



School District No. 47 (Powell River)

Title: 2021 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

Organization Name: School District 47 (Powell River)

Declaration Statement

This Carbon Neutral Action Report for the period January 1 to December 31, 2021 summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2021 to reduce our GHG emissions, and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2022 and beyond.

Actions & Plans

In 2021, School District 47 continued to work towards its ongoing goal of reducing its carbon footprint. Over the course of 2021 we completed the second and final phase of an LED lighting upgrade at Brooks Secondary School which was first started in 2020. Also installed at Brooks Secondary was a 100-kw grid tie solar system. In addition to offsetting the total cost of electricity, the installation included a monitoring app that will be used by school administrators and teachers as an instructional tool for students. Rounding out work at Brooks Secondary was the installation of auto flush valves in all the schools' washrooms which will reduce the amount of water consumed by the facility each year. This same water reduction strategy was also utilized in renovations of each of the six washrooms at James Thomson Elementary School. Upgrades to the Modern Systems DDC Environmental Control Systems at each of Westview and Kelly Creek Schools was completed as planned. These upgrades will assist in improved remote management of the mechanical systems at each site. Finally, installation of electric car charging stations was completed at Oceanview Educations Centre, Edgehill and James Thomson Elementary School's and at Kelly Creek Community School.

Although the pandemic was again the organizational focus throughout much of 2021, energy reduction targets were still an organizational priority and an energy audit of all of the organizations buildings was planned late in the year and undertaken in early 2022 with results expected to be received soon which will assist the district in the development of next year's capital plan.

Planned for 2022 is an LED lighting upgrade at Texada Elementary along with the first phase of a thermal window upgrade. Also planned for Texada Elementary is the installation of a high efficiency furnace and heat pump and an electric car charging station. Installation of the car charging infrastructure will complete the districts initiative to have at least one at every school site. Also in the planning stages for 2022 is an electrical service upgrade at Henderson Elementary, this upgrade will bring the multi-year initiative to upgrade the electrical services and infrastructure at older elementary school sites near completion. Included in the

upgrade at Henderson Elementary School is the installation of an eighteen-panel grid tie solar system like what was previously done at Edgehill Elementary School. Following this theme, a 25-kw grid tie system is also planned for Westview Elementary School bringing the total solar installations across the district to four. Rounding out our plans for 2022 is another washroom upgrade at Henderson elementary, these annual upgrades include utilization of auto flush valves and other low flow accessories which will all reduce the total amount of water consumed at the school.

On the school level, School District 47 continues to take pride in educating the next generation to protect our future by continuing to fund various school led initiatives including the expansion of outdoor teaching and gathering spaces for students and staff. An outdoor classroom gazebo was completed this past year at Henderson Elementary with construction of one at both of Edgehill and James Thomson Elementary Schools currently underway. Completion of these projects will bring the total number of outdoor teaching spaces in the district to four.

School led initiatives continue to include participation in Destination Imagination, in gardening and recycling programs, as well as a number of community events such as the Trash Bash and Seedy Saturdays. The Outdoor Learning Centre (OLC), continues to be a contributing factor to the education of students, in both its operation and programs offered. The OLC consists of several cabins and a main lodge, run largely on solar power and maintains other environmentally friendly operating practices. Each year, the OLC offers numerous educational programs to District students, instructing them in practices such as composting, and use of renewable energy sources in a hands-on way. Although use of the center has been curtailed somewhat in the pandemic years, it is still a focus of elementary school programming.

Our **Total GHG Emissions for 2021 were 1,083** with **860 in offsets** to make us Carbon Neutral.

We believe in the benefits of our continued efforts and look forward to seeing a further reduction in offsets over the next few years. Financially, we aim to put some of the savings directly back into our schools, funding materials that continue to educate and provide awareness of how to reduce our carbon footprint. Environmentally, we aim to make our small actions have a big impact, both in the present and in the future, as our students take what they've learned into their adult lives, into our community and far beyond. Socially, we aim to provide awareness and collaboration that our students would take what they've learned and share it with others. We are proud of our District, and continue to be amazed at the significant efforts from both staff and students in making positive changes that will better our world for years to come.

Retirement of Offsets

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, School District 47 (Powell River) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2021 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years. The Organization 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 the

associated invoice to be issued by the Ministry in an amount equal to \$25 per tonne of offsets retired on its behalf.

Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

School District 47 (Powell River) GHG Emissions and Offsets for 2021

GHG Emissions created in Calendar Year 2021

Total Emissions (TCO2E) 1,083

Total Offsets (TCO2E) 860

Adjustments to GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years

Total Offset Adjustments (TCO2E) (2,292)

Grand Total Offsets for the 2021 Reporting Year

Grand Total Offsets (1,432)

Offset Investment \$ (0)

** Additional credit of \$14,475 for 2022.

Sincerely,



Steve Hopkins
Secretary Treasurer

May 30, 2022