

Carbon Neutral Action Report 2017



ORGANIZATION NAME: Columbia Basin Trust

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	TOTAL EMISSIONS	TOTAL OFFSETS
GHG EMISSIONS CREATED IN 2017	96 tCO2e	96 tCO2e
ADJUSTMENTS TO GHG EMISSIONS OF PRIOR YEARS	15 tCO2e	15 tCO2e
GRAND TOTAL OFFSETS FOR 2017	-	111 tCO2e

TOTAL FTE EMPLOYEES: 55 TOTAL FLOOR SPACE: 8,401 m² USE OF SPACE: office VEHICLES: none

Top actions we took in 2017 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or improve sustainability

A range of projects that helped communities in the Columbia Basin reduce greenhouse emissions were supported by the Trust, and include the following:

- The "Energy Retrofit" program provides upgrades to affordable housing units, making the properties more energy efficient and sustainable for their residents (the first intake supported 25 buildings, with over 500 units).
- "Organic Waste Diversion" projects include communication and outreach strategies to engage communities and residents to divert solid organic waste away from landfills, which reduces GHG emissions (e.g. organic waste collection services).
- The "Cranbrook Food Rescue and Climate Change Mitigation" project aims to rescue quality food that would otherwise go to waste and distribute it to those in need (avoids GHG emissions from food waste).
- The "Soil Carbon Sequestration" project involves re-building the capacity of soils to absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere.
- The "Electric VehicleShare" program develops and provides low-carbon transportation options in the Columbia Valley.
- The "Accelerate Kootenays" partnership is establishing a network of 52 electric vehicle charging stations throughout the region.
- Supporting 20 communities in implementing 28 wildfire mitigation projects that reduce carbon release potential during forest fires. These projects include a focus on educating residents how to reduce wildfire risks on their properties and managing wildfire fuels.

We reduced our corporate operations' GHG emissions by:

- Continuing to make videoconferencing technology available to Staff and the Board of Directors, as well as to other Columbia Basin organizations, to assist in reducing travel.
- Using Skype for Business whenever possible, to assist in reducing travel.
- Encouraging staff to walk, run, bike, or carpool to work.
- Allowing staff to work a compressed work week in the summer to reduce commuting.
- Using recycled paper in office photocopiers.
- Phasing out fluorescent lighting in Castlegar and Golden offices; transitioning to LED technology when lighting systems are due for replacement.
- Using electronic documentation and electronic signatures to reduce paper usage.
- Using paper that is the highest percentage recycled and Forest Stewardship Council certified printers.
- Using Energy Star-certified devices whenever possible.

How we plan to continue minimizing greenhouse gas emissions

In the future, we plan to:

- Complete HVAC upgrades in the Castlegar office; "Phase 1" has been completed, energy reductions will be realized following "Phase 2" when variable speed drivers are implemented.
- Perform lifecycle replacements to our data center, which will result in increased energy efficiency.
- Remain receptive to improvements that would lower emissions in our four offices, including continued reduction in paper usage.
- Implement the recently approved "Renewable and Alternative Energy Framework"; developing programs/projects that support renewable and alternative energy generation, as well as conservation opportunities throughout the Columbia Basin.
- Continue to replace aging lights with LED technology.
- Continue to encourage the use of videoconferencing equipment and Skype for Business to reduce travel.
- Continue supporting communities to reduce emissions through various Columbia Basin Trust (Trust) programs, including our Environment Grants program and new Climate Action program.

Actions we took in 2017 to strengthen our ability to manage the likely effects of climate change

We helped Basin communities improve their emergency preparedness to enhance their response to potential effects of climate change impacts such as wildfires and flooding. We also helped Basin communities respond to the effects of climate change in various ways. For example, we:

- Offered wildfire mitigation grants for community projects that help reduce the risks of wildfires occurring within, or adjacent to communities.
- Commenced the "Kicking Horse River Climate Adaptation" project, which aims to help better understand future flood risks and inform actions that can help protect public and private property.
- Entered into a partnership with BC Housing, targeting to create 225 new affordable housing units. The goal is for these units to be constructed in compliance with "Energy Step Code 4", which will make the residences extremely efficient and reduce contributions to climate change.

Retirement of Offsets: In accordance with the requirements of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, Columbia Basin Trust (the Organization) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2017 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years. The Organization hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Environment ensuring that these offsets are retired on the Organization's behalf, the Organization will pay 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.



Johnny Strilaeff, President and Chief Executive Officer

MAY 29/18
Date