

Climate Change Accountability Report 2023



ORGANIZATION NAME: Columbia Basin Trust

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	TOTAL BioCO ₂	TOTAL EMISSIONS	TOTAL OFFSETS
GHG EMISSIONS CREATED	0.093	350.591 tCO ₂ e	350.498 tCO ₂ e
ADJUSTMENTS TO GHG EMISSIONS OF PRIOR YEARS			0.00 tCO ₂ e
GRAND TOTAL OFFSETS (rounded to whole number)			350 tCO ₂ e

OFFSET INVESTMENT (\$25 per tCO₂e) \$8,750

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.

Actions we took in 2023 to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and/or improve sustainability

Delivery of Benefits Programs and Initiatives:

- The Child Care Grants - Small Improvements stream supported two projects that helped Basin Childcare centres reduce GHG emissions and improve sustainability by installing insulation and replacing aging furnaces.
- The Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation, a subsidiary of the Trust, supports residents and businesses to conduct activities like work, education and consultations remotely, which reduces carbon emissions that would otherwise be produced from commuting.
- The Non-profit, Business and Farm SMART (Sustainable, Mitigation, Adaptation, and Resilience Transition) programs help Basin organizations make operational and infrastructure upgrades that help them adapt to the impacts of climate change and/or reduce GHG emissions. The Trust supported 29 non-profits, 26 farms and 19 businesses to make these upgrades, which includes: purchasing electric vehicles and installing charging stations, installing solar PV arrays and implementing temperature control measures.
- The Small Community Wildfire Readiness Support program supported 43 communities with providing training, conducting assessments and purchasing equipment to enhance preparedness for wildfires.
- The Columbia Basin Wildfire Resiliency Initiative is a partnership between the Province of BC and the Trust, developed with the BC Wildfire Service. This initiative supported 12 projects to complete Firesmart-related activities, conduct fuel-management demonstrations, plan for cultural and prescribed fire burns, and complete other activities that build capacity in resiliency towards wildfires.
- The Affordable Housing Renewable Energy Retrofit Program supported the installation of solar PV arrays on eight existing affordable rental housing buildings.
- The Housing Initiatives program supported three solar PV arrays on new affordable rental housing buildings.

Corporate Operations:

- Completing a substantial renovation of the Golden office with the following sustainable improvements:
 - HVAC upgraded to heat pumps, reducing energy use by an estimated 1/3
 - New insulation and high-performance windows
 - LED lighting throughout, with motion sensors and programmable exterior lights.
- Continued LED light upgrades in the Castlegar office.
- Added three new electric vehicles (EVs), and chargers in Golden and Cranbrook. EVs are our primary fleet vehicles, having the highest annual km usage vs ICE vehicles.
- Using electronic documentation, electronic signatures and electronic funds transfers to reduce paper usage. Digital signatures have been integrated into our contract management system.
- Using paper made of recycled fibers and Forest Stewardship Council certified printers that are designed to go in low power mode when not in use.

- Using Energy Star-certified devices whenever possible:
 - Purchased 102 new laptops for staff and board members that were Energy Star compliant
 - Purchased 50 new iPhone 15's with biodegradable Pela cases for 1/3 of staff
 - Purchased 13 new Samsung S23's with recycled materials built into the devices
 - Replaced aging switches, routers and an older datacenter with newer, smaller energy-efficient devices
 - All networking, server and printer hardware is recycled, with minimal going to the landfill.
- Switched to environmentally friendly paper towel dispensers.

How we plan to continue minimizing greenhouse gas emissions

In the future, we plan to:

- Continue to provide a range of programs, and support projects that help Basin residents and communities reduce emissions, become more climate resilient and adapt to the impacts of climate change. These include:
 - Amplifying the success of Basin residents who are rising to the challenges of climate change and inspiring optimism and commitment in communities.
 - Helping communities, including First Nations and Métis Peoples, as they prepare for and take actions to adapt to and mitigate climate change.
 - Improving climate resilience in the Basin by supporting:
 - Communities facing climate risks such as wildfire, extreme weather, drought and limited access to water
 - Food producers and processors to ensure the availability of local food
 - Basin residents who are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
 - Exploring options to generate clean, renewable energy.
 - Ensuring energy-efficiency and energy-saving measures continue to be available in the Basin.
- Investigate installing rooftop solar PV arrays for all four Trust office locations.
- Construct a new office in Nakusp, which is designed to Step Code 3 minimum and will likely achieve Step Code 4 with building envelope completion.
- Purchase an EV truck to replace the existing ICE one.
- Install additional EV chargers in the Castlegar office parkade.

Actions we took in 2023 to strengthen our ability to manage the likely effects of climate change

We helped Basin communities reduce their vulnerabilities to current and anticipated climate change impacts such as wildfire, flood and drought. Examples include:

- Supported Basin businesses, farms and non-profits in reducing GHG emissions and adapting to anticipated climate impacts through the Business, Farm and Non-profit SMART programs.
- Continued to deliver the Energy Retrofit and Affordable Rental Housing Renewable Energy Programs in partnership with BC Housing and BC Non-Profit Housing Association to complete energy retrofits and support renewable energy generation.
- Continued to partner with BC Housing to create new affordable housing units. The goal is for these units to be constructed in compliance with Step Code 3/4 of the BC Energy Code, which will make the residences extremely efficient and reduce contributions to climate change.
- Helped 43 communities increase wildfire preparedness and implement prevention mechanisms through the Small Community Wildfire Readiness Support program. This included providing training, conducting assessments and purchasing equipment.
- Supported 12 ecosystem enhancement and restoration projects that helped improve ecosystem vitality, native biodiversity, and reduced vulnerabilities to climate change.
- The Trust, in partnership with the Province of BC, Ministry of Forests and BC Wildfire Service supported Basin communities through the Columbia Basin Wildfire Resiliency Initiative to build capacity and strengthen wildfire resilience and risk reduction in the Basin as it relates to FireSmart disciplines.

Retirement of Offsets: In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, Columbia Basin Trust (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.



Johnny Strilaeff, President and Chief Executive Officer

May 29, 2024

Date