

BC Energy Regulator

2023 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

Title: 2023 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

Organization: BC Energy Regulator (BCER)

PART 1. Legislative Reporting Requirements

Declaration statement: This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2023 to minimize our GHG emissions, and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2024 and beyond.

Emission Reductions: Actions & Plans

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

The BCER demonstrates a commitment to sustainability by leasing office spaces that meet LEED Gold Standards. This aligns with our dedication to the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 and the adoption of the Hybrid Office Model (HOM), exhibits our commitment on reducing carbon emissions and enhancing workplace resilience.

The Three-Year Strategy highlights a key outcome as “Energy Transition and Low-Carbon Economy”, which significantly influences office planning and configuration. Notably, there is a strong emphasis on improving the workplace environment while simultaneously decreasing the corporate carbon footprint. Key considerations for reducing emissions from stationary sources at BCER offices include:

- Conducting energy consumption review of individual facilities to pinpoint opportunities for energy savings.
- Investigating incidents of increased usage to identify inefficiencies in building systems and prioritize repairs or improvements.
- Prioritizing climate resilience and electric vehicle (EV) readiness in building maintenance and improvements plans, as well as for future office space requirements.
- Exploring opportunities to decrease embedded emissions in necessary repairs or improvements.

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

BCER has made significant strides in reducing mobile source emissions by decreasing its fleet size, retiring two heavy-duty gasoline trucks, two light-duty gasoline trucks, and introducing one hybrid vehicle. This decision reflects a thorough approach to vehicle replacement, balancing economic efficiency and sustainability goals. The decision-making process considers various factors such as cost-benefit analysis, GHG emissions reduction, operational suitability, and employee safety.

However, transitioning to electric vehicles (EVs) in Northern BC office locations presents challenges due to limited charging infrastructure and harsh winter conditions. The scarcity of charging stations makes it inconvenient for EV owners, while severe cold temperatures result in longer charging times and reduced battery performance. Moreover, field staff operating in remote areas with diverse seasonal conditions prefer gasoline trucks for their reliability, ensuring employee safety during demanding work duties.

Despite these challenges, BCER remains committed to exploring advancements in carbon-neutral vehicle technologies. The organization closely monitors development in energy-efficient vehicles and aims to adopt solutions that align with operational and budgetary requirements while minimizing environmental impacts. This dedication underscores BCER's ongoing efforts to promote sustainability and drive positive change in its transportation practices.

Paper Consumption

BCER is committed to minimizing paper consumption and reducing its carbon footprint through various initiatives aimed at transitioning to a paperless work environment. These initiatives include:

- Increasing awareness of printing costs and promoting responsible usage by displaying the cost per print.
- Defaulting printers to double-sided and black and white printing to decrease paper waste and ink cartridges replacements.
- Requiring authorization to the printer before print jobs are released, allowing users to reconsider the necessity of printing and cancel unnecessary print jobs.
- Providing employees with double monitors for ease in reviewing of online documents.
- Utilizing cloud-based records management and online document accessibility, reducing the need for printing and enabling access from any location in Canada.

BCER currently uses 30% recycled paper, efforts to explore higher percentage have been limited by concerns of print quality. However, we remain committed to maintaining printer defaults and monitoring usage patterns for data analytics to further reduce paper consumption. These strategies demonstrate BCER's ongoing commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

BC Energy Regulator 2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary	
GHG emissions for the period January 1 – December 31, 2023	
Total BioCO ₂	6.42
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	356
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	349
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	13.9
Grand Total Offsets for the 2023 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2023 Reporting Year (tCO ₂ e)	363
Offset Investment (\$)	\$9,075.99

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and the *Carbon Neutral Government Regulation*, BC Energy Regulator (**the Organization**) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2023 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years (if applicable). The Organization hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (**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

BCER plays a vital role as a trusted partner of various government entities, including the Ministry of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, the Climate Action Secretariat in facilitating and promoting the energy transition within the province. Despite being classified as a small emitter, BCER actively participates in these initiatives to foster dialogue and advance shared objectives.

2A. Climate Risk Management

BCER's statutory decision-makers and stewardship subject matter experts' commitment in monitoring and evaluating the operational impacts of regulated activities in response to climate events and policy changes aimed at addressing climate impacts. A considerable focus is placed on methane emissions reduction management and water use management, reflecting BCER's commitment to environmental stewardship.

BCER has performed assessments and adjusted operational procedures for field work in the event of extreme climate events to ensure staff safety and continuity of critical processes. By staying vigilant and responsive to climate-related challenges, BCER demonstrates its dedication to sustainable practices and resilience in the face of environmental uncertainties.

2B. Other Sustainability Initiatives

BCER's Three-Year Strategy Plan emphasizes sustainability as a central focus, aligning closely with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the CleanBC Plan. Key Outcomes in the plan target Energy Transition and Emissions Management, as well as Restoration, Stewardship, ESG & Cumulative Effects. BCER's objectives include reducing carbon emissions, transitioning to cleaner energy sources, and addressing wider environmental impacts. This strategic direction reflects a commitment to both global and local sustainability goals, positioning BCER to contribute meaningfully to environmental stewardship and social responsibility while fostering long-term organizational resilience.

Executive Sign-off:

[All PSOs, including Small Emitters, must have their final report signed by a senior official, such as CEO, COO or Superintendent]



June 7, 2024

Signature

Date

Michelle Carr

Commissioner & Chief Executive Officer

Name (please print)

Title

[Please email your signed report to Carbon.Neutral@gov.bc.ca by no later than May 31, 2024.]