

School District 79 (Cowichan Valley) 2013 Carbon Neutral Action Report



Declaration statement

This is the 2013 Carbon Neutral Action Report for School District 79 Cowichan Valley. This report contains our 2013 emissions profile, the actions we have taken in 2013 to reduce our GHG emissions and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2014 and beyond.

By June 30, 2014 School District 79 Cowichan Valley's final CNAR will be posted to our website at www.sd79.bc.ca.

Executive Summary

The Cowichan Valley School District is continuing to reduce their Greenhouse Gas emissions. The actions of the school district have a tremendous impact on the community it serves. In 2009 the district adopted a policy on Resource Management and Sustainability and formed a Sustainability Committee whose mandate is to deal with issues that contribute to the district's carbon footprint. Long term reduction goals have been adopted which fall in line with the BC Energy Plan and Bill 44-2007: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act.

Due to reduced energy consumption over the past 5 years Cowichan Valley School District currently pays less for energy utilities than it did in the 2007/2008 school year. As well Cowichan Valley School District has been making an effort to switch to cleaner energy sources which has resulted on a large reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions. These efforts are noticeable all across the district influencing students and staff to become more aware of environmental issues. Cowichan Valley School District is continuing to upgrade and optimize mechanical systems which have significantly reduced the district's carbon footprint, the district has worked on bus routing to reduce bus runs and driving distances and the district is also working with BC Hydro on a Workplace Conservation Awareness program to encourage energy efficient practices across the district.

2013 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The total Greenhouse Gas Emissions for 2013 were 2,655 tonnes CO₂e. 65.96% of this came from stationary fuel combustion and electricity, 30.18% came from mobile fuel combustion and 3.86% came from supplies.

Offsets Applied to Become Carbon Neutral in 2013

Of the total Greenhouse Gas Emissions 516 tonnes CO₂e resulted from the operation of school buses. As a result of this the total GHG Emissions required to be offset to become Carbon Neutral for 2013 was 2,139 tonnes CO₂e. This resulted in a payment of \$53,475.00 plus GST which has been paid to the Pacific Carbon Trust.

Changes to Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Offsets Reporting from Previous Years

Following the public release of School District 79 Cowichan Valley's 2012 Carbon Neutral Action Report, it was determined that the total emissions for the 2012 calendar year were under reported by 3 tonnes CO₂e.

The difference in offsets have been purchased from the Pacific Carbon Trust and applied against our 2012 emissions. The total Greenhouse Gas Emissions for 2012 were 3,029 tonnes CO₂e, of that 2,435 tonnes CO₂e required the purchase of offsets.

Emissions Reduction Activities

Actions Taken to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2013

The Transportation Department has continued to work on bus routes. This has resulted in the elimination of two bus routes and a further reduction in the annual distance travelled by the bus fleet. All busses have had automatic idle shutdown installed.

The Operations Department has completed a number of lighting and lighting control projects throughout the district to reduce electrical consumption. Continuous Optimization projects have been undertaken at three facilities which will result in a significant reduction in natural gas consumption.

Plans to Continue Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2014 – 2015

The district will continue to implement projects in an effort to reduce energy consumption and Greenhouse Gas emissions. Lighting projects which will eliminate interior Metal Halide light fixtures will be implemented as well as continuing to install lighting controls where appropriate.

The district will be completing the installation of a biomass boiler which will virtually eliminate the use of fuel oil at one secondary school. This project will reduce the district's Greenhouse Gas emissions by 168 tCO₂e annually. The district also has Carbon Neutral Capital Project funding which will be used for building envelop improvements to reduce heat loss at one facility.

All district vehicles will have GPS installed which will contribute towards the reduction of distances travelled.

The communication of Energy Efficient and Sustainable practices will continue district wide in an effort to promote the overall awareness of sustainability issues.



Signature

Robert Harper

Name (please print)

May 29, 2014

Date

Secretary - Treasurer

Title