

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

CARBON NEUTRAL ACTION REPORT

APRIL 2009



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The mission of Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) “is to support efforts by the people of the Basin to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being and to achieve greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations.” In fulfilling its mission in the Columbia Basin region, CBT strives to support community efforts to be carbon neutral, and strives to ensure its own operations are carbon neutral. With the development of its Carbon Neutral Plan now complete, CBT will toward full implementation of the Plan in the coming months.

OVERVIEW

Actions Taken to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2009

CBT’s Corporate Operations

CBT took the following actions in working toward making its operations carbon neutral:

- A comprehensive review of all buildings owned or leased by CBT was undertaken. This review identified areas of opportunity for both energy efficiency and emission reductions, and these areas will be pursued in 2010.
- A baseline inventory of emissions was developed based on 2008 energy use data.
- A consultant with expertise in carbon neutral planning was engaged to coordinate development of a Carbon Neutral Plan. The plan was completed and approved, and is now ready for implementation.
- Staff awareness of carbon neutrality was raised, through a survey mechanism and through a facilitated dialogue at a staff carbon neutral planning workshop in fall 2009.
- An internal cross-department Carbon Neutral Action Team was established and is helping to identify current sustainability issues and strategies for emission reduction.
- A number of actions identified by the Carbon Neutral Plan have been taken.

CBT's Support of Community Efforts

CBT supported a variety of community projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including but not limited to:

1. Switch & Save – replacing old bulbs with energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs. For more information: <http://www.cbt.org/newsroom/?view&vars=1&content=SpotlightGallery&WebDynID=928>
2. Kootenay Carbon Neutral Action Strategy – a strategy that provides assistance to Kootenay municipalities, First Nations communities, and regional districts in working towards carbon neutrality. For more information: [http://www.cbt.org/uploads/pdf/KootenayCarbonNeutralActionStrategy\(Jan2009\).pdf](http://www.cbt.org/uploads/pdf/KootenayCarbonNeutralActionStrategy(Jan2009).pdf)
3. Kootenay Rideshare Program – a service that encourages carpooling, connecting riders and drivers. For more information: <http://www.kootenayrideshare.com/>
4. Free Public Carbon Inventory Learning Sessions – CBT, in partnership with regional districts, hosted two free learning sessions to help local businesses and institutions with managing their carbon footprints. For more information: <http://www.cbt.org/newsroom/?view&vars=1&content=SpotlightGallery&WebDynID=1049>
5. CBT also developed a Reducing Emissions Initiative that is intended for both CBT employees and the general public, which outlines CBT's approach to carbon neutrality. For more information: http://www.cbt.org/Initiatives/Climate_Change/?Reducing_Emissions

Operational Changes in 2009

In 2009, CBT's focus was on establishing its Carbon Neutral Plan and raising staff awareness and support. CBT also took a number of initial steps toward making its operations carbon neutral (e.g. applying auto-sleep settings on computer monitors and CPUs, replacing computers with ENERGY STAR models during upgrades, posting materials online that were previously printed, and encouraging use of videoconference for inter-office meetings).

Plans to Continue Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2010 – 2012

In 2010, CBT will begin exploring sustainability principles and practices that can be applied to CBT's everyday activities. CBT will also begin implementing recommendations that arose from the energy assessments of all CBT owned or leased buildings. This includes retrofitting lighting, installation of light occupancy sensors, and the installation of programmable thermostats. CBT will continue to encourage staff to implement actions to reduce their emissions through a variety of behavioural changes, including the use of smart business travel practices.

CBT will also continue to support regional and community efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through its Communities Adapting to Climate Change initiative. For more information on the initiative and plans for 2010, visit: http://www.cbt.org/Initiatives/Climate_Change/?Adapting_to_Climate_Change.