

2025 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

qathet School District (SD47)



Declaration Statement

This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2025 to minimize our GHG emissions, and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2026 and beyond.

Emission Reductions: Actions & Plans

The School District established a goal in late 2023 to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 15% within 4 years and are on target to hit our initial sustainability target. The School District has reviewed the identified three key areas for GHG emissions, paper, buildings, and fleet, and continues to develop strategies to mitigate emissions in each.

2025 Emissions by Source (tCO₂e)

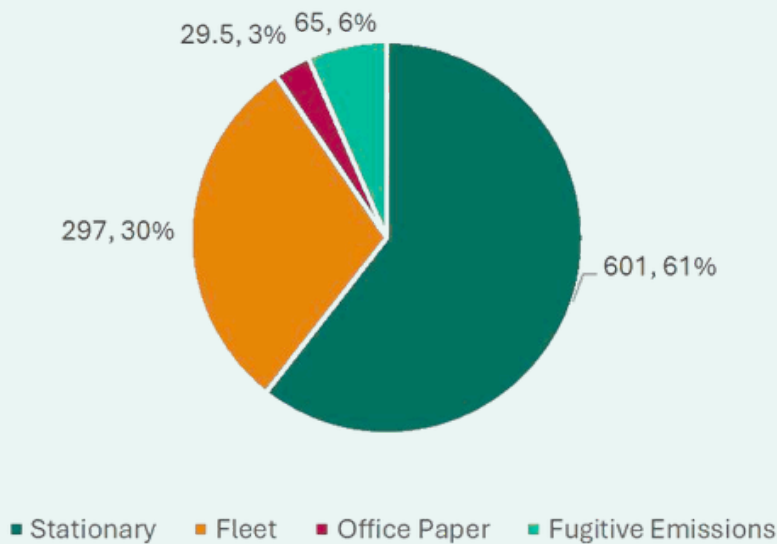


FIGURE 1 – GHG EMISSIONS BY KEY SOURCES

Stationary Sources

Stationary sources represent the largest contribution of emissions at 601 tCO₂e, or approximately 61% of the District's total. Emission sources in the stationary category include natural gas, propane, electricity, and diesel for power generation (backup generators). The energy used provides heating, lighting, and necessary electronics to operate our schools and District buildings.

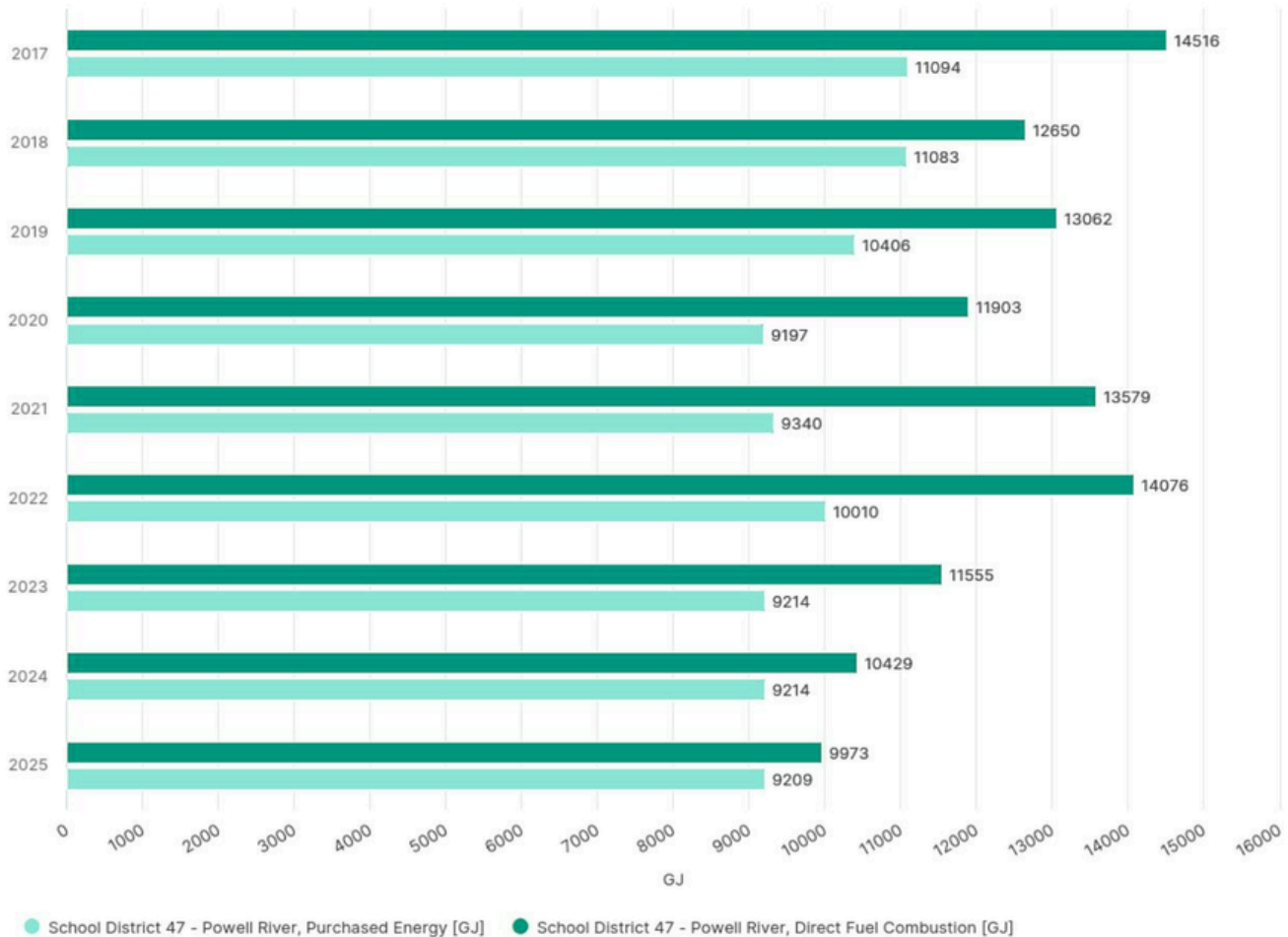


Figure 2 – Annual Station Energy Use, Purchased vs. Direct Fuel Consumption

Figure 2 provides an annual summary of station energy consumption. Year over year since 2022, the District has reduced Direct Fuel Consumption while maintaining electrical consumption levels which shows a reduction in GHG emissions, and overall higher efficiency in building operations.

As can be seen from Figure 3, Direct Fuel Consumption (Natural Gas/Propane) was used as approximately 52% of the District's Stationary Energy use, but when compared to the contributions to GHG emissions, direct fuel consumption contributed 88% of the Station Energy use emissions while electrical emissions represent 12% of the total.

In 2025, the School District had a primary focus on the stationary source reductions with the following projects completed:

Edgehill Elementary School 3-phase Power Upgrade

- Power upgrade to improve electrical capacity at Edgehill School from single phase to 3-phase and effectively replace the 3 boiler units that were supplying heat to the school.

Edgehill Elementary School HVAC Upgrade

- A complete replacement of all HVAC equipment throughout the building to improve air quality, greatly reduce GHG emissions, and provide climate resiliency with the addition of cooling capacity in all classrooms. This ties into the work currently being completed for the school addition which includes new heat pumps throughout for both heating and cooling of all spaces.



In looking at 2026, the focus continues to be on Stationary Sources and opportunities to reduce emissions. The following project work is being planned or completed to support operational efficiencies and sustainability:

Edgehill Elementary School Addition Solar Capacity

- During the Detailed Design phase of the project, the capacity of the roof was upgraded prior to issuing for construction to include capacity for an additional 35kW solar array and parallel source electrical distribution system. The project has been approved, and installation of these panels will take place in Summer 2026.

Kelly Creek Elementary School HVAC Upgrade

- The existing school building areas will undergo an extensive upgrade to replace all HVAC equipment from a Propane heating system to a refrigerant heat pump system which will provide energy efficient heating and cooling to all spaces. This project will be completed in two phases, with the first phase to include electrical and digital control upgrades to the school.

Brooks Domestic Hot Water Boiler Upgrade

- The current domestic hot water system at Brooks Secondary School is tied to the two large boilers for heating the entire school, as well as providing hot water. Currently, these boilers must operate during summer months to maintain domestic hot water service. The upgrade includes the re-use and installation of fully condensing boilers from previous HVAC upgrade projects within the District to turn off the large boilers and run a much smaller, cascading boiler system to provide domestic hot water, as needed. This project is anticipated to significantly reduce the natural gas consumption during summer months for the District.

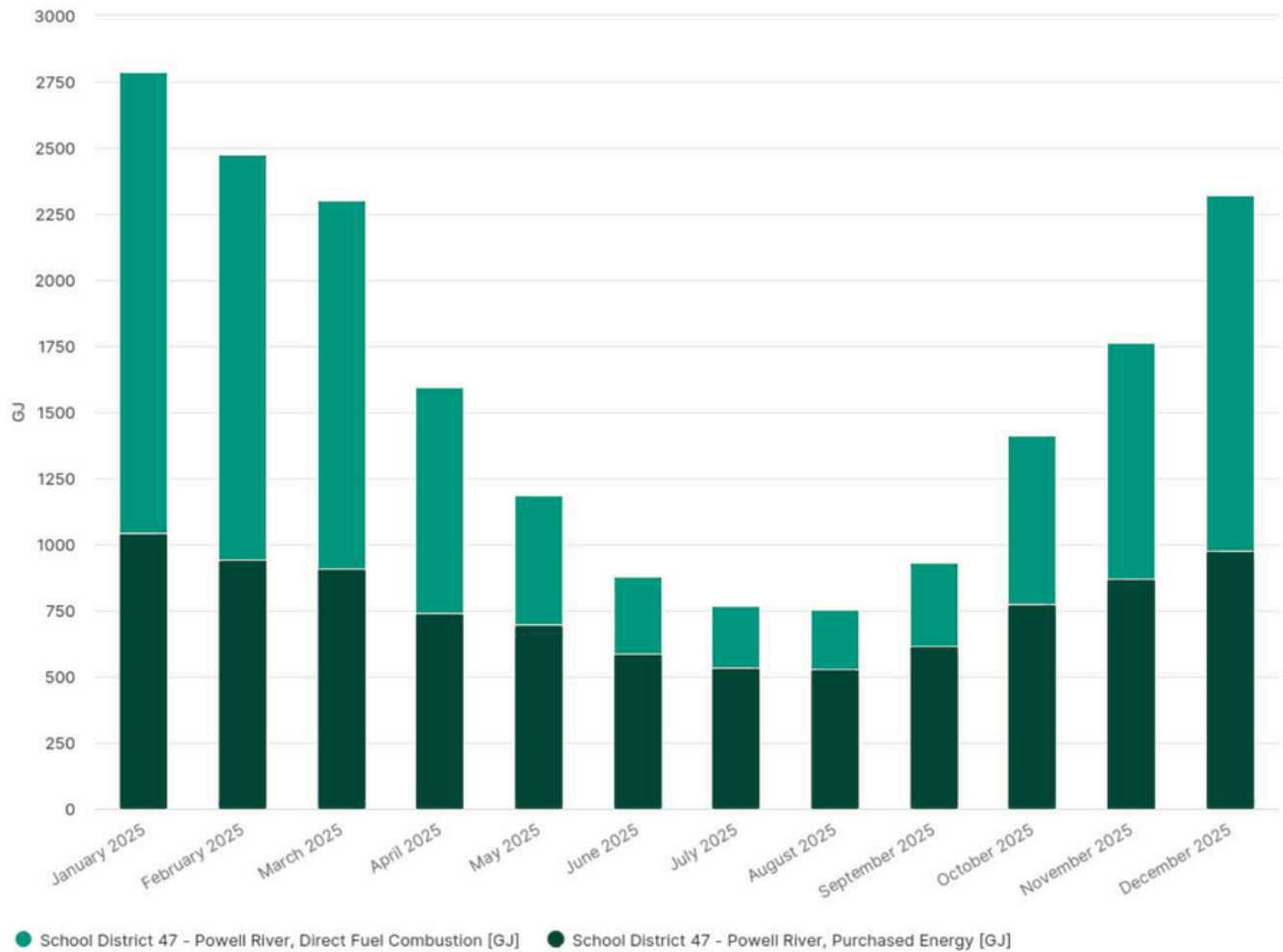


Figure 3 – Stationary Energy Use – Electrical and Fuel



Fugitive Sources

Fugitive emissions, which are emissions generated from refrigerant gas sources (Heat pumps, refrigerators, coolers, freezers, etc) which may leak from aging or damaged equipment, are specifically separated from stationary sources. As the District invests in more refrigerant systems, such as heat pumps, this value is expected to contribute more to the overall GHG emission for the District. Although a GHG emission value is estimated and provided, it is an approximation based on the size and type of refrigerant system/equipment. The District invests in asset tracking and recurring maintenance to ensure equipment is regularly inspected and maintained to minimize any such fugitive emissions.

Mobile Sources

The School District fleet, consisting of our yellow school buses and white fleet vehicles (such as maintenance vans, activity buses, etc), is the second largest contributor to the District's emissions at 298 tCO₂e, or 30% of the total emissions.

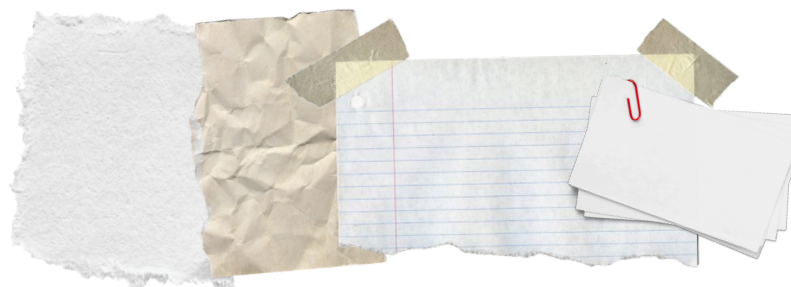
From last year, the District had supported planning and design for electrical infrastructure upgrades at the bus garage to support electric bus charging station in preparing for partial electrification of our bus fleet. The District had to pause planning due to concerns with serviceability of heavy duty electric vehicles in the qathet region as BC Ferries was not permitted to transport inoperable electric vehicles. In cases where an electric school bus had a significant maintenance issue, there was no viable option to bring such vehicle to a service location. As of May 19, 2026, BC Ferries has allowed some non-operational electric vehicles onboard and the District will begin exploring options for fleet electrification.

With the changes to BC Ferries policies, the District may be eligible to receive an electric school bus in 2028. This will require the infrastructure upgrades to the Bus Garage to support EV charging.



Paper Consumption

The third key contributor to School District emissions is paper consumption at 30 tCO₂e, or approximately 3% of total emissions. The District continues to use increased recycled-content printing paper and promote paperless options as an alternative. In addition to SharePoint sites being implemented last year, Teams sites have been created to provide more controlled, flexible access to digital files which supports less printing. As more sustainable alternative come to market, such as sugar paper or other fiber alternatives, they will continue to be reviewed for cost and effectiveness within District operations.



qathet School District 2025 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary

GHG emissions for the period January 1 - December 31, 2025

Total BioCO ₂	22.2
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	993
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	756

Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years

Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	-8
---	----

Grand Total Offsets for the 2025 Reporting Year

Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2025 Reporting Year (tCO ₂ e)	748
Offset Investment (\$)	\$ 18,700.00

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, qathet School District – SD47 (**the Organization**) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2024 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years (if applicable). The Organization hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions (**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.

PART 2: Public Sector Climate Leadership

The qathet School District continues to promote sustainability and climate resilience in both education and District facilities/operations.

The District Sustainability Committee has created a committee plan to support outdoor education, climate change awareness, and sustainable goal setting and tracking. Through the committee meetings, ownership and accountability is maintained at both the District and individual level to ensure goals are met and initiatives are implemented. Through the committee, a sustainable fund has been established to promote school sustainability ideation and planning involving staff, students, and the public.

2A. Climate Risk Management

The School District did not experience any significant climatic impact, including extreme heat or flooding/prolonged rain event in the qathet region within the 2025 year. Although not experienced in the last year, It is recognized that climate resilience is necessary for the inevitability of such events. Climate hazard projections based on anecdotal evidence across school districts sites indicates a rise in local temperatures which may require additional cooling demands, specifically in the months of June to September.

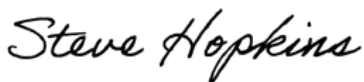
2B. Additional Sustainability Initiatives

Waste Reduction

The qathet region continues to be significantly affected by the loss of recyclable waste diversion streams. In working with the City of Powell River, the School District has maintained curb side pick-up for recycling at the James Thomson and Edgehill Elementary Schools and met with both the City of Powell River and the Ministry of Environment to support additional requests to Recycle BC to add all other District sites within the municipality to the allowed Institutional recycling sites and further improve the District recycling program.

In addition, the Feeding Futures program is being rolled out across the school district to support stigma-free access to food during the school day so that students can focus more on learning without concerns of food security. This program brings food direct to schools and allows for the removal of compost materials from sites at the same time. With the additional food delivery services being provided to these schools, it is anticipated that this program will help support a robust composting program through the District.

Executive Sign-off:



Signature

May 29, 2026

Steve Hopkins

Secretary-Treasurer