



COLLEGE OF
THE ROCKIES

CARBON NEUTRAL ACTION REPORT | 2019

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2019 CARBON NEUTRAL ACTION REPORT

COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES

This Carbon Neutral Action Report for the period January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 summarizes our emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2019 to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2020 and beyond.

By June 30, 2020 COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES' (The College) final *Carbon Neutral Action Report* will be posted to our website at www.cotr.bc.ca.

ACTIONS TAKEN TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN 2019

Stationary Fuel Combustion, Electricity (Buildings)

Continue to change out inefficient fluorescent light fixtures to new LEDs.

Mobile Fleet Combustion (Fleet & Other Vehicles)

Fire Training Program purchased a newer, lightly used fire truck.

Continue to change out inefficient vehicles to newer more fuel-efficient models.

Supplies (Paper)

2019 Photocopy Paper Purchase:

- White and Coloured Paper 30% Recycled Content
- Specialty Paper 0% Recycled Content



Other

Purcell House Residence:

- Began the process of researching a software program for managing residence occupancy. Paper copies of applications, room check forms, notice of intention to move out forms, etc. would no longer be required as almost all paper forms and files would be moved online.
- Send out information on proper recycling to residents via email after monthly pod checks.

Bookstore:

- Uses an online Text Request System for faculty to order textbooks. This has eliminated paper requests.

Financial Services: Continuing to increase payment by EFT and reduce payments by cheque, to reduce our paper / printing usage.

Human Resources / Payroll:

- Consolidated the application approval document and payment-approval document on one page, saving two copies for every application, approximately 50 pages per year.
- Dramatically reduced the amount of paper used to check payrolls. These reports are now saved and checked electronically.
- Payroll forms are now scanned and sent to staff who support the payroll function, eliminating paper copies.
- Utilize internal online functions to provide forms and resource materials to staff.

IT Services:

- As part of the managed print service that the College has rolled out, users can see their total number of jobs, the number of pages of paper, and the equivalent environmental impacts of their print jobs. The goal is to make people aware of the environmental cost of printing, with an end goal of people thinking twice before they print, reducing the number of pages printed.
- All toner is ordered in a larger size to reduce waste. All cartridges are recycled where facilities are available.
- All electronics equipment from IT Services are recycled properly through the local electronics recycle depot.

Communications and Marketing:

- Recruitment Officers utilize the College's Prius, a hybrid vehicle, for their recruiting trips whenever possible, reducing the use of gas-only powered vehicles by approximately 50%.
- Moved from a paper-based marketing requisition system to a fillable-form pdf that can be emailed.
- Distributes a monthly emailed newsletter rather than a printed version.
- Dramatically reduced the amount of printed material (i.e. posters, brochures) that we produce, and have moved the majority of information online.
- Requests 30% or greater recycled content when producing printed marketing material and use Forestry Stewardship Certified paper and vegetable dyes whenever possible.
- College staff/student online message portal and College social media platforms post information about upcoming programs and courses.

Student Services/ Student and Enrolment Services: All Education Advisors, Disability Service Coordinators, Learning Assistance staff and Aboriginal Coordinator desks have cameras and video conferencing software, making meetings with students at regional Campuses possible without having to travel.

Cafeteria / Culinary Program: Cranbrook Campus' Cafeteria contractors use compostable or bio-degradable products exclusively. They utilize glass wear and reusable small wears for all internal catering available. Newly purchased plates, glasses and small wears in the last two years have made this possible. The Cafeteria contractors and the College's Culinary Program have been working closely with the College in regard to the composting program that will be implemented soon. The College has been consulting the Cafeteria and Culinary Program to help determine what size of composter will be needed.

Faculty Teleconferencing/Webinars/Web Conferencing: Faculty members video conference with students rather than travel to placement sites. All regional campuses further than 50km from Cranbrook have been equipped with full video conferencing suites. Video-recorded assignments for practicum students cut down on faculty travel for site visits. YouTube is used for posting video assignments. Staff, faculty, and Board Members are encouraged to attend meetings virtually via teleconference, webinars and web conferencing whenever possible ie: BC Net. Advanced network to increase bandwidth at all campuses.

COTROnline:

- The Production Support Centre staff is trained in supporting faculty in moving toward more online instruction through COTROnline (formerly Moodle).
- Student Services/Registration and Institutional Research - Stores training documentation on COTROnline.
- Faculty emails or posts handouts on COTROnline rather than make copies for class distribution.
- Learning Resource Centre uses electronic document library.
- Faculty requests that students upload their assignments to COTROnline sites. Faculty then marks the assignments virtually rather than making paper copies.
- The College encourages electronic submissions from our students.

AssetPlanner:

All faculty and staff requests to the Production Support Centre, IT Technology Department, and Facilities Maintenance Department are submitted electronically through the AssetPlanner (formerly FAME) system, eliminating all paper requests for those departments.

SharePoint:

- Student Services/ Student and Enrolment Services, and Institutional Research - Created a SharePoint site.
- All media monitoring/clipping done and filed electronically in SharePoint, replacing weekly photocopy circulation.
- Use SharePoint for Nursing Program to jointly edit and create accreditation documents.
- Learning Resource Centre uses SharePoint technology for electronic editing.
- HR/Payroll uses SharePoint for all payroll handout documents. Most of this department's information is now electronic.
- Electronic records of training (ROT) have been set up on SharePoint so that Office Administration faculty can enter grades electronically. ABE Directed Studies is grading online using AccessCOTR to submit grades rather than on paper copies, saving many reams of paper.

Regional Campuses, Continuing Education, & Contract Training:

- Scan and use electronic file system, rather than photocopying all invoices, quotes, contracts, and correspondence.
- Scan and email invoices to Finance, keeping the original for file.
- Scan and email receipts and registration forms to Continuing Education and Contract Training registrants, saving the cost and paper involved in mailing these documents.
- Resources are usually emailed or a link to materials/resources sent to students instead of printing.
- Encourage e-text course books instead of printed copies for most HOSP Diploma courses.
- Filtered water bottle dispensers installed at campuses.
- Where possible, re-use sets of current Fire Training student textbooks each intake (loaning textbooks vs purchasing every year).
- Where possible, convert student handouts and course materials to electronic format.
- When possible, supply re-usable mugs, cups instead of plastic/paper cups and dishware, use real cutlery instead of plastic/paper.
- When possible, reduced one Gold Creek employee's travel from Kimberley to Cranbrook (round trip of 58+ kms per day), by allowing them to work from the Kimberley Campus.
- Encourage walking/biking to work/school.
- Use buses/carpooling for fieldtrips.
- Carpooling between campuses or to conferences when travel is necessary.
- Use Microsoft Teams for meetings between campuses.
- Use of document planning and editing on MS Teams for collaborative projects, instead of having everything photocopied for meetings.
- Limit the use of flipcharts. Use whiteboards instead.
- Unplug small kitchen appliances (coffee maker, kettle etc.) and small office electronics (pencil sharpener, shredder, laminator etc.) when not in use.
- Re-use office supplies such as binders, report covers and sheet protectors – decreases purchasing of plastics.
- Recycle, return (to IT Dept) and donate (to local thrift stores) electronics that are out of date or are no longer being used. Items such as TV's, VCR's, slide projectors, and overhead projectors
- Invermere Campus composts food scraps and compostable K cups in compost bins at local high school's greenhouse.
- Where possible, campuses use local Refill stores for purchase of items at campus such as dish soap.
- Battery and toner recycling where possible.

- Invermere Kids Campus instructor (Summer Camp program and PD Days) used recycled materials in camp for activities and crafts, purchased games from thrift store, and walked to all activities in town.
- Golden Campus - landscaping project – supporting less water usage and low maintenance care.
- Gold Creek Campus switched from a pod-style coffee machine to a regular coffee pot with recycled coffee filters.
- First Aid Program launders triangular bandages and blankets instead of disposing of them and purchasing new. In total there are approximately 100 triangular bandages and 90 blankets between Kimberley and Cranbrook.

Traveling:

Carpooling is mandatory whenever the President, Board of Governors and the President's Council are involved in common meetings off site. Exceptions to this are approved by the President or Board Chair under exceptional circumstances only. Meetings are piggybacked for efficiency of travel. Dean's meetings are scheduled consecutively as many have multiple portfolios.

All Campuses deliver documents and packages by way of already planned travel in an effort to avoid scheduling unnecessary deliveries.

Staff and Faculty at various campuses participated in BC Bike to Work Week 2019. Bicycle parking is available.

Window blinds are utilized to reduce heating and cooling costs, as well as energy costs.



All campuses provide courses to staff, students, and the community on various topics related to climate change, conservation and sustainability.

- For example, ...
 - Cranbrook Campus
 - Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Sustainable Business Practices
 - Associate of Science (ASCES) - Environmental Sciences - Associate Degree
 - Environmental Studies – Certificate
 - Gold Creek Campus - 5-day Solar PV Design and Installation Course April 2019
 - Kimberley Campus – Seasonal Wreath Making – a course that uses natural resources that are locally wild crafted in a sustainable manner, participants make their own natural wreath instead of buying plastic;
 - Golden Campus - Delivers courses in cultural sustainability and stewardship in the Adventure Tourism Business Operations Program. ATBO students teach sustainability in the local elementary schools.
 - Invermere Campus
 - Green Clean Workshop
 - Looking at the 3 R's, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
 - Permaculture Design Certification Course

The Deans Department circulates agendas and minutes electronically and encourages use of e-readers rather than printed documents.

Board of Governors meeting packages are sent to Board members electronically.

Faculty in Business and University Arts and Science programs review BC Campus Open Education Resources when selecting their textbooks. Many courses at the College have adopted these textbooks as free downloadable resources under a Creative Commons license.

Sustainability

College of the Rockies values the natural environment and social and economic prosperity which are the pillars of sustainability. The College has established a committee of staff and students which actively pursues ways to enable our campus to operate in a more environmentally friendly, socially active and economically sustainable way as well as create awareness and provide guidance.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT 2019-20

PROJECTS

Organic Waste Collection and Composter

College of the Rockies purchased a \$60,000 composter from Jora Canada. One week of onsite training is included in the price. It will be installed outside the cafeteria; the current metal gate will be extended out to accommodate the C-Can that will house the composter. Initially, its use will be limited to Facilities, the culinary program, and Pita Wrapbit. Meat and bones will be left out for now. Culinary and Pita Wrapbit will have their own compost buckets to take out once a day. The College will have the summer to see test the system and see how it performs.

The composter arrived on campus in February. The College will hold a contest to name the composter as part of the promotional and communications efforts.

Office Supply and Battery Recycling

The College implemented a recycling program for office supplies such as pens, white out containers, cellphones, electronics and accessories. This is collected outside the Campus Store and is picked up by Office Depot for recycling.

Batteries are collected in the Shipping and Receiving area and recycled.

Eliminating Bottled Water

The College cafeteria (Pita Wrapbit) and the College vending machines will no longer offer bottled water for purchase beginning in the summer of 2019. This move is to encourage use of the water bottle refill stations located around campus. This will also reduce the amount of plastic waste produced during campus operations.

The Sustainability Committee will partner with the Marketing and International departments and the Students' Association to give every student a logoed water bottle to facilitate the use of the filtered water refill stations.

Sustainability Committee Assistant

The College hired a student to assist the Sustainability Committee with its efforts. The student position is funded through the Student Opportunity fund. The Assistant engaged with the community and assist with sustainability initiatives.

EVENTS

Campus Clean Up (April 16)

The clean-up was held from 12 to 1 p.m. Students, faculty, and staff volunteered their lunch hour to clean up garbage on the College grounds.

Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce Sustainability Luncheon (April 17th)

The College assisted with organizing this luncheon and participated in a panel discussion on topics of interest to the business community. A checklist was developed to assist Chamber members with sustainability efforts.

Earth Week Activities (April 23 – April 25)

During the week, an information table was set up in the main hallway to promote the sustainability efforts on campus. The Sustainability Assistant promoted recycling, refillable water bottles and coffee cups, and gave out water bottles.

Federation of Post-Secondary Educators Climate Emergency Meeting (February 22nd)

A Sustainability Committee faculty member attended a Climate Emergency meeting in Vancouver. She shared some of the sustainability initiatives the College has been involved in, such as the carbon neutral report, solar energy, and the upcoming composter. She has been asked to bring to this meeting the single greatest climate challenge at our institution and suggestions for how FPSE can help support the local in addressing this challenge. The group held a discussion, and the largest climate issue that came up is the emissions produced from students, staff, and faculty travel to and from the College as well as to regional and national meetings. The College could use FPSE's help in promoting public transportation, electric vehicles, and carpooling and video conferencing practices to reduce emissions.

Cranbrook and East Kootenay Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL) Working on Solutions for a Livable Climate

Laura Sacks, co-lead of the BC Citizens' Climate Lobby, did a presentation at the College and talked about local climate challenges and impacts. The Sustainability Assistant promoted the event and attended on behalf of the Committee.

MEMBERSHIPS

College of the Rockies is proud to be a member of the Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. AASHE is an association of Colleges and universities that are working to create a sustainable future.

**RESEARCH****Bottled Beverage Survey**

Students were surveyed for their thoughts on bottled beverages at the College. The importance of promotion in changing attitudes and behaviours was made clear. Students need to be incentivized, e.g. a 6 to 10 percent discount for bringing their own container for everything—coffee, pop, etc. Two-thirds of students surveyed said they would use a free College refillable container.

Collecting Organic Waste Survey

A College wide survey was conducted with the main goal to identify possible barriers to organic waste collection at the Cranbrook campus. The student researcher received 188 responses, 151 which were completed (80 percent completion rate). Common barriers identified were unclear signage, confusion over the composability of items, and inconvenience of bin locations. If no sink is available in the vicinity to rinse items such as drinking containers, the likelihood of people rinsing and recycling drops (or if they recycle without rinsing, they contaminate the load). Clear communication and education; proper organization and accessibility to tools such as sinks, collection pods, and signage; and the good management of the system will be critical to its success.

PLANS TO CONTINUE TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN 2019 AND BEYOND

The College will implement a method for the students to print from their own devices, this will reduce our electricity consumption as students will not need to start a desktop computer to print but can use a lower power laptop device to print.

The College will reduce the number of desktop computers in use by staff, moving them to laptops which use less power and generate less heat for their operation.

IT services will double the videoconferencing / web conferencing capabilities at each of the regional campuses.

Identifying opportunities to use digital learning resources. One of the potential benefits being the reduction of paper consumption.

Change out aging MAUs to newer models with variable frequency drives.

Continue to change out inefficient light fixtures to LEDs.

Continue to replace aging vehicles with more efficient models.

Continue to change out water fountains with water bottle filling stations where applicable.

College of the Rockies GHG Emissions and Offsets for 2019	
As per the Directive issued March 31, 2020, each PSO will use their 2018 GHG Emissions as a placeholder for the purposes of their 2019 CNAR.	
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	1 + 798
Total BioCO ₂	1
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	781
Offset Investment (\$25 per tCO ₂ e)	781 X \$25 = \$19,525

Retirement of Offsets:

*In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, College of the Rockies (**the Organization**) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2019 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.*

Executive sign-off: *[To be signed by a senior official, such as CEO, COO or Superintendent]*



May 29, 2020

Signature

Date

Dianne Teslak

VP, Finance & Corporate Services

Name (please print)

Title

Please scan and email the completed form to Carbon.Neutral@gov.bc.ca