



COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

Carbon Neutral Action Report 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Creating a legacy of environmental well-being is one of the cornerstones of Columbia Basin Trust's (CBT's) mission. Our efforts to support carbon neutrality are twofold: our Delivery of Benefits initiatives and programs support a variety of community projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions, while our own corporate actions strive to be carbon neutral.



Recent CBT-supported community projects have ranged from multi-year, collaborative partnerships that weave through the operations of local governments of all levels, to grassroots community efforts that allow Basin residents to become more self-sufficient and less reliant on carbon emissions-creating activities. Communities, businesses, educators and the general public have all learned and benefited from these projects.

At the same time, the effects of our own actions upon the environment are always top of mind, and we continue to successfully implement our Carbon Neutral Action Plan into corporate operations.

For example, in 2010 we encouraged CBT employees to walk, run or bike to work for Earth Day, and provided bike racks, lockers and showers so they can continue to do so on a regular basis. We regularly encourage carpooling when driving is a must, taking the stairs versus the elevator and drinking tap water versus bottled water. We have also installed, or are in the process of installing, water filters in our offices to support our employees' choices.

Although CBT's corporate operations do not attract large outputs of greenhouse gas emissions, our reach across the Columbia Basin stretches over 100,000 square kilometres, and therefore may require CBT employees to travel long distances. We have reduced the need to travel by implementing videoconferencing equipment in all four offices, as well as in the remote community of Valemount. The equipment is frequently used by both CBT employees and community groups and has become our #1 method of face-to-face interaction.

In short, CBT strives to be an organization other Basin organizations can look up to and emulate. We will continue to look at ways our processes can become more environmentally friendly, and will further focus our efforts in future years.

Christine Lloyd
Director, Finance and Operations

2010 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

CBT tracks and reports all sources of emissions covered by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act. CBT's greenhouse gas emissions for 2010 were 21.68 tonnes CO₂e.

2010 OFFSETS

CBT purchased 21.68 tonnes CO₂e in offsets from Pacific Carbon Trust for 2010 emissions at a total cost of \$542.

EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACTIVITIES

Actions Taken to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2010

CBT's Support of Community Efforts

Through its Delivery of Benefits program, CBT supported a variety of community projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions, including but not limited to:

1. **Carbon Neutral Kootenays:** A three-year project, currently in its second year, that is a collaboration of local governments and First Nations in partnership with CBT. The project is focused on reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions from municipal, regional and First Nations' corporate operations. For more information: http://www.cbt.org/Initiatives/Climate_Change/?Reducing_Emissions.
2. **CBT's Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative:** A CBT-supported initiative that assisted five Basin communities in completing climate change adaption plans, including emissions reduction actions. These plans were based on an evaluation of climate change-related impacts and local vulnerabilities. For more information: http://www.cbt.org/Initiatives/Climate_Change/?Adapting_to_Climate_Change.
3. **Columbia Basin Water Smart Initiative:** A regional water conservation program that provides support to Basin local governments to develop water conservation plans. Water Smart aims to achieve a 20 per cent Basin-wide reduction in community water consumption by 2015. Reductions in water use will result in energy savings and emissions reductions. For more information: <http://www.cbt.org/watersmart>



4. **Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network Workshops:** Professional development workshops that encourage Basin educators to deliver relevant and engaging environmental education to students throughout the region. For more information: [http://www.cbt.org/newsroom/?view&vars=1&content=News Release&WebDynID=1317](http://www.cbt.org/newsroom/?view&vars=1&content=News+Release&WebDynID=1317).
5. **Extended Outreach—Revelstoke Community Energy and Emissions:** A CBT-supported community workshop focusing on opportunities in the business sector to reduce energy and emissions.
6. **Community Gardens:** A CBT-supported project that encourages people to reduce their carbon footprints by growing their own vegetables as opposed to having them trucked in from far distances.
7. **Columbia Mountain Institute of Applied Ecology:** A CBT-supported conference in Nelson outlining the mechanisms of carbon intake, storage and release, and how carbon management has the potential to mitigate climate change.
8. **Reducing Emissions:** A CBT-developed initiative for CBT employees and the general public that outlines ways to reduce carbon emissions. For more information: http://www.cbt.org/Initiatives/Climate_Change/?Reducing_Emissions.

CBT also installed videoconferencing equipment at the Village office in Valemount. This equipment allows residents to attend/host meetings and participate in training courses without travelling.

CBT'S Corporate Operations

CBT engaged in a number of carbon emissions reduction actions in 2010, including hosting an employee Earth Day competition, for which staff in each of CBT's four offices were encouraged to walk, run or bike to work. CBT added to the challenge by asking staff to set goals to continue commuting in environmentally friendly ways. Goals submitted were distributed to all staff.

CBT also supported employees' efforts by installing lockers in its Castlegar building and providing access to shower facilities. Bike racks are also available to staff at each of CBT's four offices.

In 2010, CBT installed a water filtration system at its Castlegar location and encouraged staff to drink tap water instead of bottled water in an effort to reduce energy use by water coolers.



Throughout 2010, CBT distributed reminders to all staff to turn off lights when not in use, take the stairs instead of the elevator, walk/run/bike to work and use the air-dry setting on the dishwasher. Staff responded positively to these reminders.

CBT continued to emphasize and improve its videoconferencing and teleconferencing infrastructure in an effort to reduce travel. In 2010, CBT enhanced fibre optics in Cranbrook and Golden, which improved videoconferencing systems in these communities. CBT has seen increased use of its videoconferencing facilities by both staff and outside community groups.

As the host of a public symposium in 2010, CBT implemented several ways to make the symposium sustainable. For example, CBT donated all unused food to the local food bank, sourced food locally and used reusable, recycled or recyclable products. Carpooling was encouraged and managed by CBT through an online system that matched drivers and passengers geographically. More efforts are listed at <http://www.cbt.org/2010Symposium/Sustainability>. These strategies were very well received by symposium participants.

In addition, based on a carbon offset calculation, CBT donated \$1,500 to a Revelstoke environmental organization, the North Columbia Environmental Society. This donation will go toward initiatives that will further encourage carbon reduction.

Plans to Continue Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2011 – 2013

CBT will remain committed to reducing carbon emissions through ongoing Delivery of Benefits programs and initiatives such as Carbon Neutral Kootenays and Water Smart.

CBT also remains committed to reducing carbon emissions in its own corporate operations. For example, in an effort to reduce paper consumption, CBT will be strongly encouraging the adoption of paperless meetings in 2011. Plans include installing the necessary paperless hardware and software, as well as providing staff and Board members with the necessary training and support.

