

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

2023-2027

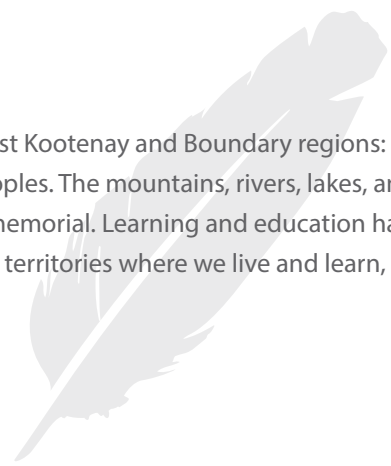


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TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Selkirk College acknowledges the traditional territories of the First Nations of the West Kootenay and Boundary regions: the Sinixt (Lakes), the Syilx (Okanagan), the Ktunaxa, and the Secwépemc (Shuswap) peoples. The mountains, rivers, lakes, and lands of these territories have sustained life and human communities since time immemorial. Learning and education have been part of this land for millennia. Selkirk College is grateful to the keepers of these territories where we live and learn, and the wisdom and beauty that surrounds us.



SUSTAINABILITY AT SELKIRK COLLEGE

Selkirk College will take a future-focused, action-oriented and collaborative approach to the interconnected sustainability challenges of our time. The college is committed to integrating sustainability into student learning, services, operations, work force development, and campus culture. Our approach to climate action will include measures to adapt to projected climate impacts and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) as we recognize the need to build resilience. Selkirk College will support students and employees to become informed citizens, equipped with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to bring about necessary global transformations.

Advancing sustainability at Selkirk College requires the dedication of the entire institution. The following plan highlights these college-wide goals.



Selkirk College is a proud member of the [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education \(AASHE\)](#) and participates in the [Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System \(STARS\)](#). STARS is a transparent, self-

reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. Selkirk College achieved a silver STARS rating in both 2016 and 2019. Results of these reports have helped guide progress towards a more sustainable future. Selkirk College's Sustainability Plan has been developed to align with the four categories of STARS: Academics & Applied Research, Engagement, Operations, and Planning & Administration.



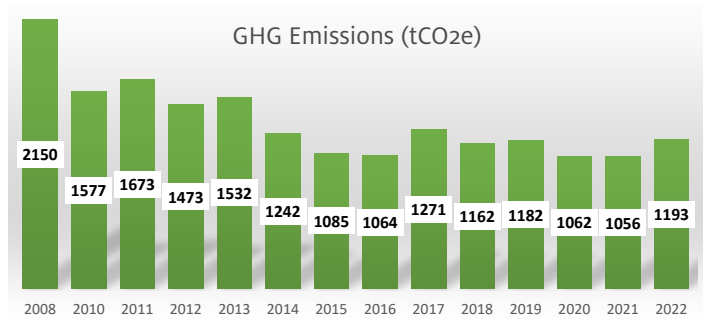
Selkirk College was the first post-secondary institution in Canada to sign the [Sustainable Development Goals Accord](#), the university and college's collective response to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs provide a framework

to address the complex challenges of our time and achieve a better and more sustainable future for all, leaving no one behind. In 2015, all 193 United Nations member states unanimously agreed to work towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The SDGs aim to alleviate human suffering and halt environmental degradation, while supporting economic growth, creating clean and affordable energy, and addressing climate change. The 17 goals work within five key areas: people, planet, prosperity, peace, and

partnership. At Selkirk College, we recognize our central and transformational role in achieving the SDGs and by signing the SDG Accord, have committed to deliver the goals, report on our progress and share knowledge and learning with others world-wide.

As a Public Sector Organization in British Columbia, Selkirk College is mandated under the province's *Carbon Neutral Government Regulation*, which has achieved carbon neutrality across B.C.'s public sector since 2010. The college submits an annual Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR) that quantifies annual emissions from direct and indirect sources, including buildings, fleet vehicles, and paper procurement. All operational greenhouse gas emissions are offset each year. Selkirk College aligns with the following provincial public sector greenhouse gas emission targets set out within this regulation:

- Reduce building associated emissions by 35% below 2010 levels by 2025 and by 50% below 2010 levels by 2030.
- Reduce fleet associated emissions by 40% below 2010 levels by 2030.



Selkirk College-wide emissions (all campuses)

Selkirk College is a signatory of the Global Climate Letter and a partner to the [Race to Zero](#) for universities and colleges. We have pledged to achieve net zero by 2030.



Net zero will be achieved by actively and continually eliminating emissions from college operations and offsetting those emissions that have not yet been eliminated. The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol classifies emissions into three scopes: Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions from

our college operations. These result from burning fossil fuels to heat and cool college buildings and from fueling college-owned fleet vehicles. Scope 2 are indirect emissions associated with the generation of purchased energy. Scope 3 emissions are all other indirect emissions, both upstream and downstream as seen in Figure 1. For Selkirk College, these include emissions from college business travel, commuting, waste, food, and other procurement.

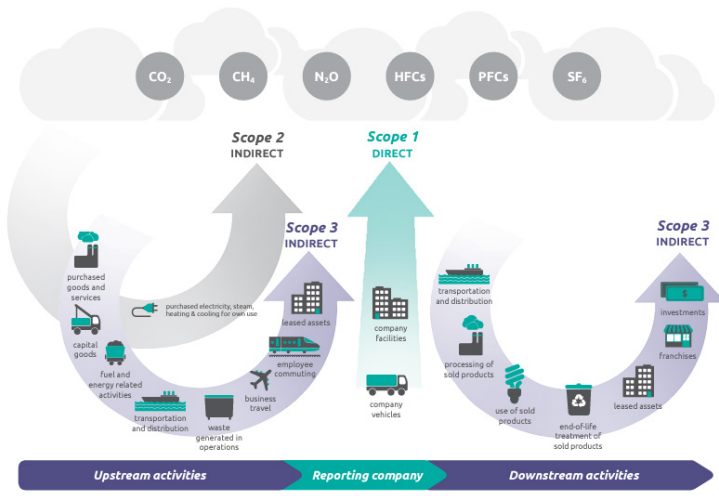


Figure 1: Scope of emissions. Source: Greenhouse Gas Protocol

Selkirk College has reported and offset all Scope 1 and 2 emissions and partial Scope 3 emissions since 2010 via the BC Carbon Neutral Government Regulation. We will continue to reduce these emissions and offset the remainder annually. Within our own race to zero, additional Scope 3 emissions will be inventoried annual, reduced where feasible, and addressed via offset projects. Leading up to 2030 we will be expanding our Scope 3 emissions inventory and exploring opportunities to reduce and offset these emissions sources, including those from business travel, employee commuting, waste production and select procurement.

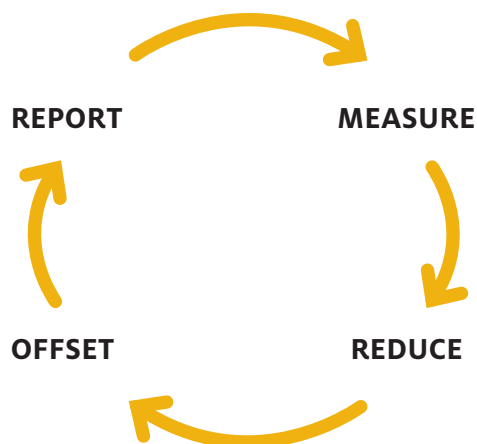


Figure 2: Annual steps to achieve net zero

The following outlines the college’s annual process to achieve net zero:

1. Measure greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) annually.

- Selkirk College’s annual Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR) quantifies all Scope 1 and 2 emissions and partial Scope 3 emissions. Selkirk College’s scope 3 emissions inventory will continue to expand as we move toward 2023.

2. Reduce emissions of college operations.

- Selkirk College will continue to reduce emissions from multiple sources and emphasize reduction prior to offsetting measures.

3. Offset remaining emissions.

- Emissions that have not yet been eliminated will be offset through carbon sequestration projects and through the purchase of carbon offsets. Measures will be taken to ensure all offsets meet standards for additionality, verifiability, traceability and performance.

4. Report annual emissions and purchased offsets.

- Selkirk College’s annual CCAR will act as an annual emissions report, showing offsets for emissions from buildings, fleet vehicles and paper procurement. The college will supplement this report with a separate summary of Scope 3 emissions.

Selkirk College’s plan to achieve net zero will be reviewed and adapted as needed.





ACADEMICS & APPLIED RESEARCH

GOAL

- Embed sustainability themes within courses, training programs, and applied research college-wide.

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

- Increase sustainability-defined course offerings by 20% across the curriculum.
- Provide ongoing support and mentorship to faculty to help build sustainability into the curriculum.
- Encourage research applications to outline how projects will contribute to the SDGs.
- Utilize the campus as a living laboratory for multidisciplinary learning and applied research related to sustainability.
- Develop work-integrated learning and internship opportunities, or micro-credentials for students to develop expertise in the SDGs and related disciplines.
- Facilitate at least three SDG-themed workshops to employees and students annually.
- Assess sustainability literacy via online assessment to the predominant student body annually.
- Offer at least one immersive, sustainability-focused educational study program that is one week or more in length, annually.
- Offer funded extracurricular opportunities for students to be involved with sustainability initiatives.
- Identify and highlight initiatives across the college that contribute to the SDGs.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- [Selkirk Innovates](#) supports economic development, regional collaboration, social innovation, technology adoption and rural capacity building.
- The [State of the Basin](#) research initiative conducted by Selkirk Innovates, including research interns, examines indicators of environmental, social, economic, and cultural indicators of well-being for our rural region, including linking indicators to the SDGs.
- Campus infrastructure, lands and operations are utilized as a living laboratory for learning and research across departments, contributing to furthering sustainability efforts.
- [Integrated Environmental Planning](#) and [Peace and Justice Studies](#) programs both have curriculum with a sustainability-focus.



As of fall 2022, 50% of our surveyed campus community have had conversations about climate change within the classroom.

It is very important to 58% of our campus community that climate change is incorporated into the curriculum.

In 2019, 60% of Selkirk College academic departments had sustainability course offerings.

ENGAGEMENT

GOAL

- Engage the campus and surrounding community in opportunities for sustainability-related learning and action outside of the classroom.

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

- Incorporate sustainability themes and the SDGs into all student and employee orientation events, as well as additional campus events.
- Establish peer-to-peer educators program on Castlegar Campus.
- Increase social media following by 20% by 2024 and 40% by 2026.
- Host an annual outreach campaign that yields measurable, positive results in advancing sustainability performance.
- Encourage and support campus community to engage in community service.
- Make professional development and training opportunities in sustainability available to all employees annually.
- Offer continuing education courses and programs in sustainability.

- Collaborate with other colleges and universities to help accelerate the sustainability movement.
- Collaborate with community organizations to host an annual sustainability-related event.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Student-based Sustainability Club is supported annually.
- Work study students are employed annually within sustainability-focused positions.
- Selkirk College won the BC Cool Campus Challenge in 2019 and 2020, an energy conservation challenge which aims to shift energy conservation behaviours.
- Selkirk College partners with community organizations, collaborating on projects and providing networking opportunities to students.



When asked how best to describe their relationship to the environmental movement in Canada, 56% of the college community said they were supportive, but inactive, and 28% described themselves as supportive and active.

OPERATIONS

GOAL

- Integrate respect for the land and natural environment, sustainable practices, carbon footprint reduction and responsible use of natural resources into operations, including our building operations, grounds management, dining services and resource consumption.

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

- Reduce building associated emissions by 60% below 2010 levels by 2027.
- Ensure all new construction meets Step 4 energy code and LEED Gold requirements.
- Reduce waste generated by 20% below 2008 levels by 2027.
- Reduce emissions from paper procurement by 50% below 2010 levels by 2027.
- Expand organic waste collection program to Tenth Street and Silver King campuses by fall 2024.
- Implement reusable to-go container program in all cafeterias by Fall 2023.
- Conduct a commuter survey in winter 2023 to determine baseline emissions data associated with employee and student commuting.
- Implement a carbon offset program to address all college business travel by 2027.
- Emphasize electric vehicle options when purchasing future fleet vehicles.
- Install 4 EV charging stations at Castlegar Campus by 2025.
- Increase percentage of total annual food and beverage expenditures on products that are sustainably or ethically produced and/or plant-based by 10% each year.
- Publish written policies, guidelines or directives to support sustainable and ethical purchasing.

- Collaborate with Grounds Committee to publish a Landscape Management Plan by 2027.
- Maintain Fair Trade Campus designation.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Building associated emissions reduced by 37% in 2021 based on 2010 levels.
- 275 solar panels were installed on Castlegar Campus library roof in 2019 and 46 bifacial panels were installed as a ground mount solar array beside Mir Centre for Peace in 2020.
- Emissions from paper procurement have reduced by 37% based on 2010 levels.
- Selkirk College purchases Sugar Sheet paper made from waste fibre from sugar cane processing.
- Bioswales on Castlegar Campus capture storm water runoff, and prevent or delay it from entering the Columbia River.
- An electric vehicle was added to the college fleet in 2018.
- Selkirk College was the first community college in Canada to gain a Fair Trade Campus designation, and has maintained this certification since 2013.



95% of our campus community think that climate change is a global emergency.

Nearly 90% of surveyed Selkirk College students said they recycle and 50% said they composted organic waste.

Over 90% of our campus community stated that it is either very or somewhat important that Selkirk College takes significant actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change.



PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION

GOAL

- Ensure planning, coordination and decision-making supports the move towards a more sustainable future, delivering on the SDGs and improved STARS rating.

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

- Maintain at least one full-time equivalent sustainability employee and seek funding opportunities to support internships.
- Update Selkirk College's Environmental Sustainability Policy to reflect commitment to deliver on the SDGs by 2024.
- Establish procedures for investment screening to ensure promotion of sustainability by 2027.
- Maintain a Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee that advise on and implements policies and programs related to EDI on campus.

Over 90% of surveyed students said they either agreed or strongly agreed with Selkirk College's commitment to sustainability.

- Assess diversity and equity on campus, looking at campus culture, as well as student and employee outcomes via a survey.
- Offer cultural competency, anti-racism and/or social inclusion trainings and activities to students and employees, and tie these initiatives to corresponding SDGs.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Health & Well-Being, Reconciliation, and Diversity & Inclusion are all fundamental commitments within Selkirk College's Strategic Plan.
- Selkirk College maintains an active Sustainability Committee and has one full-time staff responsible for environmental sustainability initiatives, annual GHG emission reporting, and STARS reports.

