2025

Public Sector Organization

CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

University of Victoria

May 31, 2026

TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge and respect the Lək̓ʷəŋən (Songhees and Xʷsepsəm/ Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

As the university advances our climate action goals, we recognize our responsibility to honour local Indigenous Knowledge Systems, worldviews and protocols and to be in right relationship with all people, beings, lands and waters.

Our commitment to climate action is deeply rooted in these responsibilities and reflects the university's broader dedication to reconciliation, sustainability and social accountability.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2025 Climate Change Accountability Report reflects the university's continued commitment to responsible stewardship, transparency, and accountability in addressing climate change. It serves as a centralized reporting platform that meets legislated requirements under the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and the *BC Carbon Neutral Government program*, while supporting broader institutional priorities under the *Climate and Sustainability Action Plan 2030 (CSAP)*.

Meeting annual carbon neutrality obligations remains a foundational requirement. In 2025, the university reported 10,786 tCO_2e in offsetable emissions, representing a 6% reduction from the previous year. This decrease was driven by system optimization efforts and a 4% reduction in emissions factors associated with natural gas and fuel oil. These gains were achieved despite an increase in the BC Hydro electricity emissions factor in 2025, underscoring the impact of ongoing energy management. Prior-year adjustments of 238 tCO_2e reflect improved data accuracy, methodological refinement, and strengthened inventory boundaries.

The Gordon Head Campus remains the primary focus of operational emissions reductions, supported by continued improvements in energy efficiency and increased reliance on low-carbon electricity. Looking ahead, major capital investments will be critical to achieving further reductions. The District Energy Plant (DEP) Electrification Project, currently underway, represents a significant electrification initiative with expected emissions reductions of approximately 5,072 tCO_2e annually.

As the inventory continues to mature, emerging risks are becoming more visible. Fugitive emissions from refrigerants are expected to represent a growing share of Scope 1 operational emissions, driven by improved equipment tracking and the transition from legacy systems to in-scope refrigerants.

Beyond direct operations, the evolving understanding of Scope 3 emissions presents both a challenge and an opportunity. A key advancement in 2025 was the introduction of waste as a reporting category. Emissions associated with commuting, business travel, procurement, and embodied carbon in construction are expected to represent an increasingly significant share of the university's footprint, requiring enhanced data, refined methodologies, and deeper cross-institutional collaboration.

Looking ahead, continued progress will depend on strengthened collaboration, shared accountability, and a coordinated, systems-based approach. The university remains committed to advancing evidence-based solutions to achieve its climate goals.

Andrew Coward
Associate Vice-President, Financial Planning and Operations,
University of Victoria
May 31, 2026

2. INTRODUCTION

The University of Victoria (UVic) is committed to mitigating climate change impacts through coordinated action across operations, investments and partnerships, while advancing a climate resilient campus. Guided by the Climate and Sustainability Action Plan 2030, this Climate Change Accountability Report outlines the university's key climate commitments, reporting and accountability framework, actions taken in the 2025 reporting year, and priorities for 2026 and beyond.

2.1 The University of Victoria's climate commitments

CLIMATE COMMITMENTS

RACE TO ZERO

NET ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2040

The university is committed to achieving net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from campus operations by 2040, with an interim target of a 50% reduction from the 2010 baseline by 2030.

Carbon Neutral

CARBON NEUTRAL SINCE 2010

As a public sector organization in British Columbia, the university has measured, reported and offset greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to achieve carbon neutrality since 2010.

PRI Principles for Responsible Investment

RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT SINCE 2020

The university is a signatory to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and is governed by the Responsible Investment Policy, which integrates climate aligned objectives into investment decision making.

2.2 Climate accountability

The University of Victoria's climate commitments are anchored in a system of accountability that operates through institutional plans and policies, legislated regulatory requirements, and participation in external signatory and reputational reporting frameworks. Together, these mechanisms establish clear expectations for action, transparency and performance, ensuring that climate commitments are translated into measurable outcomes and publicly accountable reporting.

2.3 Reporting context and emissions boundaries

Since 2010, the university has measured, reported and offset greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in accordance with the Climate Change Accountability Act and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation. These mandatory frameworks form the foundation of university's climate accountability and provide the core emissions inventory against which progress is annually[1].

Climate commitments outlined in the Climate and Sustainability Action Plan 2030, including net zero emissions by 2040, platinum rating in STARS[2] and continuous improvement in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings[3], extend reporting and accountability beyond regulatory requirements. These commitments support standardized, sector-wide tracking and reporting of sustainability performance across higher education institutions globally.

Figure 1 illustrates emissions sources included within the university's Climate Accountability Reporting Framework, reflecting both mandated provincial requirements and priority areas identified through institutional and commitments.

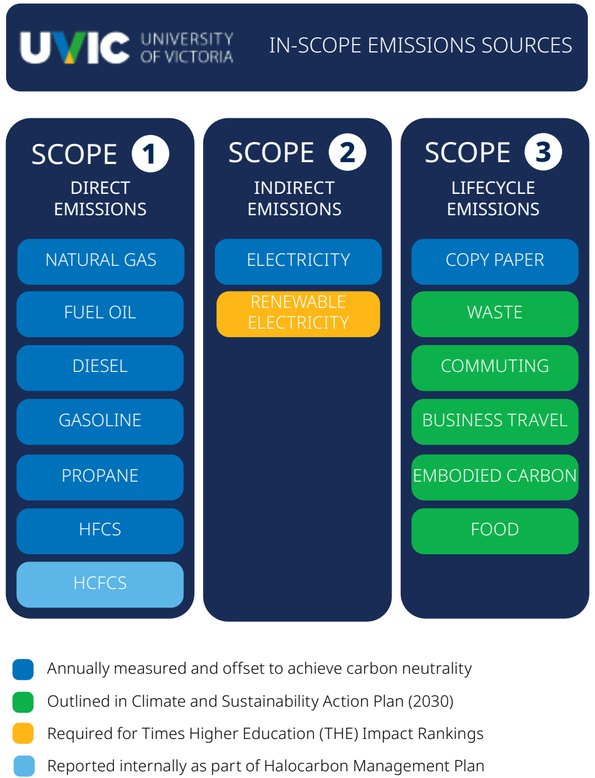
1. The public sector Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR) is an annual report due on May 31 each year as part of the BC CNG Program.

2. STARS is a transparent, self-reporting framework developed by AASHE for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance.

3. The Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings assess universities' contributions to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2.3.1 In-scope emissions sources

Figure 1.



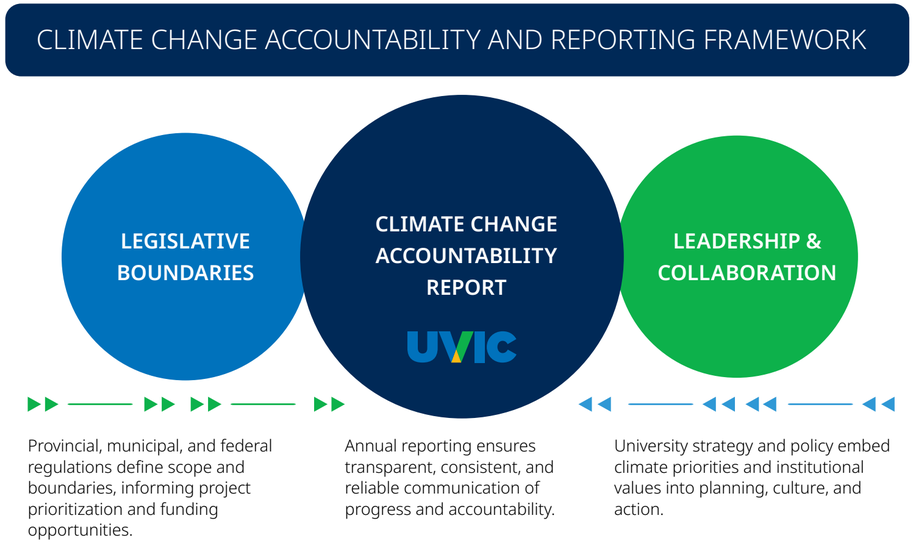
2.4 The University of Victoria's Climate Change Accountability and Reporting Framework

The University of Victoria operates within an evolving landscape of climate change and sustainability reporting requirements. As a public sector organization in British Columbia, the university is required to interpret and comply with a range of federal, provincial, and municipal legislation, regulations, and guidance related to climate action and emissions reporting.

Beyond legislative compliance, the university has established internal strategic commitments and standards of excellence through institutionally endorsed plans, including the Climate and Sustainability Action Plan 2030. Accountability within these plans is supported through participation in voluntary ranking and rating frameworks.

The Climate Change Accountability and Reporting Framework highlights the role of policies and plans, coordinated institutional action, and the value of the Climate Change Accountability Report as a centralized platform for transparently reporting progress within an increasingly complex reporting environment. Additional details on the legislation, regulations, and institutional policies informing this report are provided in the Appendix.

Figure 2.



2.5 Report structure

As climate change and climate resilience continue to evolve as institutional priorities, the Climate Change Accountability Report is intended to evolve as well. While its primary purpose is to meet the university's legislative obligations under the BC Carbon Neutral Government Program, the report also serves as a key resource for operational units within the Vice-President Finance and Operations (VPFO) portfolio. In this role, it supports the integration of climate considerations into policy development, budgeting, and capital and operational project planning.

It is organized into three parts:

Part 1: Carbon neutrality under the BC Carbon Neutral Government

Part 2: Pathways towards net zero emissions by 2040

Part 3: Mitigating climate impacts across the value chain

Figure 3.

Report Structure

PART 1	PART 2	PART 3
ANNUAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CARBON NEUTRAL GOVERNMENT	PATHWAY TO NET ZERO OPERATIONAL EMISSIONS	MITIGATING CLIMATE IMPACTS ACROSS THE VALUE CHAIN
Fufills legal reporting requirements to become carbon neutral.	Transparent reporting on campus operational emissions.	Emerging reporting areas beyond Scope 1 and 2 emissions.

Photo: Aerial view of Gordon Head Campus - UVic Photo Services

2.6 Carbon neutrality vs. net zero

Although the terms carbon neutrality and net zero are often used interchangeably, they represent distinct frameworks with different purposes, scopes, and requirements.

Carbon neutrality (BC Carbon Neutral Government Program[4])
A legislated requirement under British Columbia's Climate Change Accountability Act whereby public sector organizations measure defined operational emissions and compensate for remaining emissions through provincially approved carbon offsets, resulting in net zero reported emissions for a given year.

Net zero
Net zero is defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as a global condition in which anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are balanced by removals over a specified period. Initiatives such as the United Nations Race to Zero further define the role of individual organizations in achieving net zero by emphasizing deep, science-based emissions reductions as the primary strategy, with only residual emissions balanced through "like-for-like[5]" removals.

4. Carbon neutrality under the BC CNG program applies to Scope 1, Scope 2, and limited Scope 3 emissions, using a legal entity boundary, and relies on offset purchases administered by the Province.
5. "Like for like" removals match the type, warming impact, and durability of the emissions being neutralized. Material Scope 3 emissions are those that are significant in magnitude or where the institution has meaningful influence.

Table 1. Carbon neutral vs. net zero

Dimension	Carbon Neutrality (BC Carbon Neutral Program)	Net Zero (UN Race to Zero)
UVic context	Legislated, annual compliance requirement	Voluntary, science-based 2040 climate goal
Organizational boundary	Financial control (entities included in UVic's annual financial statements)	Operational control (entities owned and operated by UVic)
In-scope emissions	Scope 1, Scope 2, and limited Scope 3 (copy paper)	Scope 1, Scope 2, and material Scope 3 emissions.
Primary outcome	Annual net zero reported emissions through measurement and purchase of provincially approved offsets	Emissions reduced in line with science-based pathways; residual emissions balanced with removals
Role of offsets / removals	Mandatory offsets to meet compliance	Limited, like-for-like removals for residual emissions only

The University of Victoria is committed to both achieving annual carbon neutrality under the BC Carbon Neutral Government Program and to reaching net zero emissions by 2040. The net zero commitment focuses on long-term, permanent emissions reductions through the transition of Gordon Head campus facilities from fossil fuel–based systems to low-carbon energy systems, as well as the benchmarking, tracking, and mitigating of Scope 3 emissions across the university's value chain.

2.7 Carbon offsets purchased by the university

Carbon offsets represent verified reductions or removals of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that occur outside of the university's operations and are used to compensate for emissions that cannot be eliminated within a given reporting year. To be valid under provincial regulations, offsets must be real, measurable, permanent, and independently verified, and are quantified in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_2e).

Under the BC Carbon Neutral Government Program, the University of Victoria is required to measure and report defined operational emissions annually to the Province of British Columbia. In accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act, the Province purchases and retires provincially approved carbon offsets on the university's behalf through the BC Carbon Offset Registry . These offsets are applied to balance the university's reported emissions, enabling annual carbon neutrality for compliance purposes.

PART 1

CARBON NEUTRALITY UNDER THE BC CARBON NEUTRAL PROGRAM

TABLE 2. EMISSIONS FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2025

Total Emissions	11,013 tCO_2
Total $BioCO_2$ Biogenic Emissions	227 $BioCO_2$
Total Offsets	10,786 tCO_2e
Total prior year offset adjustments	-238 tCO_2e
Total offsets to be retired (2025)	**10,548 tCO_2e**
Total offset investment ($CAD) **$25 per tCO_2e**	**$263,700** *(plus GST)*

3 Declaration Statement

This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the **period January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025,** fulfills legislated reporting requirements under the Climate Change Accountability Act. It summarizes the university's 2025 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and associated carbon offset[6] obligations, outlines actions taken to reduce emissions during the reporting year, and identifies plans to further reduce emissions in 2026 and beyond.

3.1 The university's 2025 emissions summary

In **2025, the university's total offsetable emissions were 10,786 tCO_2e**, representing a 6% reduction compared to the 2024 reporting year. Prior-year adjustments were recorded during the reporting period, resulting in a reduction of 238 tCO_2e in the number of offsets required to be purchased, corresponding to a cost adjustment of $5,950.

The total offset investment for the 2025 reporting year was **$263,700 (plus GST),** reflecting the university's final offset requirements for the year.

3.1.1 Retirement of offsets statement

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, the University of Victoria (**the Organization**) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported below for the 2025 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years (if applicable).

The Organization hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions (**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.

3.1.2 Biogenic emissions

Within the BC Carbon Neutral Government Program, public sector organizations disclose biogenic emissions[7], but are excluded from the offset purchase requirements.

6. The provincial government retires offsets annually on behalf of BC public sector organizations as part of the Climate Change Accountability Act. Verified offsets are issued and retired in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act, which governs the issuance of offset units for each tonne of emissions reduced or removed.

7.. Biogenic emissions are greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the combustion or decomposition of biomass-based fuels or materials, such as wood waste or renewable natural gas (biomethane), that are part of the short-term biological carbon cycle.

3.1.3 Prior year adjustments

Prior-year adjustments are corrections to greenhouse gas emissions or offset requirements reported in previous years, resulting from improved data, methodological updates, verification findings, or identified errors. These adjustments are recorded in the current reporting year and may increase or decrease the number of offsets required, ensuring accurate and consistent reporting across reporting periods.

In this report the university reported a **238 tCO_2e prior-year adjustment** for the 2024 reporting year. This adjustment was due to the following reasons:

1. **TRIUMF -** was removed from the university's GHG inventory for 2021–2024 to maintain alignment with financial reporting and applicable BC Carbon Neutral Government (CNG) inventory boundaries.
2. **Fugitive refrigerant emissions-** Technical review and updated CNG methodology confirmed 2024 emissions were over-reported due to misclassification and double-counting.

Photo: Petch Fountain - UVic Photo Services

Table 3. 2025 emissions by category

Emissions category	Tonnes of CO_2 equivalent	% change from 2024
Building	**10,056 tCO_2e**	+1 %
Fugitive	**427 tCO_2e**	- 65 %
Mobile	**244 tCO_2e**	-10 %
Paper	**59 tCO_2e**	+5 %

Table 4. 2025 emissions by fuel type

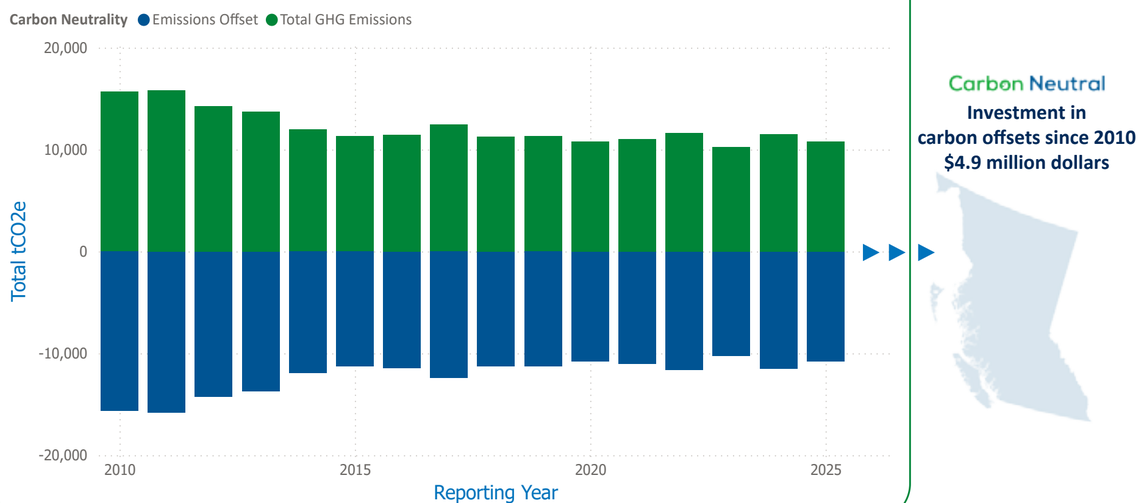
Emissions source	Unit of measure	Tonnes of CO_2 equivalent*	% tCO2e change from 2024
Natural gas	169,454 Gj	**8,299 tCO_2e**	-9 %
Renewable hydroelectricity	204,954 Gj	**1,668 tCO_2e**	+192 %
Refrigerants (HFCs)	320 Kg	**427 tCO_2e**	-65 %
Gasoline	73,483 Litres	**162 tCO_2e**	-10 %
Diesel	39,176 Litres	**101 tCO_2e**	-34 %
Paper	9,574 Reams	**59 tCO_2e**	+5 %
Fuel oil (light)	19,205 Litres	**49 tCO_2e**	-79 %
Propane	7,390 Litres	**11 tCO_2e**	-17 %
Electricity- non-renewable*	69 Gj	**10 tCO_2e**	- 3 %

** Rounded to the neared whole value.*

** Ocean Networks Canada requires electricity from non-renewable sources to operate some remote shore stations.*

Figure 4.

Carbon neutrality with the BC Carbon Neutral Government



3.1.4 Offset portfolio and investment

Under the BC Carbon Neutral Government (CNG) Program, carbon neutrality is achieved through the annual quantification of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the application of verified carbon offsets to neutralize those emissions. Figure 4. above presents the university's resulting net emissions position according to the BC Carbon Neutral Program scope.

As of 2026, the university will have invested approximately **$4.9 million dollars** in verified carbon offsets to displace approximately **195,229 tonnes of CO_2 equivalent (tCO_2e)**. These funds are registered under the BC Carbon Offset Registry and support provincially approved emissions reduction projects across sectors such as forestry, agriculture and low-carbon energy.

3.2 BC Carbon Neutral Program methodology

The University of Victoria prepares its greenhouse gas inventory in accordance with the Province of British Columbia's *Best Practices Methodology for Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Emissions* under the BC Carbon Neutral Government (CNG) Program. the university applies a financial control organizational boundary, consistent with the BC CNG Program and the GHG Protocol, and reports using the Clean Government Reporting Tool (CGRT), which applies standardized provincial emission factors, calculation methods, and validation procedures to ensure consistent and comparable reporting across the public sector in B.C.

Table 5. summarizes in-scope and out-of-scope emissions sources based on the provincial *Scope Summary for PSO GHG Emissions*.

Table 5. Scope summary for BC Carbon Neutral Program

Scope Category	In-Scope	Out-of-Scope
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, SF_6, PFCs, HFCs.	HCFCs, halons and other unlisted gases.
Organizational Boundaries	Entities financially controlled by the PSO and included in audited financial statements.	Contractors, municipalities, BC Ferries, Canadian Blood Services and other PSOs.
Operational Boundaries	PSO-owned or leased assets; joint assets by ownership share; carbon-neutral sources (reported); biomass/biofuels ($BioCO_2$ not offset).	Contractor assets; joint assets with minimal PSO control; employee home offices; minor sources <1% where tracking is onerous.
Stationary Sources	Energy and fuel use in PSO-owned or leased buildings (occupied or vacant), including purchased electricity and district energy.	Buildings leased to other PSOs; capital leases to non-GRE entities; BC Hydro generation/transmission; pre-occupancy facilities.
Mobile Sources	PSO-owned or leased vehicles and equipment.	Employee and contractor vehicles; commuting.
Fugitive Sources	Refrigerant and gas leaks (HFCs, SF_6, CH_4) from PSO-owned or leased stationary equipment and mobile assets.	Fugitive emissions from contractor- or employee-owned equipment and immaterial sources under the 1% rule.
Office Paper	20 lb. multipurpose copy paper (all colours, sizes, recycled content).	Specialty, heavier-weight, pre-printed, instructional, or resale paper.

Table 6. Organizational and operational boundaries for BC Carbon Neutral Government

2025 Financial Statement	In-scope	Building tCO_2e	Mobile tCO_2e	Fugitive tCO_2e	Paper tCO_2e	Gross Floor Area (m^2)	No. Buildings	No. Energy Meters	tCO_2e/m^2
University of Victoria (UVic)	Yes	**9,173** tCO_2e	**244** tCO_2e	**427** tCO_2e	**59** tCO_2e	**436,751** m^2	**149**	**118**	**0.059**
Vancouver Island Technology Park Trust (VITP)	Yes	**626** tCO_2e	*SES*	*TBD-2026*	*SES*	**19,098** m^2	**5**	**10**	**0.051**
Heritage Realty Properties Ltd (HRP)	Yes	**187** tCO_2e	*SES*	*TBD-2026*	*SES*	**9,594** m^2	**5**	**22**	**0.076**
Pacific Marine Science Alliance Society (formerly WCUMSS) - 20% Ownership	Yes	**29** tCO_2e	*SES*	*SES*	*SES*	**4,994** m^2	**28**	**10**	**0.006**
UVic Properties Investments Inc. (UVP)	No	Manages properties on behalf of the Vancouver Island Technology Park Trust (VITP) and Heritage Realty Properties Ltd. (HRP). Emissions reported under the respective owning entities (VITP and HRP).							
Ocean Networks Canada (ONC)	Yes	**12** tCO_2e associated with over 40 remote shore stations and seismic sensing units across Canada.							
Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC)	No	Emissions are captured under the UVic parent entity.							
GSB Executive Education Inc	No	Emissions captured under parent entity.							
UVic Industry Partnerships	No	Not in scope. No emissions-generating assets or relevant activity data are available.							
UVic Foundation Entities (3 total)	No	Not in scope. No emissions-generating assets or relevant activity data are available.							
Byron Price & Associates Ltd	No	Not in scope. No emissions-generating assets or relevant activity data are available.							
Leased space	Yes	**29** tCO_2e	NA	NA	NA	**1,616** m^2	**8**	NA	**0.018**

Footnotes and Clarifications

- **University of Victoria:** Building emissions include buildings and building generators located within Ring Road (Gordon Head Campus), as well as off-campus properties including the Marine Technology Centre, Simpson Property, Queenswood Campus, and the Port Alberni Cable Station. Mobile, fugitive, and paper emissions are tracked and reported at the University of Victoria entity level; for all other entities, mobile and paper emissions are treated as Small Emissions Sources (SS).
- **Vancouver Island Technology Park Trust (VITP):** Building emissions include buildings and building-level generators associated with Vancouver Island Technology Park, the Legacy Art Gallery, and the Yates Street building portfolio. Mobile and paper emissions are treated as Small Emissions Sources (SS). Fugitive emissions are not reported in 2025 and are identified as TBD-2026, subject to future data collection and reporting alignment.
- **Heritage Properties:** Building emissions include properties such as the Grand Central Building, Swans Hotel, Victoria Paper Box Building, Fran Willis Building, and Colonial Metropole. Mobile and paper emissions are treated as Small Emissions Sources (SS). Fugitive emissions are not reported in 2025 and are identified as TBD-2026, subject to future data collection and reporting alignment.
- **Small Emissions Source (SES):** Emission sources estimated to contribute less than 1% of the PSOs total GHG emissions may be deemed out-of-scope under the BC Carbon Neutral Program if the effort to collect or estimate data is disproportionately onerous.

Figure 5.

Total emissions (tCO2e) by emissions category

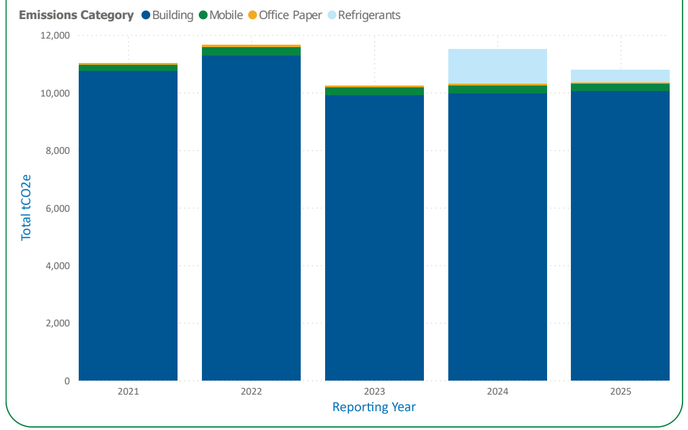


Figure 6. Emissions by source (2025)

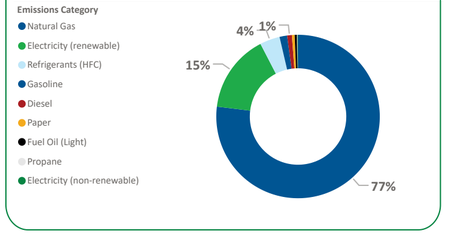


Table 7. Emissions by fuel type

Fuel Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Natural Gas	10,170	10,613	9,200	9,088	8,299
Electricity (renewable)	560	661	631	571	1,668
Refrigerants (HFC)				1,207	427
Gasoline	151	186	161	181	162
Diesel	80	101	110	153	101
Fuel Oil (Light)	0		59	233	49
Paper	56	65	59	56	59
Propane	14	21	15	13	11
Electricity (non-renewable)				11	10
Total	**11,032**	**11,647**	**10,235**	**11,512**	**10,786**

3.3 Actions taken and plans to continue reducing emissions

In alignment with the BC Carbon Neutral Government (CNG) Program requirements, this section introduces both the actions taken to reduce emissions and the university's plans for continued progress into 2026 and beyond. **In 2024**, the university expanded its emissions reporting to include fugitive refrigerant emissions, improving the completeness and transparency of its inventory. This change led to a **reported increase** of approximately **10.5% in total emissions**, largely due to a **single refrigerant release** from a chiller unit on the Gordon Head campus. In response, the university has taken steps to better manage fugitive emissions, including **establishing a halocarbon manager role** to oversee refrigerant tracking and emissions reduction efforts.

The inclusion of **fugitive refrigerant emissions r**epresents a new reporting category for the university; the Greenhouse Gas Protocol recommends establishing a **formal policy**[8] to assess when changes in methodology or scope warrant updates to a baseline inventory. In 2026, the university will begin research and documentation to evaluate how to report retain reporting consistency and integrity against its baseline.

Stationary fuel use remains the **largest source of emissions**, although ongoing optimization has led to **declining trends** across most fuels, particularly natural gas. Electricity-related emissions increased due to a **temporary rise in BC Hydro's emissions factor** following the 2023 drought, and further detail on these trends and planned reductions is provided in Parts 2 and 3 of this report.

8. The Greenhouse Gas Protocol recommends that organizations establish a base year recalculation policy, including a defined "significance threshold" to determine when changes in organizational boundaries, methodologies, or data warrant recalculation of historical emissions to maintain consistency over time. The Protocol does not prescribe a specific threshold; however, thresholds of approximately 5–10 percent are commonly applied in practice

PART 2

PATHWAYS TO NET ZERO

From Pledge to Plan[9]

As a signatory to the United Nations Race to Zero (RtZ) campaign, the University of Victoria has formally pledged to achieve net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from campus operations by 2040.

This commitment is supported by an interim target to reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 50% below 2010 levels by 2030, and a longer-term goal to become a climate-positive campus by 2050.

9. RtZ outlines five key principles: Pledge, Plan, Proceed, Publish, and Persuade, which guide institutions in setting and delivering credible net zero targets. These principles ensure commitments are science-based, actionable, transparent, and aligned with broader climate goals.

4. Climate action and operational emissions

The University of Victoria's Gordon Head Campus is the primary focus of Part 2 of the Climate Change and Accountability Report. The Gordon Head Campus includes the university's main academic, residence, and administrative buildings in and around Ring Road.

The Gordon Head Campus serves as the primary setting for the implementation of the for the Climate and Sustainability Action Plan 2030 (CSAP), and is where the university has the greatest control over operations.

Photo: Ring Road- UVic Photo Services

4.1.Operational net zero

In 2022, Facilities Management's Energy Services team completed the **Carbon Reduction Plan: Technical Pathways Report,** which outlines the university's approach to decarbonizing campus operations.

The analysis examined energy use, infrastructure, emissions, and projected growth, identifying practical pathways to achieve the university's 2030 interim target and 2040 net zero goal. Key priorities include eliminating on-site fossil fuel use, accelerating electrification while improving energy efficiency, and investing in heat pump technologies to reduce emissions and enhance climate resilience.

Part 2 describes how the university is working toward net zero for Scope 1 and Scope 2 across five core action areas:

1. Fuel switching from natural gas to electricity
2. New building design and construction
3. Energy and fuel management
4. Halocarbon management
5. Fleet electrification

Together, these areas structure the university's approach to reducing Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, with each section outlining key actions, progress to date, and performance metrics.

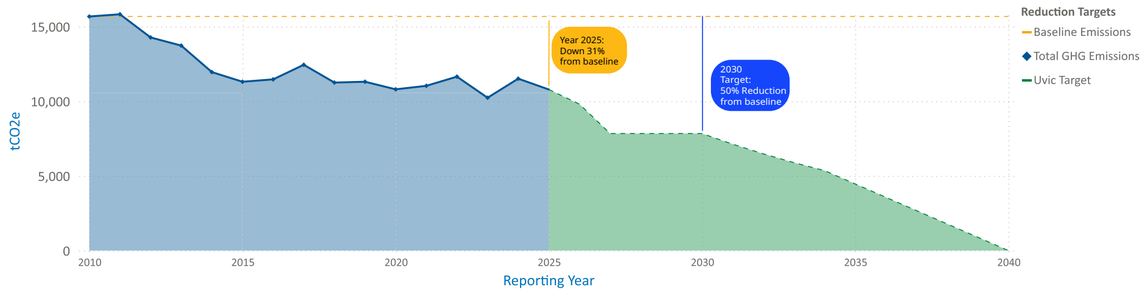
Table 8. Total emissions reported under BC Carbon Neutral Program from 2010-2025[1]

Reporting Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Tonnes of CO_2 equivalent	15,675 tCO_2e	15,824 tCO_2e	14,272 tCO_2e	13,727 tCO_2e	11,952 tCO_2e	11,306 tCO_2e	11,464 tCO_2e	12,442 tCO_2e	11,252 tCO_2e	11,306 tCO_2e	10,798 tCO_2e	11,032 tCO_2e	11,647 tCO_2e	10,235 tCO_2e	11,512 tCO_2e	10,786 tCO_2e

1 Emission values may differ from those published in earlier reports due to updates made to historical data within the Clean Government Reporting Tool. Figures reflect reporting-year exports as of 2026 and incorporate retroactive adjustments.

Figure 7.

Total emissions reported under BC Carbon Neutral Program



PATHWAY TO NET ZERO

4.2 Fuel switching

METRIC OR INDICATOR:

» **RENEWABLE ENERGY PERFORMANCE**

REGULATORY DRIVERS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND REPORTING

Regulatory frameworks:

- BC Climate Change Accountability Act
- BC Carbon Neutral Regulation
- BC Step Code/Zero Carbon Step Code

UVic strategic documents:

- Strategic Energy Management Plan
- CSAP 2030
  - **Target 1:** 50% reduction from the 2010 baseline by 2030, net zero by 2040
  - **10.1.2:** Transition to low carbon systems

Reporting frameworks:

- BC Carbon Neutral Government
- UN Race to Zero
  - Net zero operational emissions by 2040
- AASHE STARS
  - **OP 5:** Energy Use
  - **OP 6:** Greenhouse Gas Emissions

"Purchased electricity is substantially less carbon intensive than fossil fuels used for on site combustion. Fuel switching from natural gas systems to electric alternatives, particularly high efficiency heat pumps, is one strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the Gordon Head Campus. Natural Gas is still used on campus where operationally required and where it is beneficial as a fuel source. We strive to optimize the systems served by natural gas to insure responsible use and minimize its associated emissions."

- Brent Dallimore, Operations Project Manager, Energy Services

RATIONALE

University-owned buildings rely on purchased electricity from BC Hydro and purchased fuels including natural gas, diesel, and fuel oil for space heating, domestic hot water, and emergency generators. **BC Hydro generates approximately 95% of its electricity from clean or renewable resources**, and although electricity emission factors can vary year to year[10] due to hydrological conditions, British Columbia's integrated electricity grid remains among the lowest emitting in Canada.

Natural gas is still used on campus where operationally required and where it is beneficial as a fuel source. Systems served by natural gas are continually optimized to ensure responsible use and minimize the associated emissions.

10. BC Hydroelectricity's emission factor was 0.00000990 tCO_2e/kWh in 2024 and increased to 0.0000293 tCO_2e/kWh in 2025, based on the CNG and LGCAP Emission Factor Catalogue (Electricity – Integrated Grid – BC Hydro).

METRIC OR INDICATOR:

» PERCENT OF ENERGY CONSUMPTION THAT IS RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY

PERFORMANCE

Since 2023, **renewable electricity** supplied by BC Hydro has been the **primary energy source serving the Gordon Head Campus**[11]. This shift reflects the success of programs managed by UVic's Energy Management team and has contributed to a consistent downward trend in campus energy consumption and fuel switching away from high emitting fossil fuels to clean renewable electricity. Despite this progress, **greenhouse gas emissions from the direct combustion of natural gas** accounted for **77% of total greenhouse gas emissions (7,579 tCO_2e)** reported under the BC Carbon Neutral Program for the Gordon Head Campus.

The university's **fleet is also undergoing fuel switching**, transitioning from internal combustion engines to electric vehicles. Electricity used for fleet operations is currently reported under building electricity consumption; separating this load in the future would enable more accurate tracking of fleet electrification and associated emissions reduction impacts.

Figure. 8
Gordon Head Campus building emissions (tCO2e)

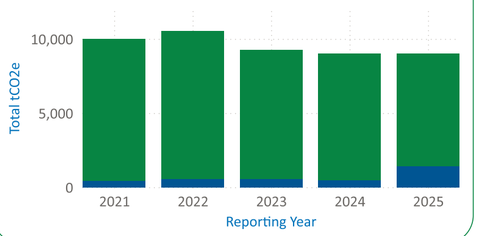


Figure. 9
Gordon Head Campus building energy consumption (MWh)

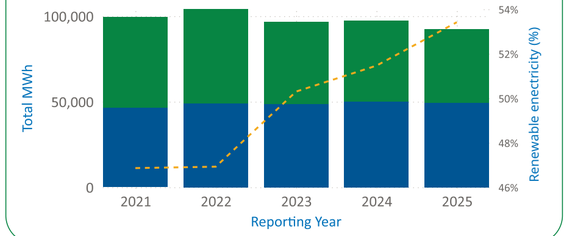


Table 9.
Gordon Head Campus building emissions (tCO2e)

Fuel Type (Position)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Electricity (renewable)	452	561	550	496	1,444
Natural Gas	9,563	9,986	8,697	8,516	7,579

Table 10.
Gordon Head Campus building energy consumption (MWh)

Fuel Type (Position)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Natural Gas	52,850	55,216	48,090	47,280	42,975
Electricity (renewable)	46,605	48,814	48,669	50,131	49,277

11. Calculations for Gordon Head Campus were inclusive of buildings managed by UVic's Facilities Management, and exclusive of buildings off-campus, leased offices, the Port Alberni Cable Station, and building generator fuels such as Diesel and Fuel Oil (Light).

CASE STUDY:
COMMUNITY, LEADERSHIP, AND DECARBONIZATION

On June 26, 2025, UVic's Facilities Management team hosted the **Vancouver Island Energy Leadership Conference,** a full-day gathering focused on advancing low-carbon, energy-efficient futures across the region. The event brought together public sector organizations, communities, utilities, academic institutions, consultants, and students to share insights, showcase progress, and foster collaboration on regional energy challenges. Discussions emphasized practical pathways to net zero goals, highlighting the importance of learning from projects already underway. One of those projects is UVic's District Energy Plant (DEP).

District Energy Plant Project

The DEP supplies hot water to approximately 70% of campus buildings and **accounts for 77% of Gordon Head Campus natural gas consumption,** making it the university's largest source of stationary emissions. Because of its scale, it represents the most significant opportunity for emissions reduction.

The DEP Electrification Project, now under construction, will install two electric boilers and **transition approximately 60% of total on-campus natural gas use to renewable electricity**.

This project is expected to play a central role in achieving UVic's 50% greenhouse gas reduction target by 2030, with **completion anticipated in 2027.**

Photo: Vancouver Island Energy Leadership Conference

Photo: Vancouver Island Energy Leadership Conference

Photo: District Energy Plant - UVic Photo Services

PROJECT TIMELINE

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
1 Campus wide decarbonization study	2 Strategic external funding secured	3 Project design	4 Project tendered	5 Construction starts	6 Expected completion

Electric boilers estimated **5,072** tCO2e/yr reductions

4.3 Energy management

METRIC OR INDICATOR:

» **CAMPUS ENERGY USE INTENSITY (EUI)**

REGULATORY DRIVERS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND REPORTING

Regulatory frameworks:

- BC Step Code/Zero Carbon Step Code

UVic strategic documents:

- Space Planning, Management and Optimization (BP3150)
- Building and Grounds Usage (BP3105)
- Strategic Energy Management Plan
- CSAP 2030
  - **Target 1:** 50% reduction from the 2010 baseline by 2030, net zero by 2040
  - **10.1.5:** Standardize building temperature
  - **10.1.10:** Promote efficient space use

Reporting frameworks:

- BC Carbon Neutral Government
- UN Race to Zero
  - Net zero operational emissions by 2040
- AASHE STARS
  - **OP 5:** Energy Use
  - **OP 6:** Greenhouse Gas Emissions

"Campus Energy Use Intensity (EUI) normalizes total building energy use providing a consistent indicator of operational efficiency and progress toward UVic's Strategic Energy Management and climate targets.."

- Brent Dallimore, Operations Project Manager, Energy Services

RATIONALE

Campus Energy Use Intensity (EUI), measured as total building energy use per gross floor area (kWh/m^2/year), is a core indicator within the university's **Strategic Energy Management framework.** EUI is calculated based on fuels used to service building energy demands, including electricity, natural gas, and other fuels such as, fuel oil, and diesel used in backup generators. Tracking EUI enables consistent assessment of operational efficiency over time, independent of campus growth, and supports progress toward CSAP decarbonization targets.

METRIC OR INDICATOR:

» **CAMPUS ENERGY USE INTENSITY (EUI)**

PERFORMANCE

Since 2021, campus energy consumption on the Gordon Head campus has declined relative to continued growth in gross floor area, demonstrating improved institutional energy efficiency. **Energy Use Intensity (EUI) decreased from approximately 252 kWh/m² in 2021 to 217 kWh/m² in 2025.** While greenhouse gas emissions intensity does not show a consistently declining trend over the same period, the sustained reduction in energy use reflects the effectiveness of Facilities Management's energy optimization initiatives.

The 2025 reporting year data includes all buildings managed by Facilities Management on the Gordon Head Campus[12] and encompasses all energy types delivered to buildings, including fuel used for building generators.

Figure. 10

Energy consumption (kWh) per square meter on Gordon Head Campus

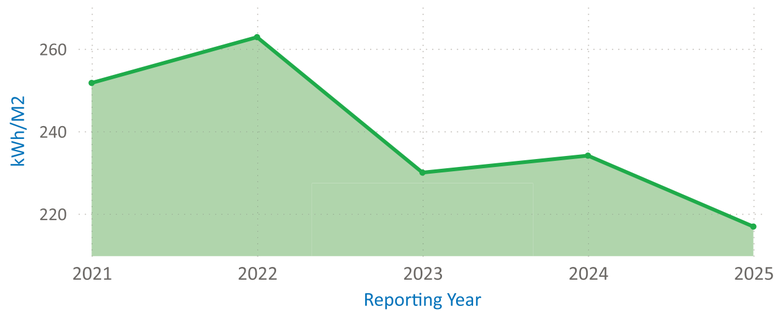


Table 11.

Energy Consumption (kWh) per square meter on Gordon Head Campus

Reporting Year	kWh/M2/Year
2021	252
2022	263
2023	230
2024	234
2025	217

12. Calculations for Gordon Head Campus were inclusive of buildings managed by UVic's Facilities Management and building generator fuels such as Diesel and Fuel Oil (Light). Calculations were exclusive of buildings off-campus, leased offices and the Port Alberni Cable Station.

CASE STUDY: INDIGENOUS LAW WING , MURRAY AND ANNE FRASER BUILDING

The construction of the Indigenous Law wing and renovations to the original Murray and Anne Fraser Building tell a story about how academic space, climate responsibility and Indigenous led priorities can successfully shape a development project.

Completed in 2025, the new **Indigenous Law wing is home to UVic's Faculty of Law**, and was designed to reflect Indigenous approaches to learning, governance and relationships to place, while also responding to the realities of a changing climate. The design emphasizes strong connections to surrounding natural areas, shared learning spaces and places for gathering and decision making. These design features were recognized with a 2023 Canadian Architect Award of Excellence.

Alongside these design considerations, the project targets LEED BD+C v4 Gold standards. The building is completely powered by electricity – a centralized electric heat pump system replaced a natural gas boiler and now serves both the existing building and new wing.

In 2025, Campus Planning and Sustainability hired a work-study research student to explore how UVic's capital planning processes can better support Indigenous research and community focused spaces for the future of the campus.

These elements illustrate how climate action and reconciliation priorities can be navigated in parallel through **major capital projects**, contributing to UVic's broader pathway toward **net zero operational emissions by 2040.**

Photo: Indigenous Law Wing outdoor seating area- UVic Photo Services

Photo: Indigenous Law Wing Ceremony Hall - UVic Photo Services

PLACE-BASED DESIGN

Improved thermal performance and site-responsive design supporting long-term climate adaptation.

EMBODIED CARBON

Use of mass-timber structural elements to reduce construction-related greenhouse gas emissions.

LOW-CARBON ENERGY

Electrification of building heating through centralized heat pump systems replacing natural gas.

4.4 New building design

METRIC OR INDICATOR:

» **PERCENTAGE CAMPUS FLOOR AREA THAT MEETS OR EXCEEDS ENERGY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY STANDARDS**

REGULATORY DRIVERS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND REPORTING

Regulatory frameworks:

- BC Step Code/Zero Carbon Step Code
- BC Climate Resilience Guidelines
- BC ESG Framework for Capital Projects
- BC Post Secondary Capital Project Requirements
- University Act

UVic strategic documents:

- CSAP 2030
  - **Target 1:** 50% reduction from the 2010 baseline by 2030, net zero by 2040
  - **10.1.2:** Transition to low carbon systems
  - **10.1.3:** LEED Gold or equivalent for all new builds
  - **10.1.8:** Green design guidelines by building typology

Reporting frameworks:

- BC Carbon Neutral Government
- UN Race to Zero
  - Net zero operational emissions by 2040
- AASHE STARS
  - **OP 1:** Building Design and Construction
  - **PA 2:** Commitments and Planning

"This reporting period saw the successful completion of the Indigenous Law Wing and Fraser Building Renovations. A key sustainability outcome of this project was the replacement of the existing natural gas fired boiler with an electric heat pump system, eliminating on-site combustion emissions from building heating. This upgrade directly supports our goal of becoming a net zero campus and reflects the university's commitment to embedding decarbonization strategies into every major capital project."

- Mike Wilson, Director, Campus Planning and Sustainability

RATIONALE

As the campus continues to grow, it is essential that infrastructure expansion aligns with climate mitigation objectives, high energy performance standards, and long-term climate resilience. New buildings represent a critical opportunity to reduce future emissions by addressing operational and embodied carbon, including fugitive emissions associated with building systems, while limiting long-term operating costs. Integrating these considerations into building design decisions ensures that campus infrastructure remains efficient, low-emissions, and resilient to projected climate conditions over the coming decades.

METRIC OR INDICATOR:

» **PERCENTAGE CAMPUS FLOOR AREA THAT MEETS OR EXCEEDS ENERGY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY STANDARDS**

PERFORMANCE

In **2025,** the University of Victoria advanced **three major capital projects** aligned with **zero-carbon** and **high-performance building standards**, reflecting a continued shift toward low-emissions growth while supporting academic priorities and reconciliation-informed design. The Engineering Expansion, which includes a new High Bay Research and Structures Lab (HBRSL) and a new Engineering and Computer Science Expansion (ECSE) building, achieved Canada Green Building Council Zero Carbon Building – Design v3 certification, confirming minimized operational and embodied carbon emissions.

The **HBRSL** is also pursuing the International Living Future Institute's Zero Carbon Certification, a performance-based standard requiring full electrification, 100% renewable energy, and carbon neutralization. Described by UVic as a mass-timber "living lab" for experiential learning and research, the project supports climate resilience and sustainability innovation. The combined project is registered under LEED BD+C v4 and targeting LEED Gold. The **Fraser Building Expansion**, now known as the Indigenous Law Wing, was completed in 2025 and is registered under LEED BD+C: New Construction v4, targeting LEED Gold certification.

Figure 11.
Percent of campus gross floor area with green building certifications

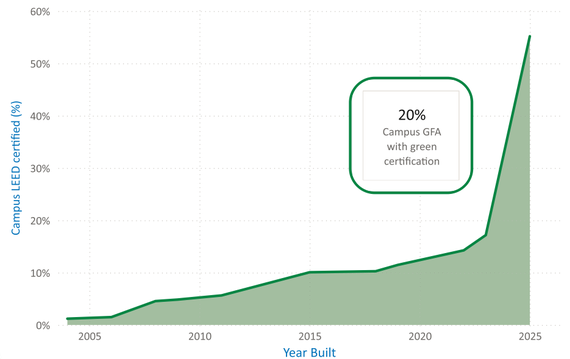


Table 12.
Green buildings on Gordon Head Campus

Year built	Building name	Certifications
2004	Medical Sciences Building	LEED Gold
2006	Engineering/Computer Science Building (ECS)	LEED Gold
2008	David Turpin Building (formerly the Social Sciences and Mathematics Building)	LEED Gold
2008	Michael Williams Building (formerly the Administrative Services Building)	LEED Gold
2009	First Peoples House	LEED Gold
2011	South Tower Residence	LEED Gold
2015	Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities (CARSA)	LEED Gold
2018	Facilities Management Service Building (Saunders Workshop No. 3)	LEED Gold
2019	District Energy Plant	LEED Gold
2022	Čeq̓ʷəṉ̓ ʔéʔləŋ (Cheko'nien House)	LEED Gold & Passive House
2023	Sn̓éqa ʔéʔləŋ (Sngequ House)	LEED Gold & Passive House
2025	UVic Engineering Expansion (EE) - Engineering Computer Sciences Expansion (ECSE)	Carbon Zero
2025	UVic Engineering Expansion (EE) – High Bay Research and Structures Lab (HBRSL)	Carbon Zero
2025	**Indigenous Law Wing**	LEED Gold

4.5 Fugitive emissions from refrigerants

METRIC OR INDICATOR:

» **CONSISTENT REPORTING OF TOTAL FUGITIVE REFRIGERANT EMISSIONS**

» **COMPLETE AND ACCURATE REFRIGERATION EQUIPMENT INVENTORY**

REGULATORY DRIVERS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND REPORTING

Regulatory frameworks:

- BC Carbon Neutral Regulation
- BC Climate Change Accountability Act
- Federal Halocarbon Regulations (2022)
- BC Ozone Depleting Substances and Other Halocarbons Regulation

UVic strategic documents:

- CSAP 2030
  - **Target 1:** 50% reduction from the 2010 baseline by 2030, net zero by 2040
  - **10.1.2:** Transition to low carbon systems

Reporting frameworks:

- BC Carbon Neutral Government
- UN Race to Zero
  - Net zero operational emissions by 2040
- AASHE STARS
  - **OP 6:** Greenhouse Gas Emissions

BACKGROUND

Beginning in 2024, the university initiated a phased process to develop an inventory of refrigeration equipment and establish a baseline for fugitive emissions reporting. The first phase focused on equipment with refrigerant charges of **10 kilograms or greater,** aligning with provincial methodological guidance and prioritizing systems with the highest emissions risk. This work was supported by external technical expertise and refined through working sessions with the BC Carbon Neutral Government Program to ensure consistent interpretation of regulatory requirements.

The resulting inventory includes refrigeration and air-conditioning systems using **hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)** and **hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)**. While **HCFCs are not in scope under the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation**, the university has chosen to include them in its Climate Change Accountability Report to provide a complete and transparent picture of refrigerant-related climate impacts and to track progress as legacy systems are phased out.

Not all in-scope HFC refrigerants used on campus are currently configured within the Clean Government Reporting Tool (CGRT). Although these refrigerants are in scope under the Carbon Neutral Government framework, associated emissions do not affect offset requirements during the current reporting period due to **temporary program limitations**, which the province has confirmed will be addressed in future reporting years. To support consistent internal benchmarking during this transition period, the university developed **proxy emissions factors** using government-endorsed methodologies. These factors allow estimation of total fugitive refrigerant emissions across all inventoried systems, including HFCs not yet available in CGRT and HCFCs reported voluntarily for transparency, and are used solely for the Climate Change Accountability Report.

This approach strengthens data quality, supports internal decision-making, and demonstrates the university's commitment to transparency and continuous improvement.

METRIC OR INDICATOR:

» **COMPLETE AND ACCURATE REFRIGERATION EQUIPMENT INVENTORY**

PERFORMANCE

In the **2025** reporting year, the university completed a comprehensive inventory of refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment with refrigerant charges of **10 kilograms or greater** under the care and control of Facilities Management at the Gordon Head Campus.

The inventory includes **51 systems** using a mix of **hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)**. Provincial emissions factors are currently available for only a subset of HFC refrigerants. As a result, the inventory includes 26 units with HFCs configured for emissions reporting, 13 units with in-scope HFCs not yet configured, and 12 units using HCFCs, which are not in scope under the BC Carbon Neutral Government Regulation but are reported voluntarily for transparency.

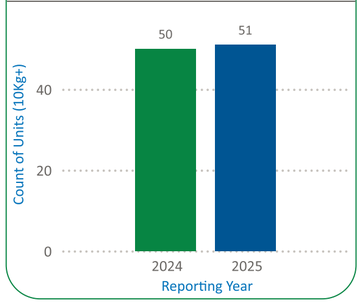
Table 13.

Inventory count of refrigeration equipment on Gordon Head Campus

Asset Group (BC CNG)	2024	2025
Chillers	**17**	**18**
Non-offsetable HCFCs	1	1
Non-offsetable HFC	2	4
Offsetable HFC	14	13
Other commercial A/C and heat pumps	**32**	**32**
Non-offsetable HCFCs	11	11
Non-offsetable HFC	5	5
Offsetable HFC	16	16
Supermarket refrigeration and condensing units	**1**	**1**
Non-offsetable HFC	1	1
Total	**50**	**51**

Figure 12.

Inventory count (10kg+) refrigeration equipment on Gordon Head Campus



"Fugitive emissions mitigation is an important component of UVic's commitment to sustainability and responsible climate action. The university has implemented a Halocarbon Management Program to strengthen oversight, consistency, and transparency in the management of refrigerant emissions. This approach supports regulatory requirements and reflects UVic's ongoing commitment to reducing operational emissions and advancing long-term sustainability objectives."

- Jesse Neville, Halocarbon Manager, Facilities Management

METRIC OR INDICATOR:

» CONSISTENT REPORTING OF TOTAL FUGITIVE REFRIGERANT EMISSIONS

PERFORMANCE

In 2025, fugitive refrigerant emissions **totaled approximately 576 tCO_2e**. Emissions were largely influenced by a single release event involving HFC-134a, illustrating the sensitivity of this emissions category to isolated equipment failures due to the high global warming potential of common refrigerants. Of the total 2025 fugitive refrigerant emissions, **427 tCO_2e are considered offsetable under the Carbon Neutral Government framework**.

The remaining emissions are associated with refrigerants that are in scope but not yet configured within the Clean Government Reporting Tool, as well as refrigerants reported voluntarily for transparency. As outlined in the background section, this reflects **temporary limitations in the BC CNG program** rather than a change in regulatory scope.

Fugitive refrigerant emissions are expected to fluctuate year over year as inventory coverage expands, estimation approaches are refined, and mitigation measures are implemented. Continued reporting supports improved benchmarking, risk awareness, and long-term emissions reduction planning while reflecting the university's commitment to transparent and evolving climate reporting.

Figure 13.

Total fugitive refrigerant emissions

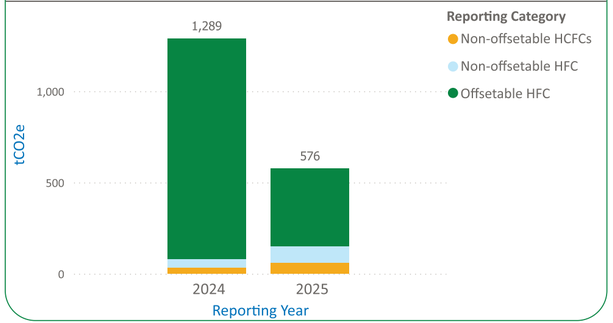


Table 14.

Fugitive refrigerant emissions (tCO2e) on Gordon Head Campus

Offsetable emissions	2024	2025
Non-offsetable HCFCs	**33**	**62**
R-22	33	62
Non-offsetable HFC	**50**	**87**
HFC R-407A	3	3
HFC R-438A	10	10
HFC R-448A	36	61
HFC R-513a		12
Offsetable HFC	**1,207**	**427**
HFC R-134a	1,173	393
HFC R-407c	0	0
HFC R-410a	34	34
Total	**1,289**	**576**

4.6 Emissions from mobile equipment

METRIC OR INDICATOR:

» MOBILE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY FUEL TYPE

» FLEET ELECTRIFICATION

REGULATORY DRIVERS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND REPORTING

Regulatory frameworks:

- BC Climate Change Accountability Act
- BC Carbon Neutral Regulation
- BC Zero Emission Vehicles Act

UVic strategic documents:

- Purchasing Policy (FM5105)
- Motor Vehicle Policy (AD2315)
- CSAP 2030
  - **Target 1:** 50% reduction from the 2010 baseline by 2030, net zero by 2040
  - **9.3.6:** Establish purchasing guidelines for low emissions vehicles and equipment
  - **10.1.2:** Transition to low carbon systems

Reporting frameworks:

- BC Carbon Neutral Government
- UN Race to Zero
  - Net zero operational emissions by 2040
- AASHE STARS
  - **OP 6:** Greenhouse Gas Emissions
  - **OP 13:** Vehicle Fleet

"Our commitment to sustainability drives every fleet decision we make. As we work toward our goal of having 90% of new light duty vehicle purchases be zero emission vehicles by 2030 and net zero operational emissions by 2040, we evaluate each vehicle purchase through the lens of long-term environmental impact, operational efficiency, and alignment with UVic's climate action priorities."

- Matthew Uganecz, Associate Director, Maintenance and Operations

RATIONALE

Transitioning to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) is a key contributor to reducing UVic's operational GHG emissions and aligning with evolving provincial regulations. The BC Zero Emission Vehicles Act requires that 90% of new light duty vehicle purchases be zero emission by 2030, reinforcing the need for systematic fleet decarbonization.

By tracking both fuel consumption by type and associated mobile emissions, the university can assess progress toward institutional and regulatory targets, identify opportunities for vehicle replacement, and ensure that electrification is paced appropriately with available funding, departmental requirements, and electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure capacity. These metrics provide a consistent data foundation to support evidence based planning, investment prioritization, and long term fleet transition monitoring.

METRIC OR INDICATOR:

» MOBILE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY FUEL TYPE

PERFORMANCE

In **2025**, total greenhouse gas emissions from mobile sources were **244 tCO_2e,** representing a **10% decrease from the previous year.** This reduction reflects an overall decline in fuel consumption across diesel, gasoline, and propane.
Gasoline remained the dominant fuel source, accounting for over **68% of total mobile fuel use in 2025**.
The university tracks emissions from two primary fleet groups: the **UVic operational fleet**, managed by Facilities Management and Campus Security, and the **academic fleet,** which includes vehicles and vessels managed by research and academic departments. **Emissions from both fleet groups declined in 2025**. Notably, the **UVic operational fleet has shown a consistent downward emissions trend since 2022**, reflecting ongoing efforts to replace internal combustion vehicles with zero-emission alternatives as vehicles are retired.

Figure 14.
Mobile emissions (tCO2e) by fleet management

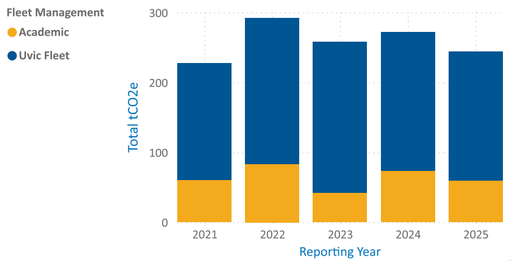


Figure 15.
Mobile fuel consumption (Litres) in 2025

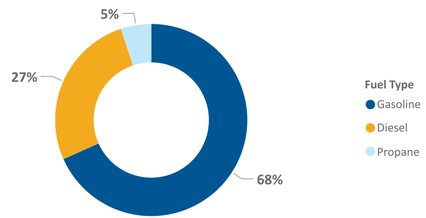


Table 15.
Mobile emissions (tCO2e) by fleet management

Fleet Management	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Uvic Fleet	167	209	216	198	184
Academic	61	83	42	74	60
Total	**228**	**292**	**258**	**272**	**244**

Table 16.
Fuel consumption (Litres)

Mobile Fuel Source	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Diesel	26,652	36,885	33,751	31,566	28,528
Gasoline	68,325	84,447	73,140	81,951	73,483
Propane	4,959	6,380	5,568	5,887	5,510
Total	**99,936**	**127,712**	**112,459**	**119,404**	**107,521**

CASE STUDY UPDATE:
ADVANCING FLEET ELECTRIFICATION AND GOVERNANCE

The 2024 Sustainability Scholars Green Fleet Project assessed the university's vehicle fleet to identify practical pathways to reduce emissions while maintaining operational reliability. The project produced the **first consolidated fleet inventory** and recommended a phased electrification strategy supported by centralized data governance, clear vehicle replacement criteria, and aligned infrastructure planning.

Actions taken in 2025

In 2025, a cross-departmental **Fleet Data Governance Working Group** was established to address gaps in decentralized fleet datasets and strengthen compliance with climate reporting requirements.

Plans for 2026 and beyond

As data governance matures, attention is shifting toward **policy alignment**. A comprehensive review of the Motor Vehicle Policy is emerging as a critical next step to formalize roles, standardize reporting, and embed electrification and lifecycle management into **fleet decision-making**. These actions strengthen accountability today while positioning the university to meet its Climate and Sustainability Action Plan targets and long-term net zero goals through a measurable, data-driven transition to low-carbon transportation.

Photo: Sustainability Scholars Student - UVic Photo Services

Figure 16.
Fleet electrification in 2025

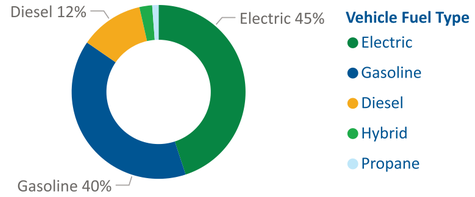
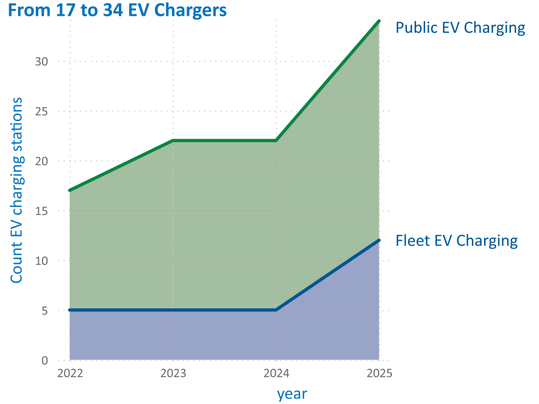


Figure 17.
From 17 to 34 EV Chargers



PART **3**:

MITIGATING CLIMATE IMPACTS ACROSS THE VALUE CHAIN

5. Beyond operational emissions

Under Goal 11 of the Climate and Sustainability Action Plan (CSAP) 2030, the university is committed to developing baseline, tracking, reporting, and reduction procedures for +-Scope 3 extended impact emissions. Scope 3 reporting is not only an accounting exercise, but a tool for engagement that supports climate literacy, informs procurement and operational decisions, and strengthens shared accountability across the value chain.

Scope 3 emissions include indirect emissions from activities not owned or controlled by the university, such as business travel, commuting, waste, food systems and construction materials.

Actions taken to date

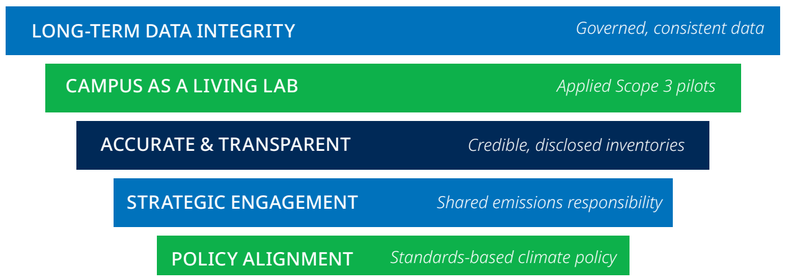
1. **2019 -** Internal baseline development for priority categories
2. **2023 -** Best practice review of peer institutions and sector guidance
3. **2024 -** Gap analysis identifying key data limitations and governance needs

Next steps (2026 and beyond)

The university will continue to develop its Scope 3 approach in alignment with GHG Protocol principles, with a focus on improving data quality, refining methodology, and using reporting to drive informed decision-making and collaboration across internal teams and external partners.

FIGURE 18.

THEMATIC AREAS GUIDING SCOPE 3 METHODOLOGY



5.1 Sustainable procurement

METRIC OR INDICATOR:

» **SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS: PAPER (PURCHASED GOODS AND SERVICES)**

REGULATORY DRIVERS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND REPORTING

Regulatory frameworks:

- BC Climate Change Accountability Act
- BC Carbon Neutral Regulation
- Modern Slavery Legislation (Federal)

UVic strategic documents:

- Purchasing Policy (FM5105)
- Supplier Code of Conduct
- CSAP 2030
  - **9.3.2** Engage faculty, staff, suppliers and service providers to understand and consider the social and environmental impact of procurement decisions
  - **9.3.3** Establish metrics to assess and monitor the sustainability performance of major suppliers.
  - **9.3.4** Develop training programs to promote and support sustainable procurement practices.

Reporting frameworks:

- BC Carbon Neutral Government
- AASHE STARS
  - **OP 6:** Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 3)
  - **OP 10:** Purchased Goods and Services

"We continue to explore purchasing of greener alternatives and ways to increase awareness of sustainable purchasing options. By evaluating new sources of supply, we aim to reduce environmental impact while supporting more sustainable supply chains."

- Michelle McArthur, Associate Director, Purchasing Services

RATIONALE

The university is mandated to report paper-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions under the B.C. Carbon Neutral Government (CNG) Program, which requires greenhouse gas emissions to be quantified for the entire lifecycle of the copy paper purchased by the university. While paper represents a small proportion of the university's total emissions, longstanding reporting under the CNG program makes it a practical entry point for advancing Scope 3 emissions reporting at UVic and demonstrates how the university will approach broader purchased-goods emissions over time.

METRIC OR INDICATOR:

» SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS: PAPER (PURCHASED GOODS AND SERVICES)

PERFORMANCE

In 2025, office paper purchases generated approximately **59 tCO_2e**, representing 0.6% of the university's total emissions under the BC Carbon Neutral Program.

Emissions were **driven primarily by 0% post-consumer recycled (PCR) paper**, reflecting the higher life cycle emissions associated with virgin paper compared to recycled alternatives.

During the reporting year, **UVic purchased 9,574 reams of paper** from Staples, equivalent to approximately **4.8 million sheets of paper**. Of this total, **18% of paper purchases consisted of 30% PCR content**, indicating continued uptake of lower-emissions paper options within standard procurement. Overall paper procurement has increased since the COVID-19 period, with purchasing patterns continuing to favour 0% PCR paper, underscoring an **opportunity to strengthen engagement** and awareness initiatives t**o support greater adoption of lower-carbon paper alternatives.**

Figure 19.
Scope 3 emissions by post-consumer recycled content (PCR%) in 2025

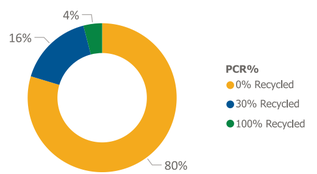


Figure 20.
Procurement trend of office paper by post-consumer recycled content (PCR %)

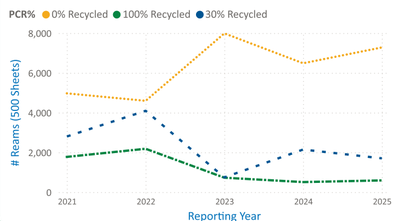


Table 17.
Scope 3 emissions from office paper

PCR%	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
0% Recycled	33	30	52	42	47
30% Recycled	16	26	4	12	10
100% Recycled	7	9	3	2	2
Total	**56**	**65**	**59**	**56**	**59**

Table 18.
Total # reams (500 sheets) purchased by recycled content

PCR%	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
0% Recycled	4,971	4,595	7,988	6,484	7,280
100% Recycled	1,775	2,183	728	508	592
30% Recycled	2,801	4,093	744	2,144	1,702
Total	**9,547**	**10,871**	**9,460**	**9,136**	**9,574**

9,574 reams × 500 sheets
= **4.8** million sheets

CASE STUDY:
CIRCULARITY IN WASTE MANAGEMENT

Under the Climate and Sustainability Action Plan (CSAP) 2030, waste reporting plays a central role in measuring progress toward **Strategy 10.6, advancing the university toward a zero-waste campus**, and **Goal 11**, which commits the university to establishing baseline, tracking, reporting, and reduction procedures for **Scope 3 extended impact emissions.**

To strengthen waste reporting and respond to emerging accountability requirements, the university hired a master's student in Industrial Ecology through the Sustainability Scholars Program in 2025.

The project developed a comprehensive **waste audit methodology** that moves beyond diversion rates toward a systems-based understanding of how materials flow through campus operations. It reinforced the value of clear metrics such as diversion and waste per campus user, and introduced a **Circularity Index** that shows how effectively materials are kept in use through higher-value recovery pathways.

Key milestones include:

1. **SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS BASELINE**[13] **-** from waste generated in operations
2. **WASTE DIVERSION RATES** - inclusive and exclusive of yard and garden waste
3. **CIRCULARITY INDEX** - weights material flows based on their relative circular value

This work also catalyzed a broader **review of waste hauler and end-facility invoices,** resulting in the university's first comprehensive baseline inventory of all waste streams leaving the Gordon Head Campus, **supporting both sustainability reporting and operational key performance metrics**.

In 2026, the university will engage haulers and end-site facilities to improve the quality of waste data and ensure consistent and accurate reporting under an evolving landscape of regulatory and reputational reporting frameworks.

13. Emissions were estimated using an average emission factor of 0.292 tonnes CO_2e per tonne of solid waste, consistent with the methodology used by the University of British Columbia and originally advised by Metro Vancouver.

2025 WASTE DIVERSION ON GORDON HEAD CAMPUS

Table 19.
Total waste by material in 2025

Stream	Disposal (Metric Tonnes)
Recycle	**573.2**
Cardboard	214.2
Mixed Paper	77.8
Electronic	69.5
Wood	57.4
Metal	57.1
Mixed Containers	49.0
Clean Wood	15.7
Asphalt	15.5
Concrete	4.2
Soft Plastic- bags	3.6
Mattress	3.2
Soft Plastic	1.9
Batteries	1.4
Lightbulbs	1.2
Styrofoam	0.8
Tires	0.4
PE Foam	0.2
Smoke Alarms	0.0
Landfill	**561.4**
Solid Waste	527.8
Glass	17.0
Construction	5.6
Concrete	5.5
Mattress	5.5
Organic	**468.2**
Yard Waste	281.0
Compost	184.7
Handtowel	2.5
Hazardous Waste	**2.9**
Total	**1,605.7**

**Reported values may be updated as data accuracy and consistency improve.*

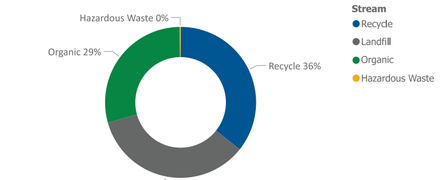
SCOPE 3 WASTE
163.9 tCO_2e

DIVERSION RATE
65%
inclusive of yard waste

DIVERSION RATE
57.6%
exclusive of yard waste

CIRCULARITY INDEX
41%
inclusive of yard waste

Figure 21.
Waste diversion in 2025



5.2 Transportation and commuting

METRIC OR INDICATOR:

» **Commute Modal Split**

» **Scope 3 emissions: commuting (future reporting)**

REGULATORY DRIVERS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND REPORTING

Regulatory frameworks:

- BC Zero Emission Vehicles Act

UVic strategic documents:

- Flexible Work
- Campus Cycling Plan
- Transportation Demand Management Principles
- CSAP 2030
  - **10.3.1** Strategically implement push/pull policies for sustainable travel
  - **10.3.2** Provide commuters with greater flexibility in transportation choices
  - **10.3.3** Achieve a 70% sustainable commute mode split
  - **10.3.6** Expand electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure
  - **10.3.7** Explore new policies and IT supports to reduce travel demand
  - **Goal 11:** Establish baseline tracking for employee commuting

Reporting frameworks:

- UN Race to Zero
  - Net zero operational emissions by 2040
- AASHE STARS
  - **OP 6:** Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 3)
  - **OP 14:** Commute Modal Split

" At UVic, we're not waiting for behaviour to change on its own — we're shaping it. By strengthening active-transportation infrastructure and pairing it with firm push–pull policies like demand management, we aim to make sustainable travel the default, not the exception."

- Patrick Seward, Associate Director, Transportation and Commuting Services

RATIONALE

Commute modal split and Scope 3 commuting emissions are used together to provide a complete and decision-relevant understanding of transportation impacts. Modal split captures underlying travel behaviour within the university community, while emissions quantify the resulting greenhouse gas impacts. Tracking and reporting on both metrics supports more accurate emissions accounting and provide the evidence base needed to design, target, and evaluate transportation demand management and emissions reduction strategies.

METRIC OR INDICATOR:

» **Commute Modal Split**

PERFORMANCE

The Climate and Sustainability Action Plan sets a target of achieving a **70% sustainable commute mode share.** The **2025 Transportation Survey** found that the sustainable mode share **remained unchanged from 2023,** indicating limited progress toward this target.

The evolution of campus travel behavior since the pandemic presents a unique challenge: despite significant growth in active transportation, the share of automobile commuters remains high. To solve this, UVic is turning to academic opportunities through the **"Campus as a Living Lab"** initiative. In collaboration with the Coastal Climate Solutions Challenge and geography students, the university is analyzing historical data to build the foundation of a future **Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Strategy.**

"Data is the bridge between acknowledging stagnant trends and implementing transformative solutions. Our focus this year is to leverage every tool—from spatial analysis to student ingenuity—to shift the needle on our mode share and align our commuting patterns with our climate commitments." - Alannah Rodgers, Planner, Campus Planning and Sustainability

- Alannah Rodgers, Planner, Campus Planning and Sustainability

Figure 22.
Sustainable transportation choices (Percent %)

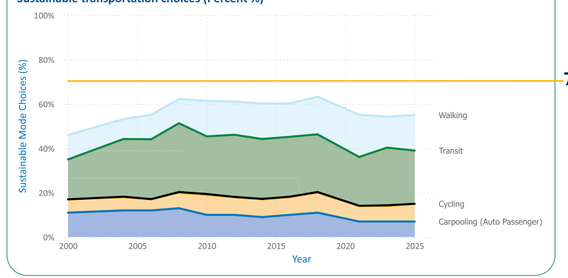
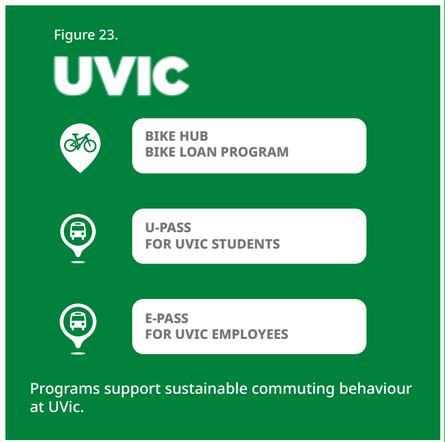


Table 20.
Sustainable transportation choices (Percent %)

Mode of Travel	2000	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2021	2023	2025
Transit	18%	26%	27%	31%	26%	28%	27%	27%	26%	22%	26%	24%
Walking	11%	9%	11%	11%	16%	15%	16%	15%	17%	19%	14%	16%
Carpooling (Auto Passenger)	11%	12%	12%	13%	10%	10%	9%	10%	11%	7%	7%	7%
Cycling	6%	6%	5%	7%	9%	8%	8%	8%	9%	7%	7%	8%
Skateboards/ Rollerbladers	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total Sustainable Mode Choices	**46%**	**53%**	**55%**	**62%**	**61%**	**61%**	**60%**	**60%**	**63%**	**55%**	**54%**	**55%**

Figure 23.



CASE STUDY:
SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS FROM COMMUTING

Establishing baseline, tracking, and reduction approaches for **Scope 3 commuting emissions is a commitment under Goal 11** of the Climate and Sustainability Action Plan (CSAP 2030).

A 2019 internal benchmarking analysis identified commuting as a material source of **Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions, estimated at approximately 6,461 tCO_2e**—comparable in scale to emissions from on-campus natural gas use. While this analysis was not formally published, it played an important role in highlighting commuting as a priority area for future climate accountability and reporting.

In 2025, this work was advanced through the completion of the university's **fifth major cycling corridor project**, including the Dawnview Crescent-CARSA pathway, Gabriola Road pathway, and McGill Road pathway improvements, supported by nearly **$2.4 million in federal Active Transportation Fund (ATF)** funding received in 2023. These improvements implement the Campus Cycling Plan (2019) and enhance cycling safety, comfort, and connectivity on campus.

Together with complementary commuter programs, these efforts support shifts in travel behaviour and contribute to reducing Scope 3 commuting emissions over time.

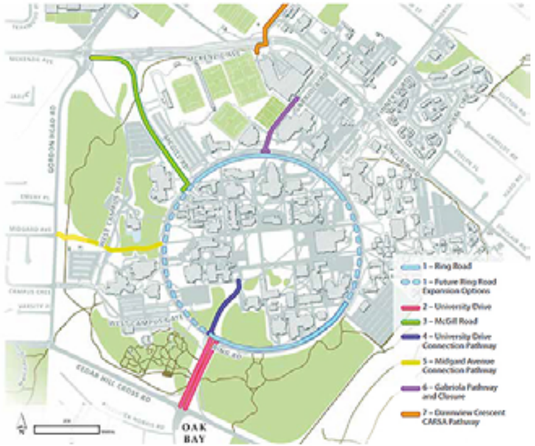


Photo: Campus Cycling Plan (2019)

Photo: West Campus Greenway - UVic Photo Services

5.3. Responsible investment – working capital investment

METRIC OR INDICATOR:

- **INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO CARBON INTENSITY**
- **PERCENTAGE INVESTMENT POOL ALLOCATED TO POSITIVE SUSTAINABILITY INVESTMENTS**

REGULATORY DRIVERS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND REPORTING

Regulatory frameworks:

- University Act

UVic strategic documents:

- Responsible Investment Policy (FM5215)
- Working Capital Investment Policy (FM5200)
- CSAP 2030
  - **9.1.1**: Develop financial climate tools
  - **9.1.2**: Integrate ESG in investments
  - **9.1.3**: Support TCFD disclosures
  - **9.1.4**: Invest to cut emissions
  - **9.1.5**: Ensure transparent reporting

Reporting frameworks:

- AASHE STARS:
  - **PA 4:** Sustainable Investment Program
  - **PA 5:** Investments holdings
- UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)
- Internal reporting

"Through portfolio wide integration of ESG criteria and a deliberate allocation to impact investments, we aim to show that robust sustainability results and fiduciary discipline are mutually reinforcing, offering a blueprint for public institutions aligning capital with climate goals."

- Raymond Aoki, Treasurer, Treasury and Risk Management

RATIONALE

The University of Victoria holds a responsibility to honour local Indigenous laws and protocols and to be in right relationship with all people, beings, lands and waters. The university's goal is to be a global leader in environmental and societal sustainability including responding to the critical global issue of climate change.

Aligning investment practices with climate and sustainability goals supports the university's broader commitment to risk management, transparency and long-term resilience. Responsible investing allows the university to address the financial risks of climate change, influence positive corporate behaviour through stewardship and contribute to global sustainability outcomes such as the SDGs. This approach recognizes sustainable investment as a meaningful tool for institutional leadership and accountability.

PERFORMANCE

CARBON INTENSITY PORTFOLIO

In 2025, the three-year rolling average carbon intensity of the university's working capital investment portfolio dropped to **40 tCO_2e /$1,000,000 sales**, representing a **83% reduction** from the 2019 baseline. The university surpassed its 50% reduction target in 2022, a notable milestone for the Treasury and Risk Management Department.

SUSTAINABILITY INVESTMENTS

100% of the university's working capital investment pool[14] is aligned with positive sustainability criteria under the Responsible Investment Policy. This includes allocations to ESG-integrated funds, positively screened businesses, community-based financial institutions (CDFIs) and place-based investments, each classified according to AASHE STARS definitions.

The investment portfolio reflects not only the university's operational financial objectives (capital preservation, liquidity and low volatility) but also its commitment to responsible investing, in particular, impact investing.

Figure 24.
Investment portfolio carbon intensity

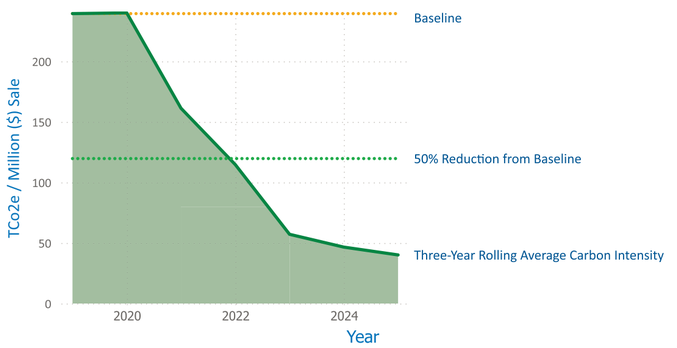
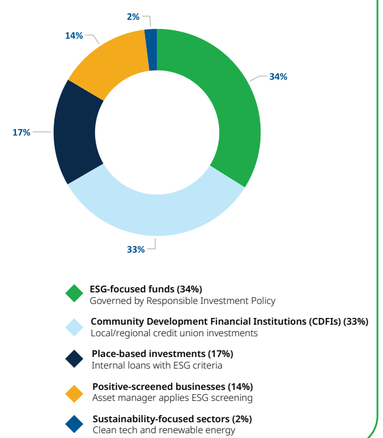


Figure 25.
Sustainable investment allocation 2025



14. The working capital pool reflects funds arising from university operations—such as insurance reserves, deferred operating budgets and capital project reserves—and is managed by external investment professionals. It is distinct from pensions, endowments and the Student Investment Fund, which are governed separately.

PART **4:**

CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT

Climate change poses direct and indirect risks to operations, infrastructure, finances, community, and reputation. UVic proactively manages these for net zero progress, resilience, and leadership.

6. Climate risk management

As a British Columbia public sector organization, the university integrates climate risk considerations into decision-making processes in alignment with the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and the Province's Climate Resilience Framework and Standards for Public Sector Buildings. These requirements embed climate risk into capital planning, infrastructure development, and annual reporting obligations.

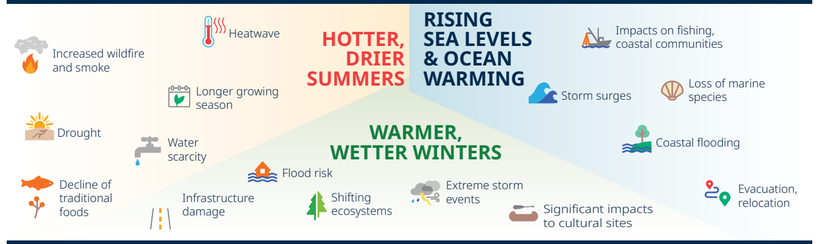
Climate risk governance:

1. THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND SENIOR LEADERSHIP receive regular updates on climate risk through the Risk Appetite Framework, with formal oversight by the Audit Committee via the Strategic Risk Register.
2. THE CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN 2030 (CSAP) provides the overarching governance framework for climate mitigation and adaptation across operations, academics, research, finance, and external relations.
3. A CROSS-FUNCTIONAL MODEL INTEGRATES climate risk into capital planning, asset management, and operations.

6.1 Climate risks

The university assesses both physical risks (e.g., extreme heat, flooding, wildfire smoke, and severe weather) and transition risks (e.g., regulatory change, carbon pricing, and supply chain impacts), enabling more resilient campus planning and infrastructure development.

Figure 26.
CLIMATE PROJECTIONS AND IMPACTS IN BC
Types of changes expected in BC by the 2050s. Adapted from BC Government



6.2 Heating degree days and energy use

Heating Degree Days (HDD) measure how cold the outside air is over a period of time and indicate the demand for energy needed to heat buildings. The higher the number of HDD in a given year, the greater the expected heating demand. Tracking HDD alongside natural gas consumption on the Gordon Head Campus helps assess how changing winter temperatures affect energy use and supports climate risk management and adaptation planning.

Figure 27.

Natural gas consumption on Gordon Head Campus

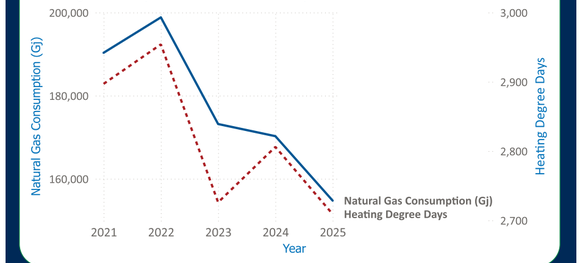


Table 21.

Natural gas consumption relative to heating degree days

Reporting Year	Number of Heating Degree Days	Natural Gas Consumption (Gj)
2022	2,954	198,833
2021	2,897	190,313
2023	2,726	173,174
2024	2,806	170,254
2025	2,709	154,753

6.3 Recent and ongoing initiatives

- 2024–2025: A Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) application for a campus-wide climate risk and vulnerability assessment was unsuccessful; the university is reviewing phased or internally led alternatives aligned with capital and infrastructure planning.
- 2025: The university is improving consistency in documenting climate risk across capital projects to enhance visibility and support future formalization of climate risk management.

6.4. Continuous improvement and transparency

The University of Victoria is committed to continuous improvement and transparent reporting on climate-related risks and adaptation progress through the annual Climate Change Accountability Report and related institutional processes. This approach supports the ongoing refinement of climate risk management as new data and insights emerge.

Climate risk identification and management are well established at the project and system level, particularly within capital planning and infrastructure. Current efforts focus on strengthening consistency, integration, and institution-wide visibility. Key priorities include improving documentation of climate risk assessments across capital projects, enhancing how climate risk information is shared and used in decision-making, and further embedding climate considerations into capital planning and asset management in alignment with provincial requirements.

Advancing toward a more formalized, institution-wide approach—such as a comprehensive vulnerability assessment or centralized risk framework—is expected to occur through a staged, adaptive process informed by available resources, evolving provincial guidance, and internal capacity.

UVic also recognizes the importance of a collaborative, place-based approach to climate risk management. Engagement with local governments, regional organizations, and Indigenous rights holders remains central to strengthening relationships, supporting knowledge exchange, and contributing to regional resilience initiatives.

Photo: Sustainability Scholars Final Presentations - Credit: Jenna Shouldice

7. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The progress outlined in this report reflects strong collaboration across departments, supported by improved governance, data practices, and shared accountability. These efforts are helping embed sustainability into core planning and operations and move the university from intention to implementation.

Integration between academic and operational work has also strengthened, with initiatives such as the Sustainability Scholars Program demonstrating the value of the **Campus as a Living Lab**. These partnerships are building capacity, improving data and methods, and creating shared ownership of outcomes.

Maintaining this momentum will be key. Continued collaboration between students, faculty, and operational teams offers a clear path for innovation and sustained progress toward a low-carbon and resilient university.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX 1: LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY, POLICY AND REPORTING BOUNDARIES

This appendix summarizes the legislative, regulatory, institutional, and reporting frameworks that define the scope, methodology, and accountability structure of metrics referenced in the 2025 Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR). These frameworks establish the boundaries within which performance is measured, interpreted, and disclosed.

A. REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

A. 1: Carbon Neutral Government Regulation (Provincial BC)

- **Description:** Defines mandatory public sector emissions reporting, scope, offset requirements, and methodological guidance that directly shape accounting and disclosure.
- **Associated Metrics:** 3.1 Emissions summary; 4.2 Fuel switching; 4.5 Fugitive refrigerant emissions; 4.5 Refrigeration equipment inventory; 4.6 Mobile emissions

A. 2: Climate Change Accountability Act (Provincial BC)

- **Description:** Establishes provincial greenhouse gas reporting requirements, providing the overarching legislative basis for climate targets and reporting.
- **Associated Metrics:** 3.1 Emissions summary; 4.2 Fuel switching; 4.5 Fugitive refrigerant emissions; 4.5 Refrigeration equipment inventory; 4.6 Mobile emissions

A. 3: Climate Resilience Guidelines (Provincial BC)

- **Description:** Provides guidance for integrating climate adaptation into infrastructure planning.
- **Associated Metrics:** 4.4 Percent floor area that meets or exceeds energy and climate resiliency standards

A. 4: Energy Step Code (Provincial BC)

- **Description:** Sets performance standards for building energy efficiency.
- **Associated Metrics:** 4.2 Fuel switching; 4.3 Campus Energy Use Intensity (EUI); 4.4 Percent floor area that meets or exceeds energy and climate resiliency standards

A. 5: ESG Framework for Capital Projects (Provincial BC)

- **Description:** Establishes environmental, social, and governance criteria for capital investments.
- **Associated Metrics:** 4.4 Percent floor area that meets or exceeds energy and climate resiliency standards

A. REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS CONT...

A. 6: Federal Halocarbon Regulations (2022) (Federal Canada)

- **Description:** Regulates the use, handling, storage, recovery, and reporting of halocarbon refrigerants (such as HFCs and HCFCs) in federally regulated systems and by certified technicians.
- **Associated Metrics:** 4.5 Fugitive refrigerant emissions; 4.5 Refrigeration equipment inventory

A. 7: Ozone Depleting Substances and Other Halocarbons Regulation (Provincial BC)

- **Description:** Governs management and reporting of ozone-depleting substances and halocarbons beyond the scope of the BC Carbon Neutral Regulation.
- **Associated Metrics:** 4.5 Fugitive refrigerant emissions; 4.5 Refrigeration equipment inventory

A. 8: Post-Secondary Capital Project Requirements (Provincial BC)

- **Description:** Defines funding and approval requirements for institutional capital projects.
- **Associated Metrics:** 4.4 Percent floor area that meets or exceeds energy and climate resiliency standards

A. 9: University Act (Provincial BC)

- **Description:** Governs university operations and financial stewardship.
- **Associated Metrics:** 4.4 Percent floor area that meets or exceeds energy and climate resiliency standards; 5.3 Carbon intensity of investment portfolio; 5.3 Percent investment allocated to sustainability investments

A. 10: Zero Carbon Step Code (Capital Regional District)

- **Description:** Establishes municipal requirements for zero-carbon new construction, informing building performance metrics.
- **Associated Metrics:** 4.2 Fuel switching; 4.3 Campus Energy Use Intensity (EUI); 4.4 Percent floor area that meets or exceeds energy and climate resiliency standards

A. 11: Zero Emission Vehicles Act (Provincial BC)

- **Description:** Mandates the transition to zero-emission vehicles, influencing fleet decarbonization and transportation-related reporting.
- **Associated Metrics:** 4.6 Mobile emissions; 4.6 Fleet electrification; 5.2 Commute modal split; 5.2 Commuting emissions (Scope 3)

B. INSTITUTIONAL (UVIC) STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

B.1: Building and Grounds Usage Policy (BP3105)

- **Description:** Directs operational practices that affect building energy consumption and performance. (Mandated review: 2024)
- **Associated Metrics:** 4.3 Campus Energy Use Intensity (EUI)

B. 2: Campus Plan

- **Description:** Establishes a long-term vision and land-use framework guiding campus growth, infrastructure development, mobility networks, and public realm design, integrating sustainability principles into planning decisions that shape energy use, transportation patterns, and climate resilience outcomes.

B. INSTITUTIONAL (UVIC) STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS CONT...

B. 3: Campus Cycling Plan

- **Description:** Provides a coordinated approach to support cycling as a safe, convenient, and preferred mode of transportation on campus, guiding infrastructure development and policy measures that influence sustainable commuting behaviour.
- **Associated Metrics:** 5.2 Commute modal split; 5.2 Commuting emissions (Scope 3)

B. 4: Climate and Sustainability Action Plan 2030 (CSAP)

- **Description:** Establishes institutional climate targets and actions that provide the strategic framework for benchmarking and reporting measurable progress across operational areas within the Vice-President Finance and Operations portfolio.
- **Target 1:** 50% reduction by 2030; net zero by 2040
  - **Associated Metrics:** 4.2 Fuel switching; 4.3 Campus Energy Use Intensity (EUI); 4.4 Percent floor area that meets or exceeds energy and climate resiliency standards; 4.5 Fugitive refrigerant emissions; 4.5 Refrigeration equipment inventory; 4.6 Mobile emissions; 4.6 Fleet electrification
- **Strategy 9.1:** Foster a campus culture that integrates climate and sustainability into operational, administrative, and financial planning processes. ***Actions 9.1.1–9.1.5***
  - **Associated Metrics:** 5.3 Carbon intensity of investment portfolio; 5.3 Percent investment allocated to sustainability investments
- **Strategy 9.3** Employ purchasing and supply management services that apply sustainability principles resulting in the lowest negative environmental impact and the highest positive social outcomes. ***Actions 9.3.2–9.3.4***
  - **Associated Metrics:** 5.1 Paper emissions (Scope 3)
- **Strategy 10.1:** Construct, renovate, maintain and operate campus buildings and infrastructure in a manner that promotes whole systems thinking and innovation. ***Actions 10.1.2, 10.1.3, 10.1.5, 10.1.8, 10.1.10***
  - **Associated Metrics:** 4.2 Fuel switching; 4.3 Campus Energy Use Intensity (EUI); 4.4 Percent floor area that meets or exceeds energy and climate resiliency standards; 4.5 Fugitive refrigerant emissions; 4.5 Refrigeration equipment inventory
- **Strategy 10.3:** Support and promote sustainable transportation choices and infrastructure for the campus community and visitors, lower emissions, support healthy communities and act as a hub in a regional sustainable transportation network. ***Actions 10.3.1–10.3.3, 10.3.6, 10.3.7***
  - **Associated Metrics:** 5.2 Commute modal split; 5.2 Commuting emissions (Scope 3); 4.6 Fleet electrification
- **Goal 11:** Establish baseline tracking for employee commuting
  - **Associated Metrics:** 5.2 Commuting emissions (Scope 3)

B. 5: Flexible Work

- **Description:** Encourages flexible work arrangements, influencing commuting behavior and associated emissions.
- **Associated Metrics:** 5.2 Commute modal split; 5.2 Commuting emissions (Scope 3)

B. 6: Motor Vehicle Policy (AD2315)

- **Description:** Establishes governance for fleet management and supports fleet electrification objectives. *(Mandated review: 2022)*
- **Associated Metrics:** 4.6 Mobile emissions; 4.6 Fleet electrification

B. INSTITUTIONAL (UVIC) STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS CONT...

B. 7: Purchasing Policy (FM5105)

- **Description:** Defines procurement processes from goods and services. *(Mandated review: 2024)*
- **Associated Metrics:** 4.6 Mobile emissions; 4.6 Fleet electrification; 5.1 Paper emissions (Scope 3)

B. 8: Responsible Investment Policy (FM5215)

- **Description:** Defines sustainability-oriented investment practices, shaping reporting on ESG-aligned financial performance *(Mandated review: 2032).*
- **Associated Metrics:** 5.3 Carbon intensity of investment portfolio; 5.3 Percent investment allocated to sustainability investments.

B. 9: Risk Appetite Framework

- **Description:** Outlines UVic's tolerance for operational disruption and infrastructure risk.
- **Associated Metrics:** Part 4: Climate Resilience

B. 10: Space Planning, Management and Optimization (BP3150)

- **Description:** Supports efficient space utilization, influencing building energy intensity outcomes. *(Mandated review: 2033)*
- **Associated Metrics:** 4.3 Campus Energy Use Intensity (EUI)

B. 11: Strategic Energy Management Plan

- **Description:** Guides campus energy reduction and decarbonization efforts, directly informing energy and fuel-switching metrics.
- **Associated Metrics:** 5.1 Paper emissions (Scope 3))

B. 12: Strategic Plan

- **Description:** Articulates UVic's overarching vision, values, and institutional priorities, guiding decision-making and aligning academic, operational, and capital planning toward contributing to a sustainable future for people and the planet through integrated research, education, and campus operations.

B. 13: Supplier Code of Conduct

- **Description:** Sets minimum environmental and ethical expectations for suppliers..
- **Associated Metrics:** 5.3 Carbon intensity of investment portfolio; 5.3 Percent investment allocated to sustainability investments.

B. 14: Transportation Demand Management Principles

- **Description:** Guides strategies to reduce single-occupancy vehicle use and overall travel demand.
- **Associated Metrics:** 5.2 Commute modal split; 5.2 Commuting emissions (Scope 3)

B. 15: Working Capital Investment Policy (FM5200)

- **Description:** Ensures responsible stewardship of financial assets, including integration of sustainability considerations. *(Mandated review: 2027).*
- **Associated Metrics:** 5.3 Carbon intensity of investment portfolio; 5.3 Percent investment allocated to sustainability investment

C. REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE FRAMEWORKS

C. 1: AASHE STARS

- **Description:** Provides a standardized sustainability tracking, assessment, and rating framework for post-secondary institutions.
  - **STARS Credit:** Building Design and Construction (OP 1)
    - **Associated Metrics:** 4.4 Percent floor area that meets or exceeds energy and climate resiliency standards
  - **STARS Credit:** Energy Use (OP 5)
    - **Associated Metrics:** 4.2 Fuel switching; 4.3 Campus Energy Use Intensity (EUI)
  - **STARS Credit:** Greenhouse Gas Emissions (OP 6)
    - **Associated Metrics:** 3.1 Emissions summary; 4.2 Fuel switching; 4.5 Fugitive refrigerant emissions; 4.6 Mobile emissions; 5.1 Paper emissions (Scope 3); 5.2 Commuting emissions (Scope 3
  - **STARS Credit:** Purchased Goods and Services (OP 10)
    - **Associated Metrics:** 5.1 Paper emissions (Scope 3)
  - **STARS Credit:** Vehicle Fleet (OP 13)
    - **Associated Metrics:** 4.6 Mobile emissions; 4.6 Fleet electrification
  - **STARS Credit:** Commute Modal Split (OP 14)
    - **Associated Metrics:** 5.2 Commuting emissions (Scope 3)
  - **STARS Credit:** Commitments and Planning (PA 2)
    - **Associated Metrics:** 4.4 Percent floor area that meets or exceeds energy and climate resiliency standards
  - **STARS Credit:** Sustainable Investment Program (PA 4)
    - **Associated Metrics:** 5.3 Sustainable investment allocation
  - **STARS Credit:** Investment Holdings (PA 5)
    - **Associated Metrics:** 5.3 Sustainable investment allocation

C.2: BC Carbon Neutral Government Program

- **Description:** Provincial reporting framework requiring standardized emissions disclosure and offsetting for public sector organizations.
- **Associated Metrics:** All Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, and selected Scope 3 emissions (e.g., paper)

C.3: UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)

- **Description:** Framework for incorporating environmental, social, and governance factors into investment decision-making.
- **Associated Metrics:** 5.3 Carbon intensity of investment portfolio; 5.3 Percent investment allocated to sustainability investments

C.4: UN Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges

- **Description:** Global initiative committing institutions to achieve net zero emissions.
- **Associated Metrics:** 4.2 Fuel switching; 4.3 Campus Energy Use Intensity (EUI); 4.4 Percent floor area that meets or exceeds energy and climate resiliency standards; 4.5 Fugitive refrigerant emissions; 4.6 Mobile emissions; 5.2 Commuting emissions (Scope 3)

GLOSSARY

This glossary is not intended to be exhaustive; rather, it provides definitions for key terminology used throughout this document. Definitions are drawn from legislation and relevant reporting frameworks, with sources cited alongside each term. The university acknowledges that terminology within the climate and sustainability field can vary, with multiple definitions often existing for the same term. For the purposes of this glossary, the aim is to offer clarity and support the reader's understanding of the document.

AASHE Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS)

- A transparent, self-reporting framework developed by AASHE for colleges and universities to measure sustainability performance across Academics, Engagement, Operations, and Planning & Administration. Institutions earn ratings from Reporter to Platinum. [AASHE STARS]

Base year emissions recalculation

- Recalculation of base year emissions to reflect structural or methodological changes, ensuring consistency over time. [GHG Protocol Scope 3 Standard]

BC Carbon Neutral Program

- A policy requiring BC public sector organizations to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through reductions and carbon offsets, legislated under the Climate Change Accountability Act. [Government of BC]

Biogenic CO_2 emissions

- CO_2 emissions from combustion or biodegradation of biomass[GHG Protocol Scope 3 Standard]

Biomass

- Organic non-fossil material from living organisms used as fuel or energy source. [GHG Protocol Scope 3 Standard]

Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e)

- A unit that expresses the global warming potential of greenhouse gases relative to CO_2. [2025 B.C. Best Practices Methodology]

Carbon neutral

- A state where emissions are minimized and netted to zero in accordance with the Climate Change Accountability Act. [Climate Change Accountability Act]

Carbon Offset (BC Carbon Neutral Program)

- A verified reduction or removal of one tonne of CO_2e used to offset emissions under BC regulatory frameworks. [Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act]

Community development financial institutions (CDFIs)

- Locally controlled financial intermediaries focused on community development (e.g., credit unions, microfinance). [PA 5: Investment Holdings]

Climate change risks

- Risks to BC that may result from a changing climate. [Climate Change Accountability Act]

Direct emissions

- Emissions from sources owned or controlled by an organization. [2025 B.C. Best Practices Methodology]

Downstream emissions

- Indirect emissions from sold or distributed goods and services. [GHG Protocol Scope 3 Standard]

Energy Use Intensity (EUI)

- A measure of a building's energy efficiency based on energy use per unit of floor area.

ESG focused funds

- An approach to investing that uses specific factors, standards, and/or criteria to screen investments for social and environmental responsibility and/or sustainability performance. UVic scope: The entire Working Capital Investments is governed by the RI Policy [PA 5: Investment Holdings]

Financial control

- Authority to direct financial and operating policies to gain economic benefits.[GHG Protocol Scope 3 Standard]

Fuel switching

- Transition from high-carbon fuels to cleaner energy sources (e.g., electrification in BC).

Fugitive emissions

- Uncontrolled gas releases such as leaks or refrigerant emissions.[2025 B.C. Best Practices Methodology]

Global warming potential (GWP)

- A measure of how much heat a greenhouse gas traps compared to CO_2. [GHG Protocol Scope 3 Standard]

Green revolving funds

- Internal funds that finance sustainability projects and are replenished through savings generated. [PA 5: Investment Holdings]

Greenhouse gas

- Gases contributing to climate change, including CO_2, methane, nitrous oxide, and others. [Climate Change Accountability Act]

Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) – non-offsetable

- Refrigerants that deplete ozone and are not included in BC's offset program scope.

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) – non-offsetable

- High-GWP refrigerants without emission factors in BC reporting, not currently offsetable.

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) – offsetable

- High-GWP refrigerants with emission factors and eligible for carbon offsetting.

Indirect emissions

- Emissions resulting from an organization's activities but occurring from external sources. [GHG Protocol Scope 3 Standard]

Investment pool

- A grouped set of institutional investment assets including endowments and reserves. [PA 5: Investment Holdings]

Lifecycle emissions

- Lifecycle emissions account for all emissions relating to the production, use, and end-of-life of a product, including the extraction of raw materials, product manufacturing, and intermediate transport steps. [2025 B.C. Best Practices Methodology]

Material scope 3 emissions

- Scope 3 emissions that make up a significant portion of an organization's total greenhouse gas footprint. For example: Scope 3 emissions that represent more than 40% of total Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. [Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi)]

Motor vehicle

- A self-propelled vehicle not operating on rails. [Motor Vehicle Act]

Net zero

- A state where human-caused emissions are balanced by removals over time. [Race to Zero lexicon]

Off-Road Vehicle

- A self-propelled vehicle designed for off-road use as defined by regulation. [Off-Road Vehicle Act]

Operational boundaries

- Defined limits for direct and indirect emissions in operations.[GHG Protocol Scope 3 Standard]

Operational control

- Accounting approach covering emissions from operations under organizational control. [GHG Protocol Scope 3 Standard]

Organizational boundaries

- Defines which operations are included in emissions reporting.[GHG Protocol Scope 3 Standard]

Other Halocarbon

- Substances including HFCs and PFCs listed under BC regulation.[Ozone Depleting Substances Regulation]

Ozone depleting substance

- Chemicals listed under regulated classes that harm the ozone layer. [Ozone Depleting Substances Regulation]

Place-based investment

- Investments targeting positive impacts in under served communities. [PA 5: Investment Holdings]

Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges

- A global initiative encouraging higher education institutions to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. [Race to Zero partner]

Scope 1 emissions

- Direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. [GHG Protocol Scope 3 Standard]

Scope 2 emissions

- Indirect emissions from purchased energy. [GHG Protocol Scope 3 Standard]

Scope 3 emissions

- All other indirect emissions across the value chain. [GHG Protocol Scope 3 Standard]

Screening (Positive-screened businesses)

- Use of filters to include or exclude investments based on ESG or ethical criteria. [PA 5: Investment Holdings]

Sustainability-focused sectors

- Investment categories targeting sustainability-related outcomes. [PA 5: Investment Holdings]

Upstream emissions

- Indirect emissions from purchased goods and services. [GHG Protocol Scope 3 Standard]

Value chain

- All upstream and downstream activities linked to operations. [GHG Protocol Scope 3 Standard]

Value chain emissions

- Emissions across the entire value chain.[GHG Protocol Scope 3 Standard]

Working capital investment pool (UVic)

- The working capital pool reflects funds arising from university operations—such as insurance reserves, deferred operating budgets and capital project reserves—and is managed by external investment professionals. It is distinct from pensions, endowments and the Student Investment Fund, which are governed separately.

Zero emission vehicle (ZEV)

- A vehicle powered by electricity or hydrogen that emits no GHGs during operation at least part of the time. [Zero Emission Vehicles Act]