

NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE



2024

# PUBLIC SECTOR ORGANIZATION

CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT (PSO CCAR)

[nic.bc.ca](http://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, 2024, to December 31, 2024, 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 2024 to minimize our GHG emissions, and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2025 and beyond.

By June 30, 2025 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 endeavours 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, software upgrades to our DDC system and training to our facilities management team
- Installing window film and blinds on windows in many of our buildings to reduce energy loss
- 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 & intercampus 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, sustainable education and encouraging behavioural change.

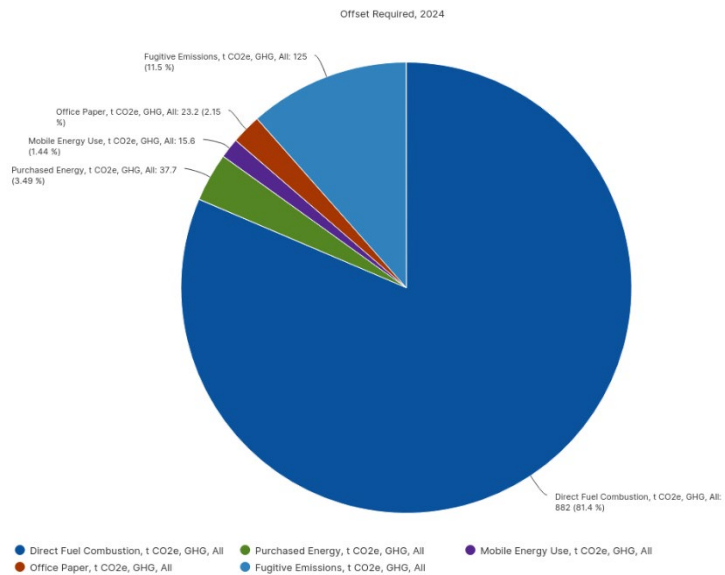


## Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Under the British Columbia Provincial Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act, Chapter 42, the targets established for the purpose of reducing BC greenhouse gas (GHG) tCO<sub>2</sub>e emissions are 33% by 2020 & 80% by 2050. 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 buildings stationary fuel combustion (gas) and electricity. North Island College's carbon footprint in 2024, in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act (as reported in CGRT), was 1084 tonnes. This represents a slight increase from the prior year of 1016 tonnes. A substantial portion of this increase was due to our expanding size, increasing numbers of students on our campuses from prior years.



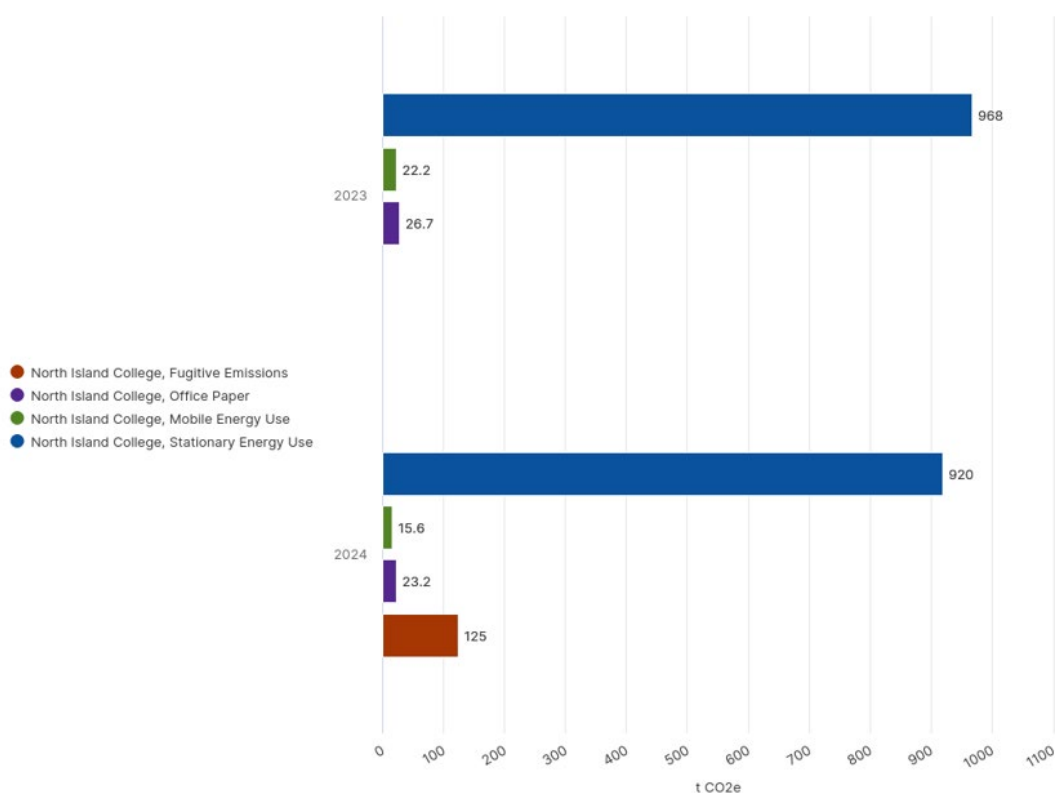
## Energy & Environmental Sustainability

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

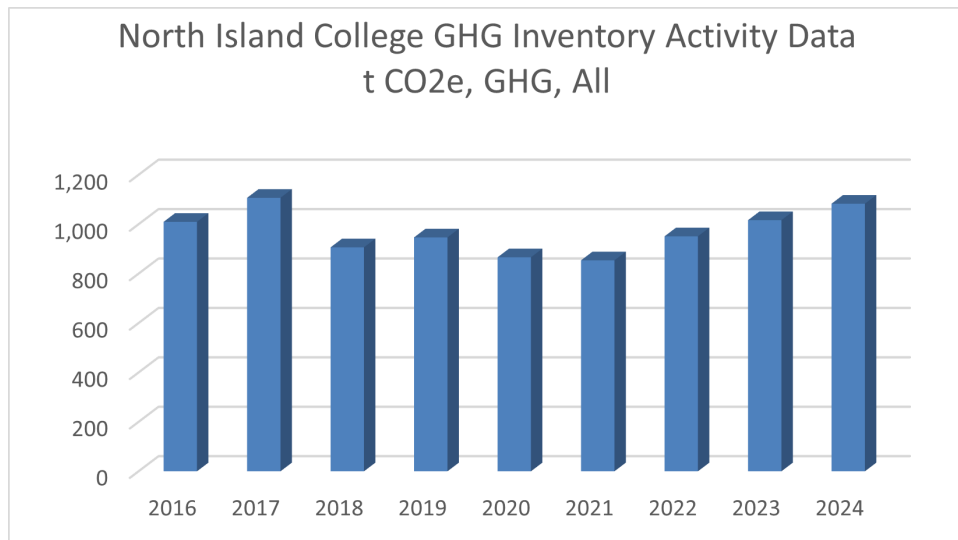
NIC was carbon neutral in 2024. This was achieved through the key achievements for emissions reduction and sustainability and through carbon offsets purchased from the Climate Investment Branch of the Climate Action Secretariat. The in-scope carbon offsets tCO<sub>2</sub>e emissions in 2024 amounted to 1,084 tonnes, based upon the 2024 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.



NIC's carbon emissions increased in 2024 from 2023, however, due only to our newly reported Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Fugitive Emissions, as Stationary, Mobile and Office Paper all decreased.

## Key Achievements for Emissions Reduction & Sustainability

NIC's greenhouse gas emissions in 2024 were 1,084 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e (equivalent), compared to 2017 where they were at 1,107.



## Actions taken in 2024 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, while engaging everyone; with shared books, shared garden fruits and vegetables, recycling and composting.



NIC is 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 usual since the pandemic our students, faculty and staff have returned. For the 2024/2025 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 2024 have helped with our carbon reduction.

A comprehensive waste management program expanded to include many recyclables.

Alternative transportation was promoted by supplying bike shelters with lockers, collaboration with Evolve e-bike sharing, showers and additional electric vehicle charging stations. Energy conservation is a core consideration when completing new expansions, renovating buildings and daily operations.

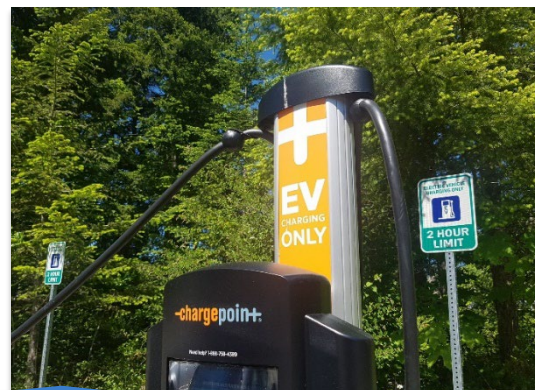
### Emission Reduction Goals for 2025

The college will continue to educate users and increase awareness of ongoing efforts to become carbon neutral. Projects already in motion for 2025 to decrease carbon offsets and reduce water use include:

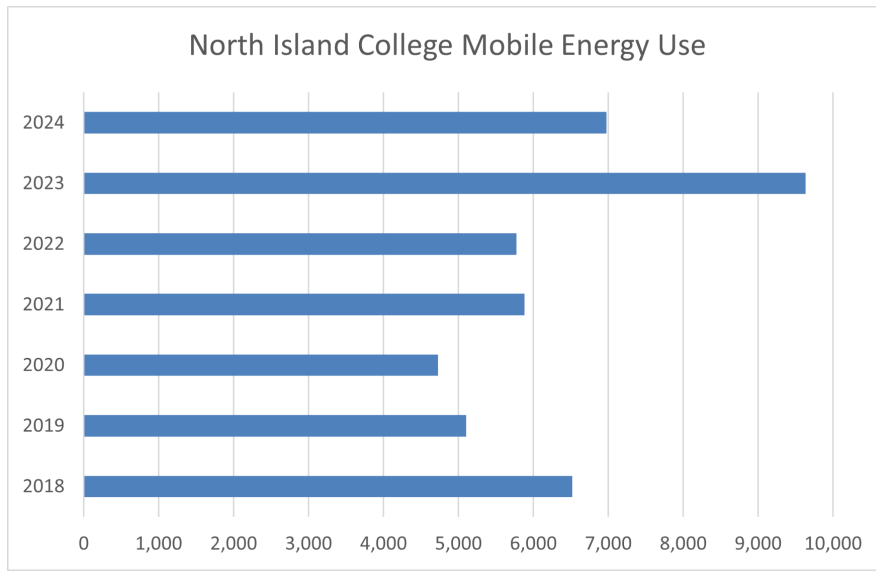
- Preset programming for 'Sweater Day' initiatives at three campuses
- Covered bicycle storage to support cycle commuting to campuses
- EV Bike partnership on campus
- Flexibility and accessibility of on-line & hybrid classes
- Water saving handwashing and toilet flush sensors
- Adding ChargePoint electric vehicle charging stations to our campuses
- Eco-sensitive, environmentally friendly indigenous landscaping



Compost Program



Multiple charging stations for electric vehicles have been installed at the campuses



Emissions and Offsets Summary Table:

<u>North Island College 2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets</u>	
<b>GHG Emissions for the period January 1, 2024—December 31, 2024</b>	
Total BioCO <sub>2</sub>	3.78
Total Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	1087
Total Offsets (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	1083
<b>Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years</b>	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	0.912784
<b>Grand Total Offsets for the 2024 Reporting Year</b>	
Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2024 Reporting Year (tCO <sub>2</sub> e) <i>[must round to a whole number (no decimal places)]</i>	1083.912784
Offset Investment (\$) <i>[Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2024 Reporting Year x \$25 per tCO<sub>2</sub>e]</i>	\$27,098

### 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 offset obligation reported above for the 2024 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 & College Services

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 km<sup>2</sup> 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 centers. 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



