



# COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

## 2011 CARBON NEUTRAL ACTION REPORT

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CBT strives to be a carbon-neutral organization. We continue to successfully implement our Carbon Neutral Action Plan into our operations, from reducing printed and couriered meeting materials to replacing outdated servers and photocopiers.

We're also in the unique position of being able to support the actions of others. Each year, we provide funding to a broad range of social, economic and environmental initiatives throughout the Basin, many of which directly or indirectly focus on reducing carbon emissions. These efforts range from small to large. For example, CBT supported the Nordic centre in Golden as it upgraded its heating system. CBT funds are also helping homeowners throughout the city of Nelson retrofit their homes in order to reduce energy use.

In the coming year, we will continue to focus on means for improvement. We will further encourage the use of our videoconferencing equipment, plus will explore and implement improvements that will lower carbon emissions at our four Basin offices. We will also continue to support carbon neutral actions in the Basin spearheaded by others.



Christine Lloyd  
Director, Finance and Operations



## 2011 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 2011 were 23 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e.

## OFFSETS APPLIED TO BECOME CARBON NEUTRAL IN 2011

CBT purchased 23 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e in offsets from Pacific Carbon Trust for 2011 emissions at a total cost of \$644.

## EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACTIVITIES

### Actions Taken to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2011

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 collaboration between local governments, First Nations and CBT that focuses on reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions from municipal, regional and First Nations' corporate operations.  
[www.cbt.org/Initiatives/Climate\\_Change/?Reducing\\_Emissions](http://www.cbt.org/Initiatives/Climate_Change/?Reducing_Emissions)
2. Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative: A CBT-supported initiative that has assisted five Basin communities in completing climate change adaptation plans, including emissions-reduction actions. The initiative is now moving into Phase 3, which will engage more Basin communities and stakeholders in climate change adaptation planning and action.  
[www.cbt.org/Initiatives/Climate\\_Change/?Adapting\\_to\\_Climate\\_Change](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 local Basin governments developing 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.  
[www.cbt.org/watersmart](http://www.cbt.org/watersmart)
4. City of Nelson Home Energy and Retrofit Program: A program that allows local homeowners to borrow up to \$10,000 from the City at low interest rates to increase the energy efficiency of their homes. The program will help the City meet its carbon emissions reduction goals in its *Path to 2040 Community Energy and Emissions Action Plan*.
5. Rossland Community Energy Initiative: A seven-month project that educated and engaged the Rossland community on energy conservation, plus fed into a Community Energy Plan.  
[www.visionstoaction.ca](http://www.visionstoaction.ca)

6. Beyond Recycling: A school-based environmental education program that provides an action-oriented, solutions-focused curriculum that allows students to recognize the impacts of their lifestyle choices and highlights the importance of individual actions.  
[www.beyondrecycling.ca](http://www.beyondrecycling.ca)
7. Green Building Conference: A conference that featured leading experts in green and sustainable building to speak on the latest advancements in energy efficiency, greening of the building code, renewable energy, net zero homes and more.  
[www.wildsight.ca/kimberleysustainablebuilding](http://www.wildsight.ca/kimberleysustainablebuilding)
8. Earth Day Challenge: Between April and June 2011, Basin residents were able to go online to share what they were doing for Earth Day and invite others to join them. During the last week of the challenge, residents and organizations could also sign on to the National Commuter Challenge.  
[www.kootenayearthday.ca](http://www.kootenayearthday.ca)

CBT also engaged in a number of corporate carbon emissions reduction actions in 2011, including supporting staff in CBT's four offices to walk, run, bike or carpool to work.

Videoconferencing and teleconferencing infrastructure continued to be promoted and improved in an effort to reduce travel. CBT has seen increased use of its videoconferencing facilities not just by staff, but also by partner organizations and outside community groups. When travel for meetings is required by CBT staff, carpooling is chosen whenever possible. In addition, staff who live in a common area have established carpool arrangements for transportation to and from the work office.

CBT's Information Technologies also took several other steps to reduce emissions, including:

- switching from a power-hungry server infrastructure to a virtualized environment, effectively replacing approximately 20 old servers with seven highly power-efficient, Energy Star-certified servers;
- replacing printed and couriered Board of Directors meeting materials with electronically delivered and annotated packages; and
- replacing outdated photocopiers with Energy Star-certified devices.

### Plans to Continue Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2012 – 2014

CBT will remain committed to reducing carbon emissions through ongoing Delivery of Benefits programs and initiatives such as Carbon Neutral Kootenays and Water Smart. In its own corporate operations, CBT will continue to promote the use of videoconferencing equipment in order to reduce travel, and will explore and implement improvements to its four offices in order to lower carbon emissions.





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