbonization efforts.

The following chart summarizes the environmental impact of electric buses in the District:

Year	Month	Number of buses	Total Distance Travelled (km)	GHG emissions - Diesel Bus Equivalent (kg CO ₂ -e)
2024	January	2	2,913	4,369
2024	February	2	1,536	2,305
2024	March	2	1,913	2,869
2024	April	2	3,441	5,162
2024	May	2	5,366	8,049
2024	June	2	4,954	6,892
2024	July	1	10.6	16
2024	August	1	171	256
2024	September	4	4,789	7,184
2024	October	4	6,932	9,588
2024	November	4	5,117	7,676
2024	December	4	3,855	5,782
2024	Total		40,998	60,148

The District purchased new transportation software in 2024. This software will be implemented in the 2025/2026 school year. The goal is to enhance the efficiency of bus routes and reduce fossil fuel emissions.

Five Year Plan

The District's five-year plan includes continued replacement of older boiler systems within the schools. The new boiler systems are more energy efficient.

The District continues to use an energy monitoring company to oversee the use of energy systems. Prism Engineering provides an overview for year-to-date performance immediately through a customizable dashboard. This can clearly identify utility spending and savings among multiple sites.
















The District continues to explore Geo-field. We are also looking into some solar initiatives and considering heat pumps wherever possible.































The District continues to consider electric vehicle options when replacing aging fleet vehicles.

Our Schools































The District continues to use the Foodcycler (indoor composter that works overnight) for the Board Office and a few pilot schools to reduce food waste volume. The District is supporting schools with garden beds, greenhouse projects and planting of trees to reduce environmental impacts.



























The following are some of the initiatives the schools have taken during the year:











































School	Contact	Carbon Footprint
Amy Woodland Elementary <i>(to June 2024)</i>	Scott Holt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Recycling bins in the school hallways, classrooms and common spaces.  Grade 6 leadership group does all of the recycling  Maximize the number of students on school bus trips.  Walk to the swimming pool and skating rink (weather permitting)  Motion sensor light switches have been added
Elkford Secondary	Thomas Skelton	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Recycling bins in the school hallways, classrooms and common spaces  Maximize the number of students on school bus trips  Students ride bikes daily  Earth Day – students participated in garbage clean up  Filtered water fountains to encourage students to bring their own water bottles  Motion activated lights  Idle Free Zones  Scrap paper re-use programs  Walk to School days  Go by Bike days













Fernie Secondary	Nicole Neufeld	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Students ride bikes daily  Resource room students collect recyclable bottles on a daily basis. Bins are placed in the hallways.  Earth Day – Community Clean Up, school awareness and recognition, classroom resources provided.  Cafeteria uses all biodegradable one-use containers (will be exploring options in future)  Motion activated lights and heat  Disposed old, inefficient refrigerators  Filtered water fountains encourage students to bring their own bottles  Paper recycling  Pencil/pen recycling program (Staples)  Walking field trips all over the community  Gardening and food security program  Hydroponics systems for Science and foods using LED lights  Environmental Science Education for Grade 11
FJ Mitchell Elementary	Jason Sommerfeld	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Paper/cardboard recycling program  Foods to Farm program – each class puts food scraps in after lunch. Buckets are collected and sent off to a local farm to feed the animals  Filtered water fountains  Motion activated lights and dimmer switches  Ride your bike or walk to school initiative (active transportation) – many students bike, walk or scooter to school  Staff carpool  Encourage students to bring their own refillable water bottles  Walk vs bus to swimming and skating (weather permitting)  Marker recycling program  Promotion of garbage free lunches  Participation in Community clean-up  Growing own plants that students take home over the summer  Battery recycling  Recycling bins in classrooms, offices and staffroom  Motion activated lights in some rooms  Planted trees around the playground  The playground has been resurfaced with recycled tires

Gordon Terrace Elementary	David Martin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  A recycling program for both refundable and non-refundable materials  Composting program that grade 3 is responsible to manage  School Garden that we harvest and make soup/meals  Many students bike to school  Recycling bins in all classrooms  Idle Free signs /zones  Marker recycling program  Battery recycling program  Walking field trips as much as possible  When busses are needed for field trips, we only book when we need and can fill them
Highlands Elementary	Carlene Lochrie	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Maximize the number of students on school bus trips  Multiple garbage pickup days throughout the year.  Rotary "We Bike" participation  Motion activated room lights  Filtered water fountain (reduced use of plastic water bottles)  Idle-free zones  Encourage students and staff to walk or bike to school  Scrap paper re-use bins.  Walking field trips to Idlewild and Community Forest  Greenhouse in the courtyard.  BC Agriculture Harvest Bin participation  Recycling bins in school hallways, classrooms, and common spaces
Isabella Dicken Elementary	Janet Kuijt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Yearlong Recycling Program – grade six  Yearlong Composting Program - grade four  Earth Day "Remote" Clean Up's - promoted by teachers for interested families  School yard Clean Up - April (and yearlong with various classes)  Water Walker Protectors Project  Filtered water fountain stations  Encouraging personal water bottles vs single use in all classes (has created a significant reduction in bottle recycling according to Gr 6 classes!)  Many grades walk to outings (swimming pool, skating, library, arts station)  Garden Boxes made from school recycled stairs wood & grow pumpkins (that were ready last fall!!)  Many classes grow plants from seeds for family gifts  Lots of staff bike & walk to school (especially during Bike to Work Week. This year is a bit different but lots of "Green" commuting to work)  Bike Road-rodeo & biking activities (ex: to tennis courts for grade six students)  Planting more trees in the playground  Encouraging using reuseable cutlery and dishes at functions

Jaffray Elementary Junior Secondary	Bill Johnson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  School wide recycling program  Composting grade 3/4  Boxed garden project  Earth Day - school yard and community cleanup  Recycling bins in the school hallways, classrooms and common spaces  Concession – no single use plastics  Motion activated room lights  Filtered Water Fountains  Reuseable lunch bags distributed at Earth Day
Kootenay Orchards Elementary	Carissa Hart	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Composting for the school garden · students gather compostable materials weekly in buckets  Encourage biking to school (participate in “WE Bike” yearly)  Encourage walking to field trips  Filtered water fountains  Grade six recycling program  LED lighting installed  Participate in Earth Day – ‘Spring Spruce Up’ the community  School garden  Use of water bottles  Classroom recycling  Battery recycling
Laurie Middle	Aaron Thorn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Recycling - early stages of greater buy in  Cardboard, paper and plastics refundable (sold to support an African school project)  Composting - started last year -beginning stages of promoting awareness  Battery recycling  Career Ed and Science 7 classes – promoting reduction, social awareness, whole school buy in  Garden boxes - herbs & flowers  LED low lighting pilot project  Band class Community Garbage Clean-Up in conjunction with Tim Hortons – garbage trucks are called in to deal with the waste from this neighborhood clean up  Ride Your Bike to Work Week  Increasing classroom recycling

Mount Baker Secondary	Dave Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Earth Day - cleaning garbage around the community.  Bee garden in our courtyard to encourage bees.  Ride your Bike to Work week.  Idle-free zones.  Leadership students are doing a reusable straw campaign  Green Alliance Club  Mason Bees and our indigenous pollinator  Recycling bins in all areas  Maximize number of students on bus trips  Filtered water fountains to encourage students to use their own bottles  LED lighting  Motion activated lights  Battery recycling  Used pen, highlighter, white board marker recycling
Parkland Middle	Brenda Tyson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Recycling bins in the school hallways, classrooms and common spaces.  Recycling program for both refundable and non-refundable materials  Students ride bikes, scooters, and walk daily  Students use public transportation system  Ride your bike to school initiative  Filtered water fountains encourage students to bring their own bottles  LED lighting installed  Motion activated lights  Battery recycling  Used pen, highlighter, white board marker recycling  Spring Spruce Up – neighbourhood clean up  Concession – no single use plastics  Hot Lunch – no single use plates or cutlery  Solar power feasibility study  Paperless report cards  Paper reduction for visitation day
Pinewood Elementary	Jill Carley	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Recycling program  Filtered water fountains encourage bring your own bottle  Idle-free zones  School yard and community clean up – Earth Day  Used pen, highlighter, white board marker recycling  Battery recycling  Motion activated lights

Rocky Mountain Elementary	Jennifer Adams	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Paper recycling program  Milk and juice container recycling program  encourage bring your own bottle--do not sell juice boxes for events  Filtered water fountains  Motion activated lights  Walking field trips as much as possible  When busses are needed for field trips, we only book when we need and can fill them (with cohorts)  Greenhouse  Earth Day school yard clean up days  Idle free zones  Many classes grow plants  Many staff and students ride bikes or walk when possible  LED lights installed  School yard clean up by students
Sparwood Secondary	Erin Hay	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Earth Day – school yard clean up  Refundable and non-refundable recycling  Hydroponics - science students grow food for the foods classes  Recycling toner cartridges for photocopier  Avoiding single use cutlery and dishes with staff events  Teachers carpool to work  Motion light sensors in classrooms.  Changing lights to LED  Walking to the swimming pool and skating rink  Bring your own water bottle  Water-bottle filling station to reduce single use water bottles  Hot meals lunch program to reduce food packaging waste  Bus sharing for trips with Elkford and Fernie  Earth Science 11  New energy efficient appliances
Steeles Elementary	Scott Holt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  “Keepers of the Earth” (on-going school grounds clean-up)  Battery recycling  Photocopier supplies recycling  Walking to field trips/events whenever possible  Recycling program for both refundable and non-refundable items  Courtyard garden  Worm composting  Motion-activated, LED lighting  Filtered water fountain  Non-food/drink product recycling bins in classrooms and common spaces
TM Roberts Elementary	David Doll	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Reuse scrap paper  Earth Day clean-up  Garden beds for food; expansion of garden

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some classes do composting Cardboard and Paper Recycling and recycling bins in common spaces and classrooms Garden Club, to teach students how to grow their own food Students ride bikes, scooters, and walk daily Many teachers teach students to plant food Students encouraged to bring water bottles and use the filtered water refilling stations and drinking fountain Students discouraged from bringing juice boxes Kindergarten learning about different ways to grow food Ink cartridge, pen and battery recycling Walking for field trips when possible Motion-activated, LED lighting Filtered water fountain (reduced use of plastic water bottles)
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Conclusion

The District is working to reduce the use of energy and save resources where possible. In the future, the District will become more energy efficient to further reduce our consumption.

School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) 2024 GHG Emissions and Offset Summary Table

School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) 2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary	
GHG emissions for the period January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024	
Total BioCO ₂	32.3
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	3,188
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	3,221
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	0
Grand Total Offsets for the 2022 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2024 Reporting Year (tCO ₂ e)	2,696
Offset Investment (\$)	2,696 x \$25 = \$67,400

Retirement of Offsets

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, the District is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offset obligation reported above for the 2024 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years.

The Organization hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy 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.

Public Sector Leadership

Not applicable

Climate Risk Management

- 👤 Currently the District has not engaged in conducting a climate risk assessment to understand the organization's risk exposure. We are looking at forming a committee in the coming years.
- 👤 The District is investigating future opportunities to invest in thermal and solar energy.
- 👤 In terms of operational and infrastructure changes in preparation for future climate impacts, the District has been investing in energy efficient boilers and hot water tanks in older schools to improve efficiency and reduction in GHG emissions. The District also plans to start electrical infrastructure upgrades to accommodate future charging stations and electric vehicles in our fleet.
- 👤 The District now has an Electric Vehicle Ready Fleet Plan
- 👤 In 2021 the region was slightly impacted by the heat wave. Not enough for the District to incur any extra costs or update the services being delivered to students and staff.

Other Sustainability Initiatives

- 👤 As indicated in the report above, the District has small sustainability initiatives in the District schools and at the board office. These initiatives include the following:
 - 👤 Teams meetings rather than travelling;
 - 👤 Carpooling when travelling for meetings;
 - 👤 Placement of recycling bins in classrooms and common areas;
 - 👤 Using reusable water bottles and lunch bags;
 - 👤 Walking/cycling for field trips;
 - 👤 Using E-forms and E-Docs to reduce paper printing;
 - 👤 Continuing to investigate utilizing hybrid and electric vehicles for the white fleet.
- 👤 By the end of 2024, the District completed the lighting projects in various schools and at the Board Office. The new energy-saving lighting helped with decreasing wattage use. The staff also feel that the lighting in the hallways encourages students to behave better.

Executive sign-off

Signature:



Name: Nick Taylor
Title: Secretary Treasurer

Date:

May 26, 2025