

NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE



## 2017 Carbon Neutral Action Report



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## Declaration Statement

This Carbon Neutral Action Report for the period January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 summarizes our emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2017 to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2017 and beyond.

By June 30, 2018 North Island College's final *Carbon Neutral Action Report* will be posted to our website at [http://www.nic.bc.ca/about\\_us/environmental.aspx](http://www.nic.bc.ca/about_us/environmental.aspx).

## Overview and Executive Summary

North Island College (NIC) is honoured to acknowledge the traditional territories of the combined 35 First Nations of the Nuu-chah-nulth, Kwakwaka'wakw and Coast Salish traditions, on whose traditional and unceded territories the college's campuses are situated.

North Island College is a comprehensive community college that focuses on student success. We proudly serve more than 9,000 students annually at our four campuses, our learning centre and through online and in-community learning. We are committed to excellence in our programs and services. The College's values frame everything we do and express our commitment to our students, communities, residents of our region and ourselves, in part through social and environmental responsibility by actively engaging in the economic and social development of our communities and as active stewards of the unique natural environment in which we reside.

We continued focusing on reducing our carbon impact in 2017. Our curricular and extra-curricular activities at North Island College teach our students to be socially and environmentally responsible citizens on and off campus. Our faculty educates students on sustainability and create unique learning opportunities that make use of our natural environment. From an operations perspective, we have ongoing commitments to refit equipment and upgrade services to improve efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. North Island College endeavors to improve and test efficient technologies for building infrastructure and communications.

Actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in 2017 include the following:

- Relocating and downsizing our Mount Waddington Campus by two-thirds to a smaller, 550 square meter facility in a more central location in Port Hardy. This allows us to better serve our students and the larger community, and reduce our carbon footprint in the process. NIC completed extensive renovations to provide a modern, up-to-date and student-focused location to support student learning while being more energy efficient and cost effective.
- Installing window film on windows in many of our buildings to reduce cooling energy use.
- Support for community initiatives such as 'Bike to Work Week' and other local community and government initiatives and awareness campaigns.
- Renewing aging domestic hot water heaters.
- Renewing aging florescent lighting with new LED lighting.
- Adding occupancy sensors to lighting switching to reduce energy usage.

North Island College's greenhouse gas emissions in 2017 were 1,101 tonnes of tCO<sub>2</sub>e. This is an increase of 104 tonnes (equivalent) from 2016 emissions.

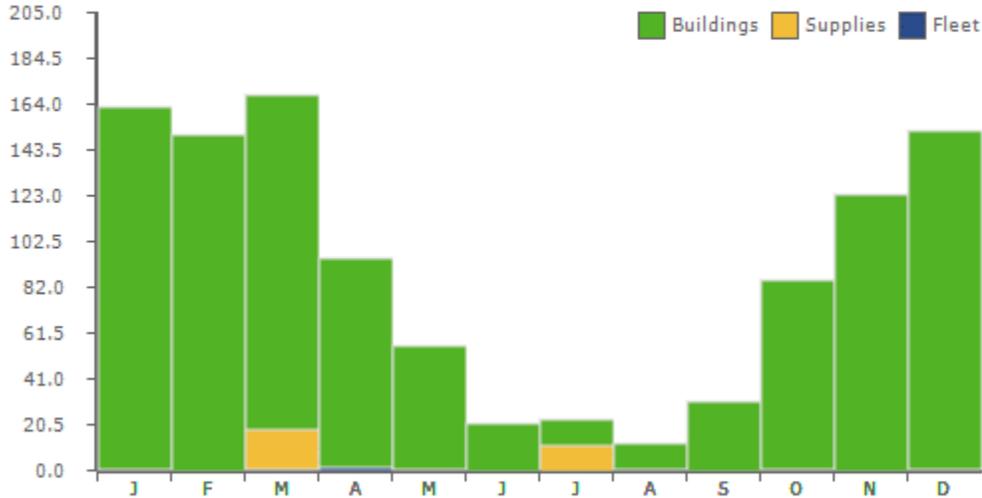
We plan to continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy conservation by educating and encouraging behavioral change. The greatest portion of the College's greenhouse gas emissions are generated by stationary fuel combustion and electricity. To improve efficiency and reduce these emissions, the College will continue to retrofit equipment and upgrade services. We will also continue to work with BC Hydro to perform energy and lighting retrofits to improve efficiency.



## Emissions and Offsets Summary:

### Total Emissions Calendar Year 2017 North Island College

Metric tonnes  
CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)



Click on the bars to view data for each month

North Island College GHG Emissions and Offset for 2017 (TCO <sub>2</sub> E)	
<b>GHG Emissions created in Calendar Year 2017</b> (from SMARTTool Homepage):	
Total Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	1,101
Total Offsets (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	1,101
<b>Adjustments to GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years</b> (from SMARTTool Homepage):	
Total Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	117
Total Offsets (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	117
<b>Grand Total Offsets for the 2017 Reporting Year</b> (from SMARTTool Homepage): (This is the total of emissions that must be offset for Reporting Year 2017)	
Grand Total Offsets (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	1,218

## Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, North Island College (the Organization) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2017 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years. The Organization hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Environment ensuring that these offsets are retired on the Organization's behalf, the Organization will pay the associated invoice to be issued by the Ministry in an amount equal to \$25 per tonne of offsets retired on its behalf plus GST.

Executive sign-off:

Signature  Date May 18/18

Name (please print) Colin Fowler Title VP, Finance & Facilities

## About North Island College<sup>1</sup>



North Island College is a comprehensive community college serving almost 155,000 residents on Vancouver Island and the central BC coast.

NIC was established in 1975 as a primarily distance education institution. It now serves students at Campbell River, Comox Valley, Port Alberni, and Mount Waddington campuses, as well as through many in-community programs delivered in partnership with remote communities across 80,000 km<sup>2</sup> from Ucluelet on Vancouver Island's West Coast to Bella Coola on the central mainland.

We are distinguished by our commitment to student success through strong partnership agreements with universities and colleges across BC, the US and around the world. NIC has been internationally recognized for its technology-enabled distance learning, and responsive in-community programs.

We proudly serve more than 9,000 students annually. To meet the education and training needs of its region, NIC offers a broad range of programs tailored to the needs of current and future students. Current programs include: adult upgrading (including adult basic education, English language training and access for students with disabilities), university transfer, business, tourism, health care, Fine Arts, Aboriginal education and Industry Training Authority (ITA) approved foundation trades, technical, and apprenticeship training. The college also offers a significant range of sector-specific industry training as well as short-term contract training and a wide range of professional and personal development courses. NIC also hosts and supports ElderCollege, which provides lectures and courses on a wide range of topics at low-cost for individuals 50 years of age and older (55+ at the Comox Valley Campus).

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<sup>1</sup> North Island College Plan 2020

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Under the British Columbia Provincial *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act*, Chapter 42, the targets established for the purpose of reducing BC greenhouse gas (GHG) tCO<sub>2</sub>e emissions are 33% by 2020 & 80% by 2050.

As well, in 2008 the BC Government reviewed and accepted the recommendations of the Climate Action Team, establishing interim GHG reduction targets of 6% below 2007 levels by 2012 and 18% by 2017. Each public sector organization, which North Island College has been categorized as, shall be carbon neutral for the 2010 calendar year and for each subsequent calendar year.

CO <sub>2</sub> e Emission Source <sup>(1)</sup>	CO <sub>2</sub> e Emissions (Tonnes)						
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Stationary Fuel Combustion & Electricity (Buildings)	1058	808	783	951	1044	1132.43	1175
Supplies (Paper)	30	62	12	43	19	6.75	42
Mobile Fuel Combustion (Fleet & Other Mobile Equipment)	13	10	4	18	11	6.43	10
<b>Total Carbon Footprint (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>1012</b>	<b>1074</b>	<b>1145.61</b>	<b>1227</b>
Emissions per Building Space (33,120.6 m <sup>2</sup> )	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.03	n/a	n/a

- (1) It was estimated that Fugitive Emissions from cooling equipment do not comprise more than 0.01% of North Island College's total emissions and an ongoing effort to collect or estimate emissions from this source would be disproportionately onerous. For this reason, emissions from this source have been deemed out-of-scope and have not been included in our total greenhouse gas emissions profile.
- (2) Due to rounding values, the total Carbon Footprint of tCO<sub>2</sub>e does not add exactly.

As seen from the table above, the vast majority of our carbon emissions are generated through building's stationary fuel combustion and electricity. North Island College's carbon footprint in 2017, in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act (as reported in SMARTTool), was 1,101 tonnes. This represents an increase of 104 tonnes from our 2016 footprint. A substantial portion of this increase results an increase in natural gas consumption, due to a cold winter in 2016-17 and an early fall in 2017, resulting in an increase in heating cost.

## Energy & Environmental Sustainability

NIC has been a member of the Pan-Canadian Protocol for Sustainability since 2010 and, by signing the protocol; we have pledged to maximize our contribution to a sustainable future. We are committed to our role as a community leader in environmental stewardship.

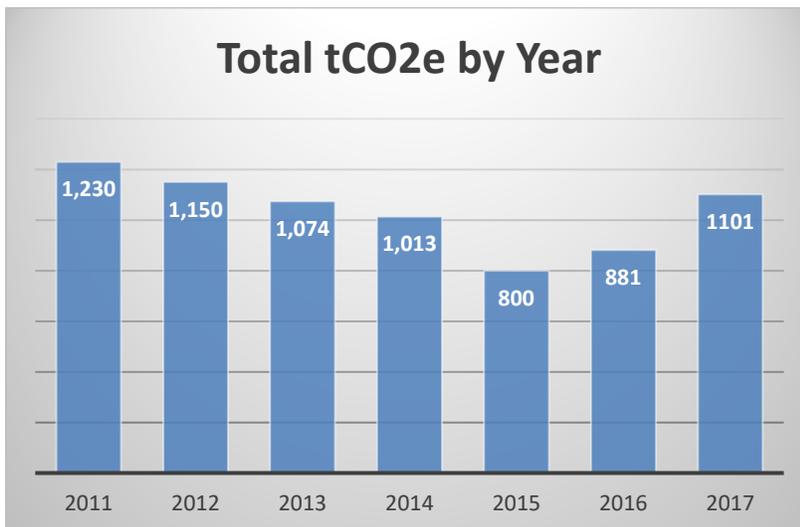
NIC has been a BC Hydro Power Smart Partner since 2002, committing to doing our part to save energy and create a culture of sustainability, adopting the principles of energy efficiency into our ongoing business management practices, and upgrading our existing facilities with energy conservation measures.

## Carbon Offsets

North Island College was carbon neutral in 2017. This was achieved through the key achievements for emissions reduction and sustainability and through carbon offsets purchased from the Climate Investment Branch of the Climate Action Secretariat. The in-scope carbon offsets tCO<sub>2</sub>e emissions in 2017 amounted to 1,101 tonnes, based upon the 2017 building energy data, paper use, and fleet information entered into Climate Action Secretariat's SMARTTool data entry program and the GHG measurements based upon this data.

## Key Achievements for Emissions Reduction & Sustainability

North Island College's greenhouse gas emissions in 2017 were 1,101 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e (equivalent). Compared to 2010, the results, as of the end of December, 2017, indicate that NIC has reduced energy consumption by 10%. This includes a 61% reduction in electricity usage, a 4% reduction in natural gas usage.



### Actions taken in 2017 to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

NIC is recognized as a leader in interactive TV course offerings, allowing rural students to attend NIC in their local communities.

Green procurement practices and product selections such as enhanced recycled paper content.

A comprehensive waste management program.

Promoting alternative transportation such as bike shelters with lockers, showers, electric vehicle charging stations.

Energy Conservation is a core consideration when completing new expansions, renovating buildings, and daily operations.

## Emission Reduction Goals for 2018

The College will continue to educate users and increase awareness of ongoing efforts to become carbon neutral. Projects already in motion for 2018 to decrease carbon offsets and reduce water use include:

- Further efficiencies with our air handling with software upgrades to our DDC Control systems and training to our facilities management staff.
- Campbell River Campus Expansion project, commencing spring 2018, with a completion date of November, 2019. The modernization of this building will provide a greatly enhanced learning environment for our students and staff. The opportunity for increased energy savings through upgraded mechanical, structural and electrical systems is also a very beneficial component of this project.
- Development of comprehensive recycling program to include staff and student participation.
- The College continues to encourage carpooling and the use of public transportation.
- Investing in energy efficient upgrades to existing infrastructure.
- Bringing in real time building energy metering for public education and awareness.
- Additional secure bicycle storage will support cycle commuting to campuses.
- Adding electric vehicle charging stations to our Comox Valley Campus.



