



University
of Victoria

2019 CARBON NEUTRAL ACTION REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA



Sustainability in action.

May 30, 2020

Executive summary

This Carbon Neutral Action Report is for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2019. The report summarizes the University of Victoria's (UVic) greenhouse gas emissions, the amount of offsets purchased to reach net zero emissions, the actions undertaken to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and the university's plans to continue reducing emissions in 2020 and beyond.

In response to COVID-19, the university's greenhouse gas emissions and required offsets were calculated using the 2018 greenhouse gas emissions as a placeholder. The total greenhouse gas emissions UVic is required to offset is 11,587 tCO₂e for 2019. Adjustments to UVic's 2019 greenhouse gas emissions will be accounted for the 2020 reporting year.

Several initiatives to reduce emissions were undertaken in 2019, including retrofit and optimization programs in campus buildings, energy efficiency studies and several behavioural change campaigns. In addition, the university completed the final report for the *Sustainability Action Plan: Campus Operations 2014-2019*. The report provided an opportunity to benchmark the university's progress toward 32 goals in eleven sections. The university made significant progress in several areas, eighteen goals were achieved, nine were in progress,

two required re-examination and three goals were not achieved. Addressing climate change through greenhouse gas emissions reductions projects continues to be a key objective.

In 2020, the new District Energy Plant is scheduled to be fully operational and the district energy loop will be decommissioned. The project will have the single biggest impact in helping UVic meet its greenhouse gas reduction goal of 30 percent below 2010 levels by December 31, 2021. In addition, the university will undertake two strategic planning projects to identify long-term emission reduction strategies.



Kristi Simpson

Associate Vice-President, Financial Planning and Operations
University of Victoria



Declaration statement

This Carbon Neutral Action Report for the period January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 summarizes our emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2019 to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2020 and beyond.

Emissions and offset summary

In response to COVID-19, the BC Climate Action Secretariat issued a Directive on March 31, 2020. As a result, the emissions and offsets for the 2019 reporting year were calculated using the 2018 greenhouse gas emissions as a placeholder. Adjustments to UVic's 2019 greenhouse gas emissions will be accounted for the 2020 reporting year.

The University of Victoria's GHG Emissions and Offsets for 2019

As per the Directive issued March 31, 2020, each PSO will use their 2018 GHG Emissions as a placeholder for the purposes of their 2019 CNAR.

Total Emissions (tCO₂e)	11,603
Total BioCO₂	16
Total Offsets (tCO₂e)	11,587
Offset Investment (\$25 per tCO₂e)	\$289,675.00 (plus GST)

Table 1: 2019 greenhouse gas emissions and offsets for the University of Victoria.



The new District Energy Plant is scheduled to be fully operational in 2020.

Retirement of offsets statement

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, the University of Victoria (**the Organization**) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2019 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years (if applicable). The Organization hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (**the Ministry**) ensuring that these offsets are retired on the Organization's behalf, the Organization will pay within 30 days, the associated invoice to be issued by the Ministry in an amount equal to \$25 per tonne of offsets retired on its behalf plus GST.

The total greenhouse gas emissions UVic is required to offset is 11,587 tCO₂e for 2019.

Overview

The following sections were completed using qualitative data from 2019.

Actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in 2019

The university continued to complete building energy efficiency projects in the 2019/2020 financial year; these included:

- Optimization work and/or lighting upgrades in the following buildings:
 - Centennial Stadium Building
 - Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities
 - Continuing Studies Building
 - Ian Stewart Complex
 - MacLaurin D-Wing Building
 - Michael Williams Building
- A detailed review of the energy use of the Student Union Building was completed in March, 2019 to identify high yield and/or low payback opportunities.
- The final report of the *Sustainability Action Plan: Campus Operations 2014-2019* was completed in December 2019, which benchmarked the university's progress toward 32 goals and provided actions for the *Sustainability Action Plan: Campus Operations 2020-2021*.

The university completed several behaviour change campaigns to target greenhouse gas emissions. With funding from BC Hydro's Energy Wise Network program, the Staff Sustainability Network (SSN) continued with behavioural change activities involving staff and faculty through the Holiday Device Shutdown. Through an online survey and shutdown toolkit, the university was able to track the number of participants and reduction in plug load power of each device. The SSN's Holiday Device Shutdown complemented the campus shutdown managed by the Controls Groups within Facilities Management. From December 23 to January 2, the heating and lighting schedules were reduced across campus buildings. In addition, as a result of the

SSN's engagement, over 100 staff and faculty participated in the Holiday Device Shutdown campaign adding to a reduction in the total energy consumption for this period.

The university continued the electrification of its fleet in the 2019/2020 financial year and now has 14 Nissan Leafs utilized by Facilities Management for tool and trade transport. UVic's *Sustainability Action Plan: Campus Operations 2020-2021* outlines further actions to be taken towards harmonizing fleet management with the Clean BC Plan goal of a 40 per cent reduction in fleet emissions by 2030.



In December 2019, the university completed the *Campus Greenway Landscape Plan and Design Guidelines*. The plan will serve to support and coordinate the implementation of landscape and public realm improvements to the multi-modal pathway through the campus. The plan further harmonizes the cycling and pedestrian connections with the Districts of Saanich and Oak Bay, and contributes to UVic's transportation modal-split goal. The university was a gold-level sponsor for the 2019 Greater Victoria Bike to Work Week (BTWW) as an opportunity to promote active transportation to campus. The 2019 BTWW had the highest participation rate, with 500 participants cycling over 17,000 km from May 27 to June 2.

Plans to continue to reduce emissions in 2020 and beyond

UVic will further reduce greenhouse gases in 2020 through the following activities:

- Conduct building optimization and/or lighting upgrades in the following buildings:
 - Business and Economics Building
 - Bob Wright Centre
 - Engineering and Computer Science Building
 - Engineering Lab Wing Building
 - Human and Social Development Building
 - Strong Building
 - University Centre Building
- Implement actions identified in the *Sustainability Action Plan: Campus Operations 2020-2021* to achieve greenhouse gas reductions across the university's Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions portfolios.

- Implement projects through the UVic Revolving Sustainability Loan Fund.
- Commission the District Energy Plant and decommission the district energy loop.
- Implement the Campus Cycling Plan's Dawnview Crescent CARSA pathway and the University Drive Connection pathway improvements to enable the university to increase the rate of active transportation to campus.
- Begin construction of the new Student Housing and Dining project. The design and construction of the new buildings will meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold and Passive House standards, the most rigorous global standards for sustainability and energy efficiency.

The university has undertaken two strategic planning projects to identify long-term emission reduction strategies. The Climate and Sustainability Action Plan and the Carbon Reduction Plan will provide comprehensive plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve the university's Strategic Framework's "Promote Sustainable Futures" section.

For additional information on sustainability, along with greenhouse gas reporting and energy initiatives at the University of Victoria, please see our website at uvic.ca/sustainability uvic.ca/sustainability.

