

NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE



2023 PUBLIC SECTOR ORGANIZATION

CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT (PSO CCAR)

nic.bc.ca



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Territorial Acknowledgement

North Island College is honoured to acknowledge the traditional territories of the combined 35 first nations of the Nuu-chah-nulth, Kwakwaka'wakw and Coast Salish peoples, on whose traditional and unceded territories the College's campuses are situated.





Declaration Statement

This Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, summarizes North Island College's (NIC) greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions the college has taken in 2023 to minimize our GHG emissions, and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2024 and beyond.

By June 30, 2024 NIC's final Carbon Neutral Action Report will be posted to our website at <https://www.nic.bc.ca/about-us/the-nic-commitment/reporting/>.

Overview and Executive Summary

NIC is a comprehensive community college that focuses on student success. We proudly serve more than 9,000 students annually at our four campuses, our learning centre and through online and in-community learning.

We are committed to excellence in our programs and services. The college's values frame everything we do and extra-curricular activities at North Island College teach our students to be socially and environmentally responsible citizens on and off campus.

Our faculty educates students on sustainability and creates unique learning opportunities that make use of our natural environment.

From an operations perspective, we have ongoing commitments to refit equipment and upgrade services to improve efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. North Island College endeavors to improve and test efficient technologies for building infrastructure and communications.

Emission Reductions: Actions & Plans

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

- Increasing efficiencies with our air handling with software upgrades to our DDC system and training to our facilities management staff
- Installing window film and blinds on windows in many of our building to reduce cooling energy use
- Renewing aging domestic hot water heaters
- Retrofit of defunct florescent lighting with new LED lighting

The greatest portion of NIC's greenhouse gas emissions are generated by stationary fuel combustion and electricity. To improve efficiency and reduce these emissions, the college will continue to retrofit equipment and upgrade services. We will also continue to work with BC Hydro to perform energy and lighting retrofits to improve efficiency. We strive to ensure new building designs meet energy efficient and low emission performance targets.

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

- Supporting community initiatives such as 'GoByBikeBC' and other local community initiatives and awareness campaigns
- Adding EV charging stations to our campuses
- Adding more bike storage lockups
- Purchase of a new EV vehicle for business travel

Paper Consumption

- NIC continues to utilize digital capacities to reduce our use of paper and shipping
- We have commenced a sugar sheet based product purchase
- Purchased electronics are Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPAT) Gold Silver or Bronze registered

We plan to continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy conservation by educating and encouraging behavioral change.



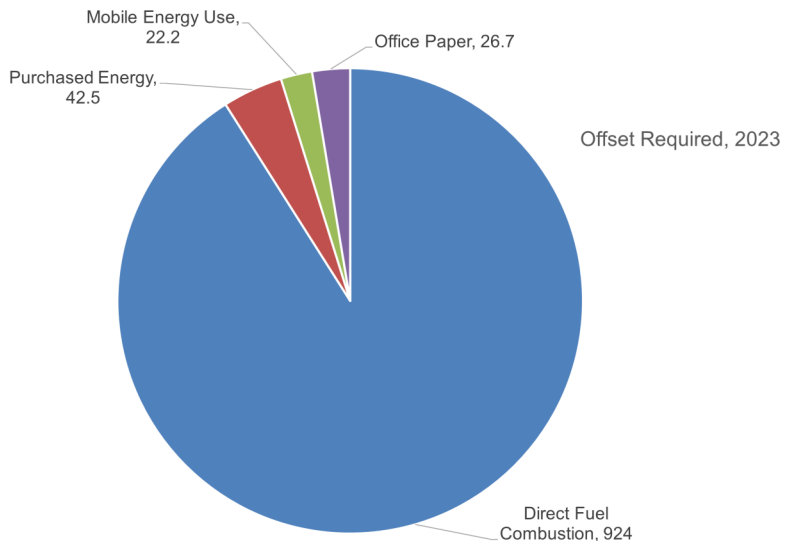
Secure bike storage at the Comox Valley Campus

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Under the British Columbia Provincial Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act, Chapter 42, the targets established for the purpose of reducing BC greenhouse gas (GHG) tCO₂e emissions are 33% by 2020 & 80% by 2050.

As well, in 2008 the BC Government reviewed and accepted the recommendations of the Climate Action Team, establishing interim GHG reduction targets of 6% below 2007 levels by 2012 and 18% by 2017.

Each public sector organization, which includes North Island College, shall be carbon neutral for the 2010 calendar year and for each subsequent calendar year.



As seen from the table above, most of our carbon emissions are generated through building's stationary fuel combustion (gas) and electricity. North Island College's carbon footprint in 2023, in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act (as reported in CGRT), was 1016 tonnes. This represents a slight increase from the prior year of 944 tonnes. A substantial portion of this increase was due to COVID reducing numbers of students on our campuses the in prior years.

Energy & Environmental Sustainability

NIC has been a member of the Pan-Canadian Protocol for Sustainability since 2010 and, by signing the protocol; we have pledged to maximize our contribution to a sustainable future. We are committed to our role as a community leader in environmental stewardship.

NIC has been a BC Hydro Power Smart Partner since 2002, committing to doing our part to save energy and create a culture of sustainability, adopting the principles of energy efficiency into our ongoing business management practices, and upgrading our existing facilities with energy conservation measures.

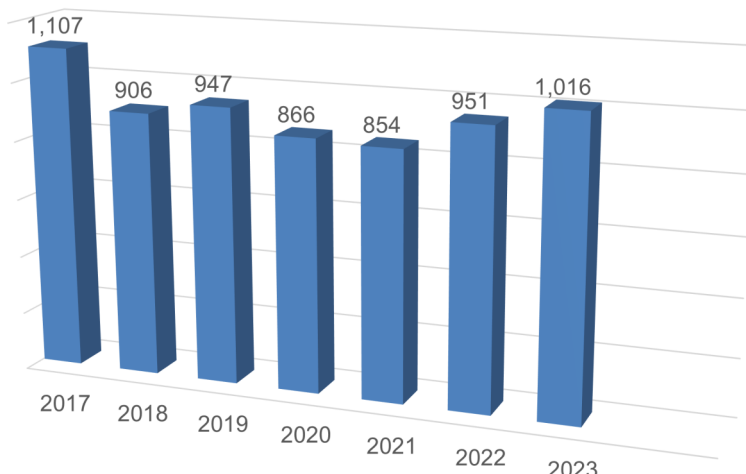
Carbon Offsets

NIC was carbon neutral in 2023. This was achieved through the key achievements for emissions reduction and sustainability and through carbon offsets purchased from the Climate Investment Branch of the Climate Action Secretariat. The in-scope carbon offsets tCO₂e emissions in 2023 amounted to 1,016 tonnes, based upon the 2023 building energy data, paper use, and fleet information loaded to Climate Action Secretariat's CGRT data entry program and the GHG measurements based upon this data.

Key Achievements for Emissions Reduction & Sustainability

NIC's greenhouse gas emissions in 2023 were 1,016 tonnes of CO₂e (equivalent). Compared to 2017 where they were at 1,107.

North Island College GHG Inventory Activity Data t CO₂e, GHG



Actions taken in 2023 to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

NIC's new strategic plan, BUILD 2026, commits to Climate and Sustainability (8.1) through education, research and operations. A new Climate and Sustainability team, made up of students, faculty, staff and administrators, is focused on practical actions around sustainability for the college, to reduce our greenhouse gas consumption.

NIC is a recognized as a leader in distance learning, with a focus on providing educational access to rural and remote communities. With the return to business as new normal since the pandemic our students, faculty and staff have returned. For the 2023/2024 academic year, NIC continued to offer a wide range of programs through digital delivery, both fully digital and blended (part digital, part on-campus).

Green procurement practices, product selections, further investment for Information Technology and a transition to further digital database platforms for offices in 2021 has helped with our carbon reduction.

A comprehensive waste management program expanded to include many recyclables.

Promoting alternative transportation by supplying bike shelters with lockers, showers and additional electric vehicle charging stations. Energy Conservation is a core consideration when completing new expansions, renovating buildings and daily operations.

Emission Reduction Goals for 2024

The college will continue to educate users and increase awareness of ongoing efforts to become carbon neutral. Projects already in motion for 2024 to decrease carbon offsets and reduce water use include:

- Replace the central cooling system (chiller) at the Campbell River Campus
- Covered bicycle storage will support cycle commuting to campuses
- EV Bike partnership on campus
- Flexibility and accessibility of on line classes
- Water saving handwashing and toilet flush sensors
- Adding ChargePoint electric vehicle charging stations to our campuses
- Eco-sensitive, environmentally friendly indigenous landscaping

NIC's 5-year Capital Plan includes two projects that would result in NIC consolidating some inefficient leased spaces, and replace the portable "Village" at the Comox Valley campus. Building a new Health Science building at the Comox Valley campus would both replace the Village portables and eliminate the need for leased space at the St. Joe's site in Comox. In Port Alberni, replacing the outdated leased space on Tebo Avenue with a new Trades building at the main campus location on Roger Street would reduce NIC's overall greenhouse gas emissions. Without these projects, it is going to be challenging for NIC to reach the targets set out in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act.

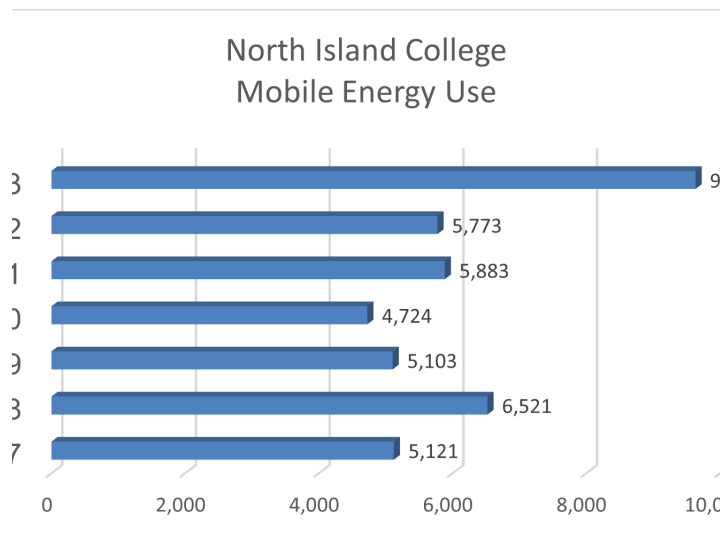


Above: new bike rack installed at NIC's Tebo center in Port Alberni



Above: multiple charging stations for electric vehicles have been installed at the campuses.

Emissions and Offsets Summary:



<u>North Island College 2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets</u>	
GHG Emissions for the period January 1, 2023—December 31, 2023	
Total BioCO ₂	0.757714
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	1016
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	1016
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	0
Grand Total Offsets for the 2023 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2023 Reporting Year (tCO ₂ e) <i>[must round to a whole number (no decimal places)]</i>	1016
Offset Investment (\$) <i>[Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2023 Reporting Year x \$25 per tCO₂e]</i>	\$25,400

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, North Island College (NIC) 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). NIC hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (the Ministry) ensuring that these offsets are retired on the NIC's behalf, NIC 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.

Executive sign-off:

Signature

Colin Fowler

Name (please print)

Date

VP Finance & Facilities

Title



Port Alberni Campus EV Charging Stations



About North Island College

North Island College (NIC) is a comprehensive community college, which serves the people and communities across approximately 80,000 km² of Vancouver Island and parts of the B.C. Central Coast from Bamfield to Bella Coola. With 169,000 residents in its region, NIC serves the largest population of all B.C. rural colleges.

The College is honoured to acknowledge operations within the traditional territories of 35 First Nations inclusive of the Nuu-chah-nulth, Kwakwaka'wakw and Coast Salish traditions.



NIC's story is one of innovation, change, challenge and success. Established in 1975 as a distance education institution, the College originally served residents in remote logging camps and coastal communities through 24 learning centres. In the 1990s, as population in resource-dependent communities declined, NIC moved to a campus-based model at four sites in Campbell River, Comox Valley (main campus plus NIC@St. Joe's at the former St. Joseph's General Hospital), Port Alberni and Port Hardy as well as a learning centre in Ucluelet.

NIC offers a full range of pathway and credentialed programming as well as educational, financial aid, accessible learning, counselling and student advising services, including dedicated employment support with work-integrated learning and a nationally accredited co-operative education program. In keeping with its access-focused roots, NIC continues to serve diverse and geographically dispersed communities through distance/digital learning and interactive television as well as onsite programming in communities based on the specific needs of local First Nations

