

NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE



2021 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report

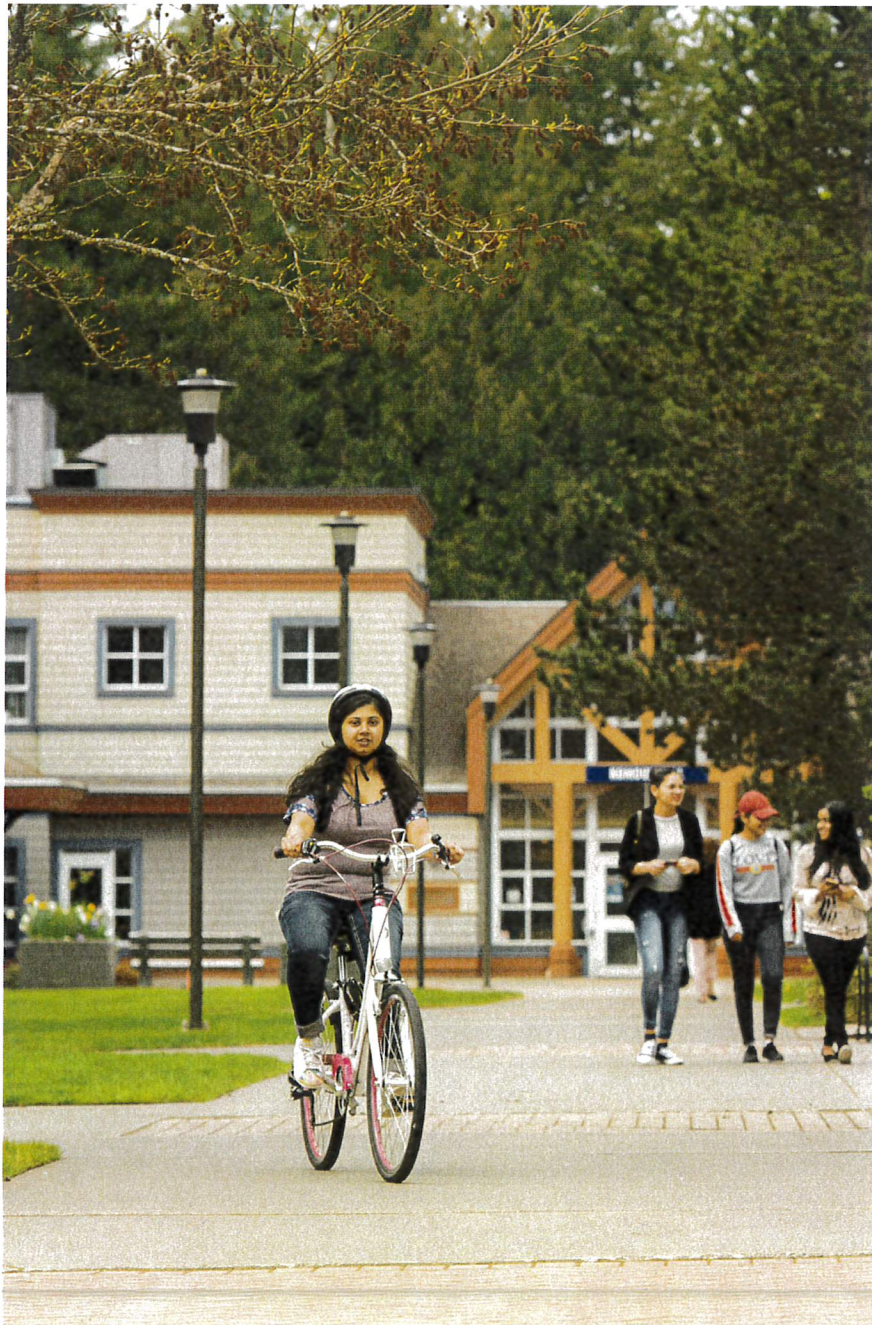


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Territorial Acknowledgement

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, 2021, to December 31, 2021, summarizes our emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2021 to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2022 and beyond.

By June 30, 2022 North Island College'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

North Island College 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.

Actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in 2021 include the following:

- Increasing efficiencies with our air handling with software upgrades to our DDC Control systems and training to our facilities management staff
- Installing window film on windows in many of our building to reduce cooling energy use
- Supporting community initiatives such as 'GoByBikeBC' and other local community and government initiatives and awareness campaigns
- Renewing aging domestic hot water heaters
- Renewing aging florescent lighting with new LED lighting
- Adding bike storage lockups

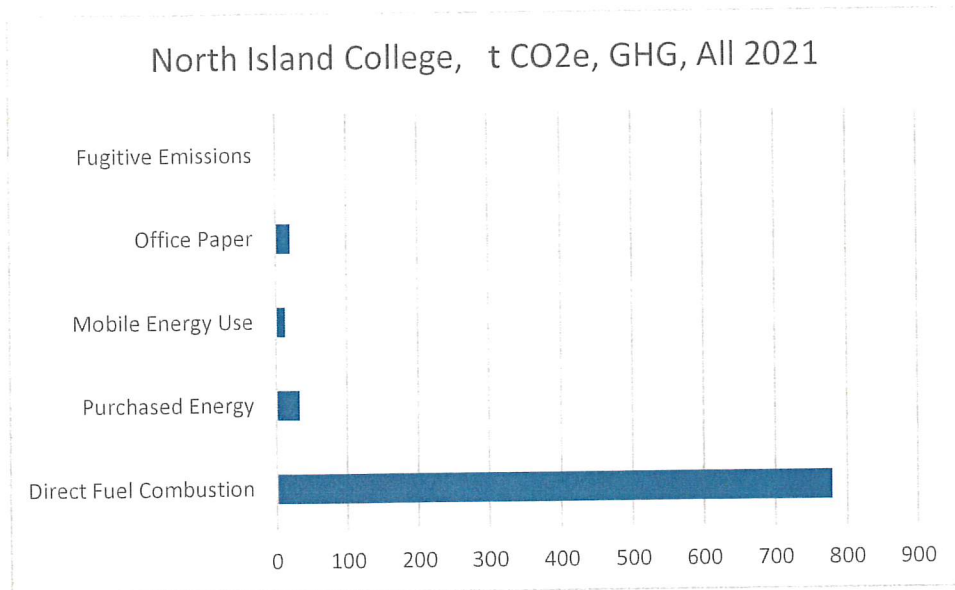
North Island College's greenhouse gas emissions in 2021 were 848 tonnes of tCO₂e. This is a decrease of 115 tonnes (equivalent) from 2020 emissions and the lowest in eight years.

We plan to continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy conservation by educating and encouraging behavioral change. The greatest portion of the college's greenhouse gas emissions are generated by stationary fuel combustion and electricity. To improve efficiency and reduce these emissions, NIC 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.



Secure bike storage at the Comox Valley campus

Emissions and Offsets Summary

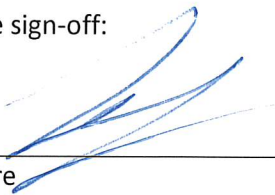


North Island College 2021 GHG Emissions and Offsets	
GHG Emissions created in Calendar Year 2021	
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	849
Total BioCO ₂	0.465835
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	848
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	0
Grand Total Offsets for the 2020 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e) to be Retired for 2021 Reporting Year	848
Offset Investment (\$25 per tCO ₂ e)	\$21,200.00


Retirement of Offsets

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, North Island College (the Organization) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offset's obligation reported above for the 2021 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years (if applicable). North Island College 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



Date

Colin Fowler

Name (please print)

VP Finance & Facilities

Title

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 and community partners.

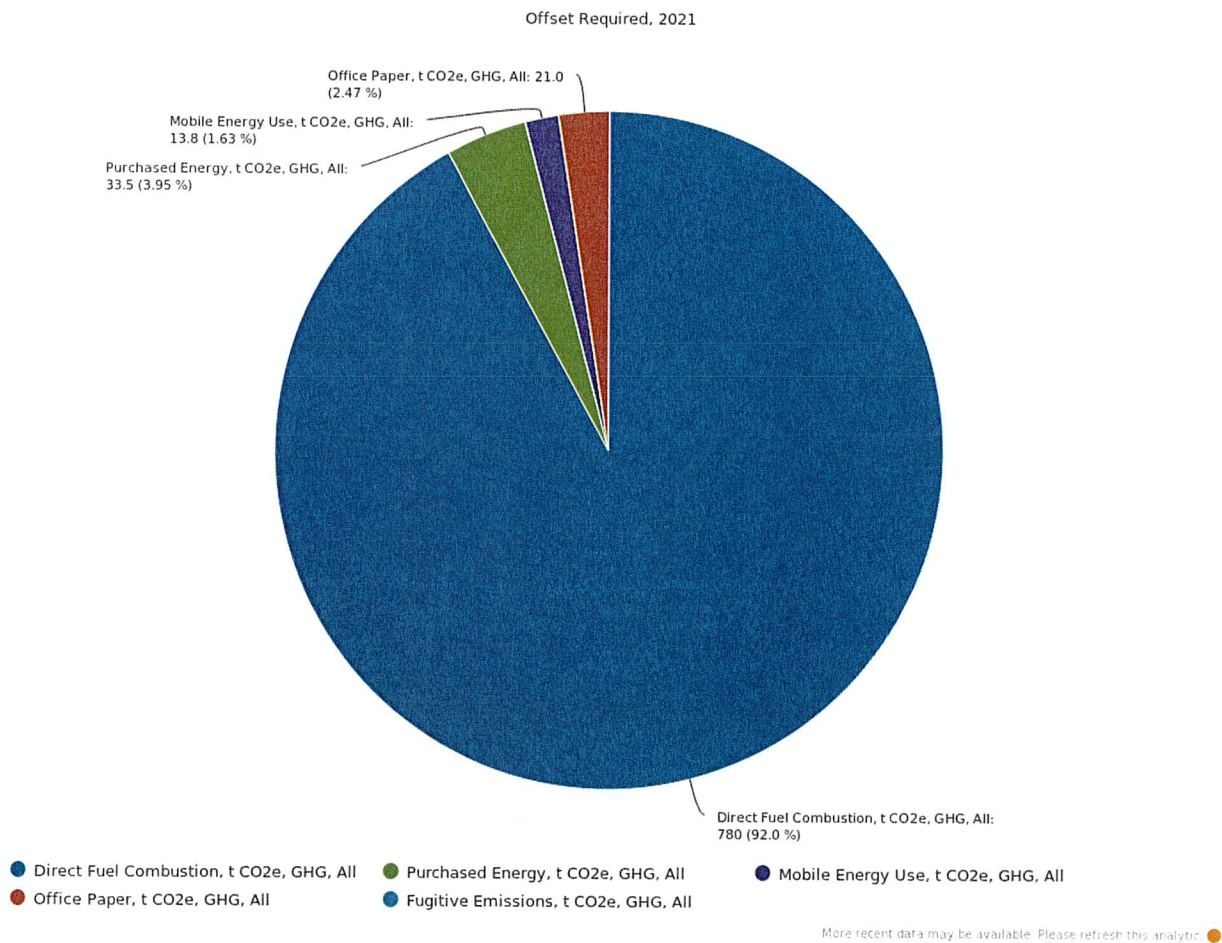


Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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 2021, in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act (as reported in CGRT), was 848 tonnes. This represents a decrease from prior the year 2020 footprint of 115 tonnes. A substantial portion of this decrease was due to a decrease in natural gas consumption.

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.

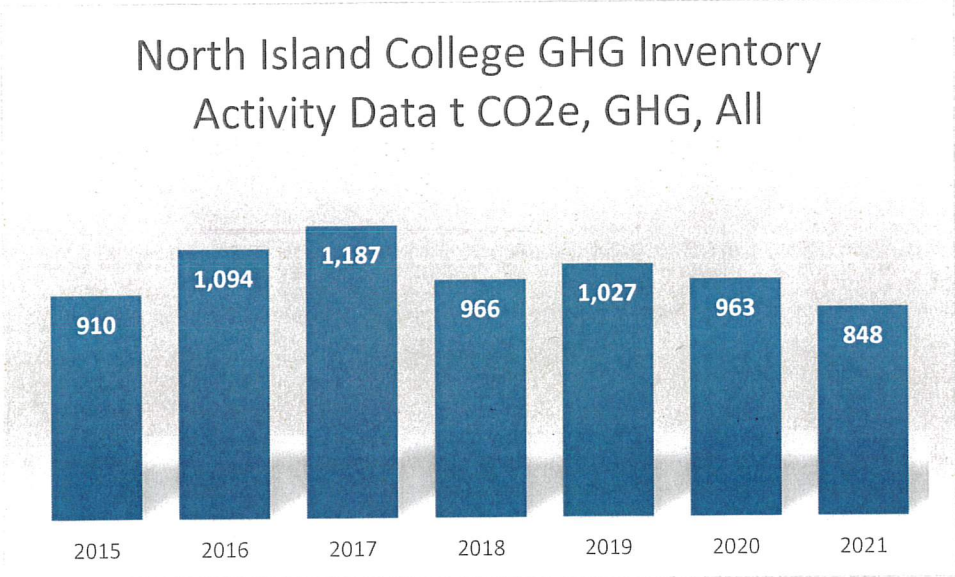
NIC has been a BC Hydro Power Smart Partner since 2002, committing to doing our part to save energy and create a culture of sustainability, adopting the principles of energy efficiency into our ongoing business management practices, and upgrading our existing facilities with energy conservation measures.

Carbon Offsets

North Island College was carbon neutral in 2021. 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 2021 amounted to 848 tonnes, based upon the 2021 building energy data, paper use, and fleet information entered Climate Action Secretariat’s CGRT data entry program and the GHG measurements based upon this data.

Key Achievements for Emissions Reduction & Sustainability

North Island College’s greenhouse gas emissions in 2021 were 848 tonnes of CO₂e (equivalent). Compared to 2016 where they were at 1094.



Actions taken in 2021 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 make up of students, faculty, staff and administrators is focused on practical actions around sustainability for the College, which 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. The COVID-19 pandemic pushed for a shift to digital delivery, which improved access for many students, allowing them to attend NIC in their local communities. For the 2021/2022 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 such as 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 2022

The College will continue to educate users and increase awareness of ongoing efforts to become carbon neutral. Projects already in motion for 2022 to decrease carbon offsets and reduce water use include:

- Preset programming for 'Sweater Day' initiatives at three campuses
- Covered bicycle storage will support cycle commuting to campuses
- Flexibility and accessibility of online classes
- Water saving handwashing and toilet flush sensors
- Adding electric vehicle charging stations to our campuses
- Eco-sensitive, environmentally friendly native landscaping



Above: new bike rack installed at NIC's Tebo Rd centre in Port Alberni.

Right: multiple charging stations for electric vehicles have been installed at the Comox Valley campus.



