



COLLEGE OF
THE ROCKIES

PSO CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

2024

College of the Rockies

2024 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

PART 1. Legislative Reporting Requirements

Declaration statement: This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2024 to minimize our GHG emissions, and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2025 and beyond.

Emission Reductions: Actions & Plans

A. Stationary Sources (e.g., buildings, power generation)

Facilities and Infrastructure Upgrades

- The College has invested in LED retrofits, HVAC upgrades, and building performance improvements—clear indicators of emissions reduction strategies.

B. Mobile Sources (e.g., fleet vehicles, off-road/portable equipment)

- Electric vehicle (EV) adoption and EV charging infrastructure support decarbonization of campus transport.
- New Access Road: The construction of a new access road on the north side of College of the Rockies' Cranbrook campus supports carbon reduction efforts by improving traffic flow and reducing congestion, which can lead to decreased vehicle idling and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, the project incorporates considerations for biodiversity and wildlife connectivity, aligning with sustainable development practices.
- Regional Campuses hold TEAMS meetings when they are able, instead of traveling.

C. Paper Consumption

- The Learning Commons has partnered with the Sustainability Committee and BBA Capstone students to develop a research project to create a social enterprises around older books, recycling and circular economy. The Learning Commons is also working with the Sustainability Committee to donate lightly used books and textbooks through non-profit organizations.
- The Human Resources/Payroll department is transitioning over to all digital files.

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

College of the Rockies 2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary	
GHG emissions for the period January 1 - December 31, 2024	
Total BioCO ₂	4.8
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	934
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	917
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	0
Grand Total Offsets for the 2024 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2024 Reporting Year (tCO ₂ e)	917
Offset Investment (\$)	$(917 + 0) \times \$25 = \$22,925.00$

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and the 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 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

2A. Climate Risk Management

- Continued to collaborate with local emergency services and municipalities to strengthen coordination on wildfire and flood response planning.
- Updated the Environmental Sustainability Policy which emphasizes environmental leadership, sustainable practices, and minimizing environmental impacts. It includes a commitment to embedding sustainability in operations and decision-making including purchasing. While fully transitioning the College's fleet to zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) would be ideal, logistical, and financial constraints particularly due to our geographical location and limited budget pose significant challenges.

2B. Additional Sustainability Initiatives

- Annual tracking and offsetting of institutional greenhouse gas emissions is part of BC's Climate Change Accountability Act.
- The College continues to report emissions and purchase offsets to maintain its carbon neutrality, retiring 984 tonnes of CO₂e in the latest report year.

2C. Success Stories

Ecologically Aligned Program Development & Highlights

1. Bachelor of Business Administration in Sustainable Business Practices
 - This flagship program develops student understanding of environmental, economic, and social sustainability, preparing graduates to lead in low-carbon, ethical enterprise.
 - Courses emphasize systems thinking, lifecycle analysis, and sustainable business practices.
 - 8 BBA Capstone projects were completed in 2024 and 16 were initiated including initiatives in food security, limiting food waste, sustainable transportation, circular economy, SDG reporting and sustainability literacy initiatives.
2. BSN Nursing
 - "Planetary Health" Program learning objectives have been integrated throughout all nursing programs
 - At the BSN Leadership conference, students presented an "Eco-Scalpel research project" that reduces carbon emissions by diverting thousands of kilograms of hospital PVC waste from landfills and incineration, instead recycling it into materials like road components. This innovative initiative lowers the healthcare sector's carbon footprint while embedding sustainability into clinical education and practice.

3. Support for Trades and Technology

- Includes programming for electric vehicle maintenance, renewable energy, and building systems efficiency, equipping students with applied skills needed in green job sectors.

4. Partnerships for Rural and Ecological Resilience

- The College frequently works with regional employers and rural communities to develop programs relevant to climate adaptation, sustainable resource use, and rural economic development.

5. Environmental Sciences

- Undergraduate science courses in biology and sustainability studies develop small scale research initiatives to plan out initiatives that would reduce carbon and increase campuswide engagement.

Indigenous Partnerships and Relational Accountability

- Indigenous Engagement as a Sustainability Lever
 - While not framed explicitly in environmental terms, COTR affirms collaboration with Indigenous communities in program design and delivery which is key to culturally and ecologically responsible education.
 - The College's focus on relational accountability aligns with Indigenous principles of land stewardship and intergenerational sustainability.
- Program Development with Indigenous Worldviews
 - COTR integrates Indigenous content and consultation in areas like health, land-based learning, and trades.

Creston Campus:

- Ongoing partnership with Creston Seed Bank (previously held by the College) to share space and promote seed security in the Creston Valley and throughout the Kootenays. The Seed Bank has a significant footprint on the Creston grounds, and we support their endeavors to provide increased awareness around biodiversity and the importance of local foods from a carbon perspective.
- Kootenay River Secondary School utilizes the Creston greenhouses for their Environmental Science course. We provide space and some educational resources for students to learn about agriculture, food security, biodiversity and intergenerational knowledge sharing.
- This upcoming year Creston will be working on an Indigenization and recruitment strategy. It is our hope to develop a relationship with First Nations' Emergency Services Society in order to see more engagement with Indigenous communities around fire management. We would like to see the inclusion of more cultural competencies in the curriculum, which includes Indigenous ways of managing the land, cultural burning and Indigenous fire stewardship.

Executive Sign-off:



30 May 2025

Signature

Date

Nathan Skretting

Vice President, Strategy, Budget & Operations

Name (please print)

Title