

# 2025 CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

## SELKIRK COLLEGE



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## Legislative Reporting Requirements

**Declaration Statement:** This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2025 to minimize our GHG emissions, and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2026 and beyond.

### Emissions Reductions: Actions & Plans

Selkirk College’s Sustainability Plan actions are working to reduce building associated emissions by 60% from 2010 levels by 2027. As of December 2025, the college has decreased building associated emissions by 38% since 2010 and will need to accelerate emissions reduction efforts to meet the 60% target by 2027. See Figures 1 and 2 for an overview of total emissions.

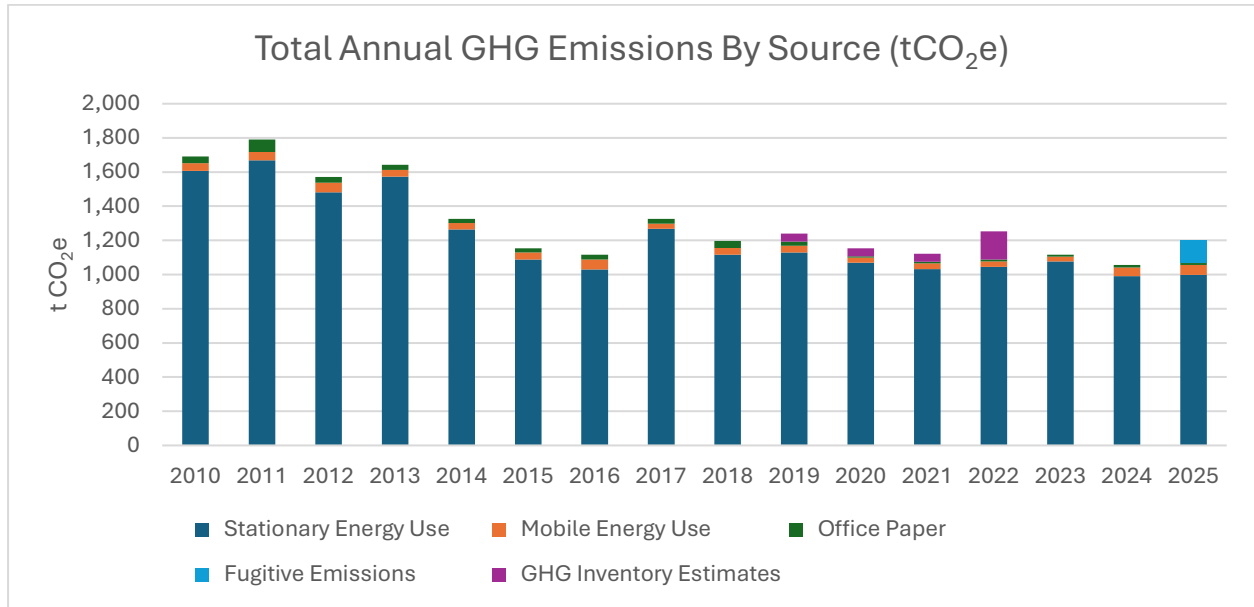


Figure 1: Total Annual GHG Emissions by Source, 2010-2025. Note: Chart includes Bio CO<sub>2</sub>.

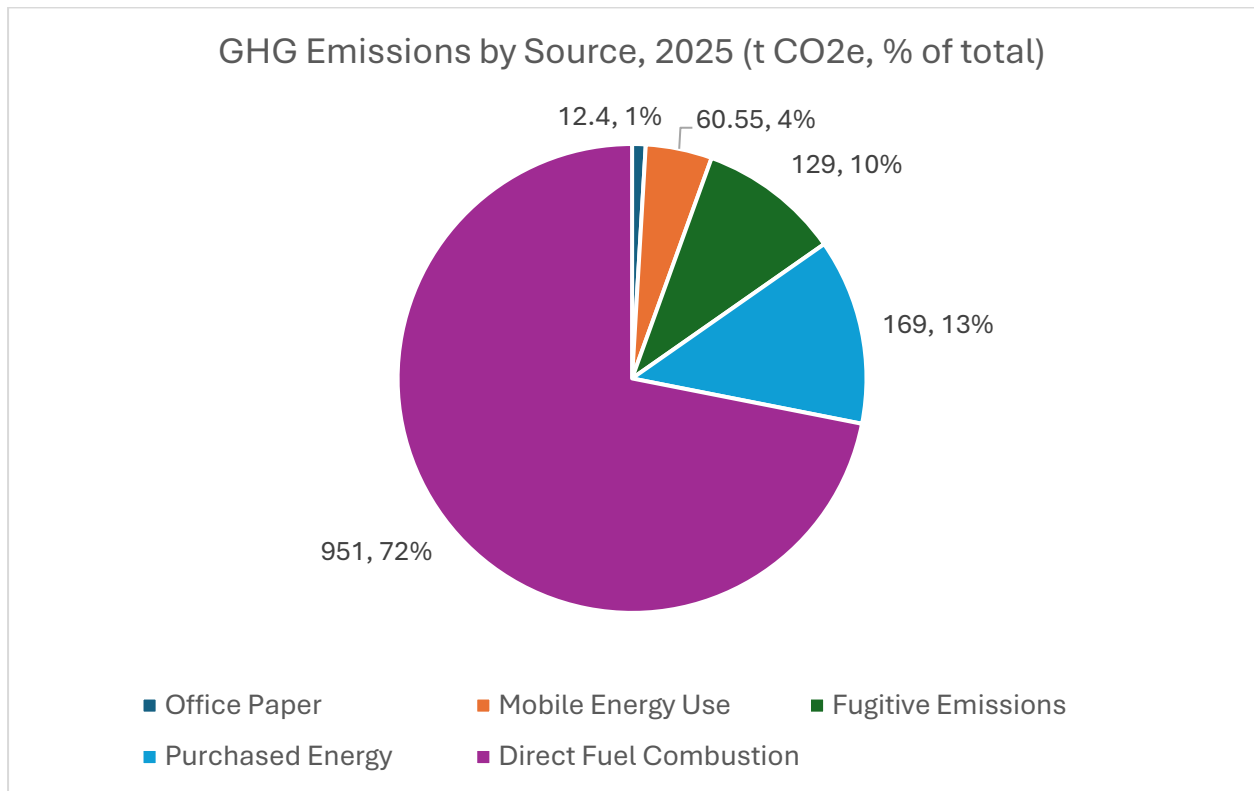


Figure 2: GHG Emissions by Source, 2025

## Stationary Sources (e.g. Buildings, Power Generation)

Emissions from stationary sources remained relatively stable between 2024 and 2025 (Figure 3); however, without the significant increase in British Columbia’s electricity emission factor in 2025, driven in part by greater reliance on imported, higher-emission electricity from jurisdictions such as Alberta, overall emissions would have declined due to reduced natural gas consumption (Table 1).

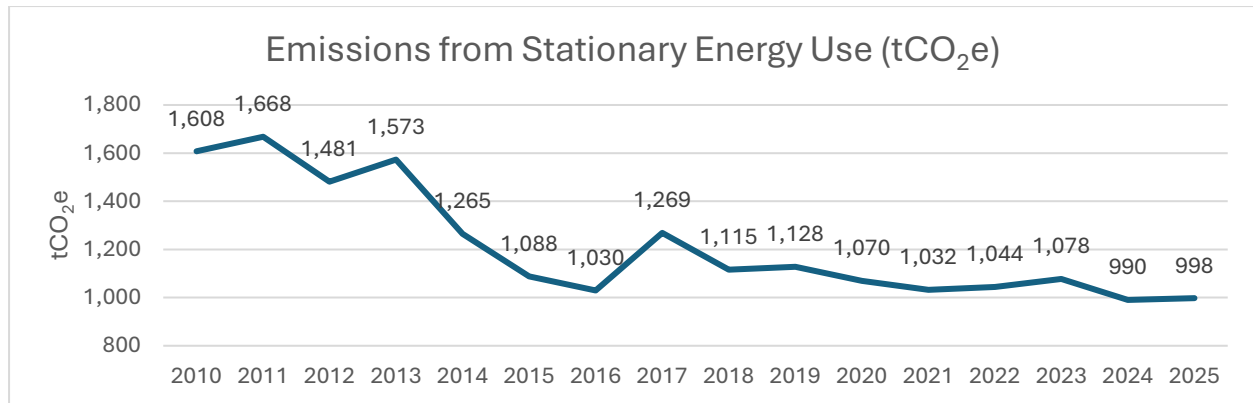


Figure 3: Emissions from Stationary Energy Use, 2010-2025

Table 1: Energy Consumption and Associated Emissions by Stationary Source, 2024-2025

	2024	2025	% change
<b>Electricity (kWh)</b>	5,448,521	5,783,822	+6.15 %
<b>Electricity (t CO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	57.3	169	+195.00 %
<b>Natural Gas (GJ)</b>	17,811	16,836	-5.47 %
<b>Natural Gas (t CO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	933	828	-11.30 %

Numerous actions were undertaken in 2025, and are planned for 2026 and beyond, to reduce emissions from stationary sources including upgrades to lighting, buildings, and energy-intensive equipment and appliances, as well as implementing green building practices and standards.

### Lighting

Upgrades from fluorescent to LED lighting, along with the installation of occupancy sensors, continued in 2025. Improvements were completed in seven classrooms and 15 offices at the Castlegar Campus, as well as one classroom, one office, and all hallway emergency lighting at the Trail Campus. In 2026, the Castlegar gymnasium will undergo a lighting controls upgrade. LED retrofits will continue through 2026 and beyond until all campuses are fully converted.

### Building Retrofits

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Solar shades, which help regulate temperatures in both the summer and winter seasons, were installed at Castlegar Campus in the Valhalla building, maintenance building, Bonnington wing, Monashee wing, and Granite wing. Solar blinds were also installed in each classroom at Trail Campus. Numerous exterior doors were replaced including a set of large overhead doors at the Silver King campus North Trades building, six doors at the main Castlegar Campus building, 105 doors at Castlegar Kekuli student housing, and four doors at Trail Campus. Door replacements included improved insulation and air sealing. Roof replacements and upgrades, which include insulation replacements and air sealing, were completed at Trail Campus and at Castlegar Campus at the Mir Centre, Valhalla building, and Sentinel building. All necessary roofing replacements at Castlegar Campus are complete as of 2025. We are in the preliminary stages of exploring a deep energy retrofit for Castlegar Campus that will include upgrades to the building envelope and window replacements.

### *Equipment Upgrades*

Numerous energy-intensive appliances and mechanical equipment were replaced in 2025. At Castlegar Campus, boiler repairs were completed, electrical improvements were completed in the cafeteria, two hot water tanks were replaced, and HVAC upgrades were completed. At Tenth Street Campus, two hot water tanks were replaced. At Trail Campus, a chiller upgrade was completed, and a cooling coil was replaced within the gymnastics studio. Eight water fountains were replaced: six at Castlegar, one at Trail, and one at Tenth Street Campus. In 2026, the Castlegar Campus gymnasium building will have all its air handling units replaced and the Castlegar Daycare will have two natural gas hot water tanks replaced with electric.

### *Ongoing Contributions*

The solar arrays at Castlegar Campus, at the Mir Centre for Peace and on the library rooftop continue to provide approximately 137,000 kWh of solar electricity annually, accounting for about 7% of the campus' total electricity demand. The ground sourced heat pump at the Mir Centre for Peace continues to provide a renewable source of heat to the building. The Mir Centre for Peace is a net zero building and is a lasting demonstration that with retrofitting, Canada's building inventory can cost-effectively become net-zero energy and independent of fossil fuels. A solar hot water heater system at Castlegar's Kekuli student housing continues to supplement hot water demand. The biomass boiler at Silver King campus continues to supplement heating demand for the campus' buildings, reducing reliance on natural gas and diverting wood waste from the landfill. Solar charging stations and parking lot speed limit signs continue to operate across Castlegar Campus. Tenth Street Campus' student housing building continues to utilize ground sourced heat pumps for heating and cooling. LED and motion sensor lighting, including

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within the parking lots at Castlegar Campus, are continually expanding, reducing electricity consumption.

### *Footprint Reduction*

Selkirk College is reducing its building footprint in 2026. Over the last year, the college has announced the closure of its Kaslo Learning Centre, Nakusp Learning Centre, the Selkirk Innovates building, and Victoria Street Campus, a total reduction of 3,290 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space. In 2025, these spaces accounted for 5% of Selkirk College's total emissions.

### **Mobile Sources (e.g., fleet vehicles, off-road/portable equipment)**

Selkirk College has committed in its Sustainability Plan to emphasize electric vehicle (EV) options where practical when purchasing future fleet vehicles. A Clean Fleet Plan and Zero Emissions Vehicle First Purchasing Policy have yet to be explored. In 2025, Selkirk College purchased a 2024 Chevrolet Bolt and in early 2026, purchased two electric utility vehicles, a 2025 CITYW and a 2026 W2 NXT (Figure 4). The Bolt will be utilized for intercampus travel among the college's leadership team, and the utility vehicles will be utilized on Castlegar Campus to travel between buildings, replacing reliance on the diesel-powered tool cat. We have been actively seeking electric options for our School of Environment and Geomatics passenger vans, but we are constrained by market availability. As more electric vehicle models become available, the feasibility of choosing vehicles that meet our operational needs increases.



*Figure 4: New EVs at Selkirk College: 2025 CITYW, 2024 Chevrolet Bolt, 2026 W2 NXT*

In 2025, Selkirk College completed the commissioning of four double-head electric vehicle charging stations, two at each of the new student housing buildings at Silver King and Castlegar Campuses. All charging stations were set up to collect payment beginning in 2026, with costs matching the City of Nelson who operates two double-head charging stations, one each at Tenth Street and Silver King Campuses. The funds received through charging sales will cover charger maintenance costs and software subscriptions.

Selkirk has not yet implemented its electric bicycle program for Student Housing due to capacity constraints with developing safety controls, storage, and usage procedures. Charging lockers for the bicycles will be constructed in 2026.

In 2026, we are continuing our pursuit to overcome the unique barriers we face as it pertains to fleet electrification and adding additional EV charging stations, such as electrical capacity constraints. We plan to monitor electrical capacity at the Castlegar campus and pursue electrical upgrades if required.

Efforts toward fleet electrification have not been enough to offset increased maintenance and program vehicle travel. In 2025, emissions from mobile sources hit a record high since reporting began in 2010 (Figure 5).

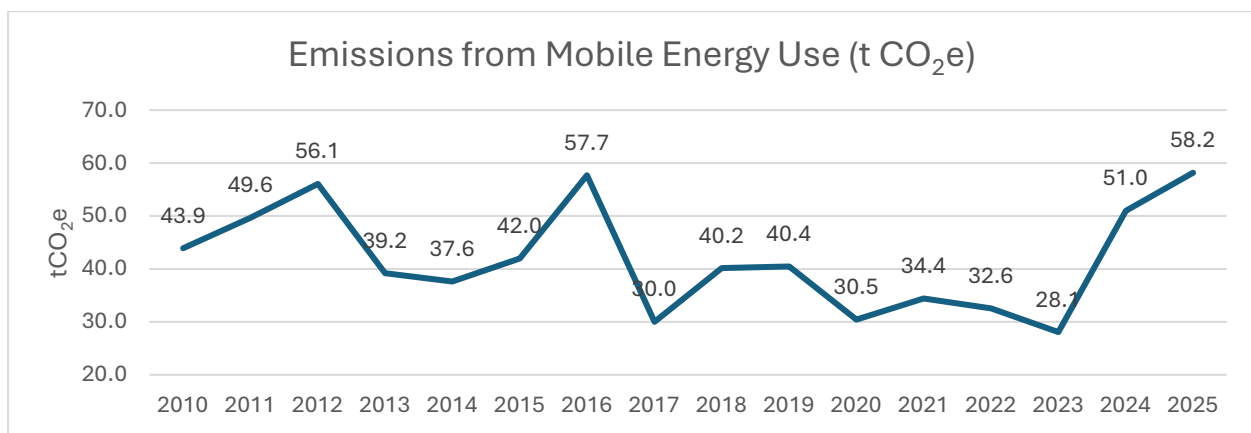


Figure 5: Emissions from Mobile Energy Use, 2010-2025

## Paper Consumption

Selkirk College’s Sustainability Plan set a goal to reduce emissions from paper procurement by 50% below 2010 levels by 2027. In 2025, the college sits at a 69% decrease, a significant achievement that is largely attributed to the use of Sugar Sheet paper. 2025 saw a 20% reduction in emissions derived from office paper compared to 2024. See Figure 6 for an overview of paper-derived emissions over time. Paper reduction educational campaigns throughout 2025 and a 29% reduction of the college’s printing fleet is expected to reflect an even greater decrease in 2026.

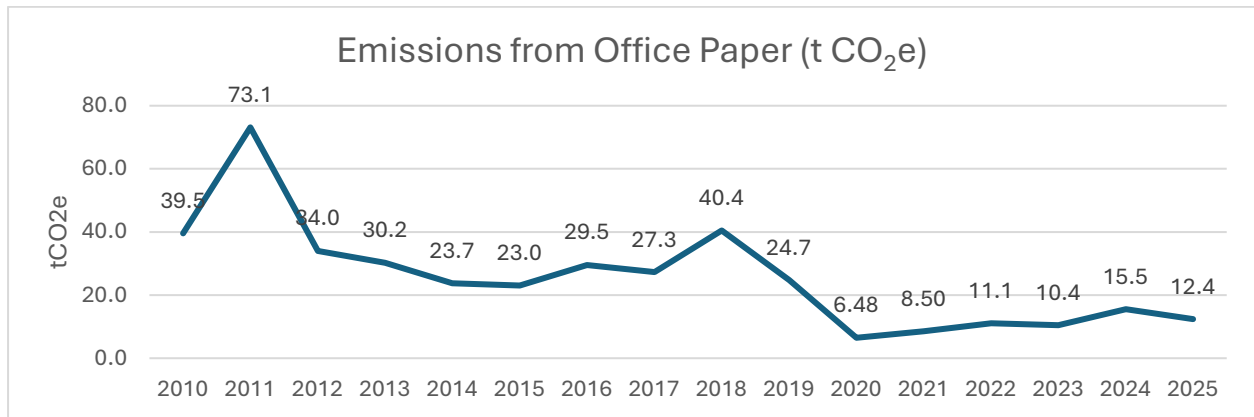


Figure 6: Emissions from Office Paper, 2010-2025

Selkirk College continues to use Sugar Sheet paper as an alternative to standard 30% recycled 8.5 x 11 paper wherever possible. Sugar sheet paper is derived from waste fibre produced during sugar cane processing. Sugar cane and bagasse are a renewable resource that can be harvested 2-3 times per year, making sugar sheet paper a “forest free” alternative. It is also free of elemental chlorine and 100% recyclable. Sixty-nine percent of the paper purchased in 2024 (1,860 packs) was sugar sheet paper, which saved the equivalent of 65 trees from being cut down. All other standard paper purchased is 30% recycled and FSC certified – this is used within our duplicating department. We have tried using sugar sheet paper and paper with higher recycled content in our industrial printers but have experienced issues with machine malfunction due to paper fibers jamming the machines. We will continue exploring alternative paper that is of sufficient quality to use in our industrial printers.

### **Fugitive Sources (e.g., heat pumps, refrigerators, air conditioners)**

2025 marks the first year Selkirk College has tracked and reported fugitive emissions. A detailed inventory of all equipment, vehicles, and appliances containing refrigerant gases was completed in 2025, from commercial A/C systems to mini fridges. A combination of the general and specific estimation methods was used to quantify GHGs from fugitive sources. Fugitive emissions amounted to 129 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2025, 9.75% of Selkirk College’s total emissions for that year. In 2026, our Facilities team will endeavor to incorporate nameplate recording into regular maintenance so that more accurate quantification methods can be used in future years. Strategies to improve leak detection and guidelines for prioritizing low emissions cooling systems have yet to be explored.

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## 2025 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

GHG emissions for the period January 1 - December 31, 2025

Total BioCO <sub>2</sub> (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	126
Total Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	1,323
Total Offsets (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	1,198

### Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years

Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	42.6
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### Grand Total Offsets for the 2025 Reporting Year

Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2025 Reporting Year (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	1,241
Offset Investment (\$)	\$31,025

### Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, Selkirk College (the Organization) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above 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.

## Public Sector Climate Leadership

### Climate Risk Management

#### *Risk Assessment*

Selkirk College began conducting climate risk assessments in 2025 through our Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Analyses, with additional efforts strengthening regional climate resilience and internal capacity to perform this work.

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Climate-related risks including wildfire, heat, drought, landslides, and flooding were included in campus-specific risk assessments for our updated Emergency Plan that will be released in 2026. A fire lane was constructed at the new Castlegar Campus Housing. Our Facilities and Health & Safety team worked with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, local governments, and other agencies to ensure our Emergency Plan reflected climate related risks. The College continues to receive direction from the provincial and federal governments on developing new legislation and regulations pertaining to climate risk readiness. Selkirk College is ensuring our emergency response plans and procedures are in alignment with the provincial government and Emergency Management BC, including the BC Public Post-Secondary Education Sector Emergency Management Response and Recovery Planning Guide, Integrated Response Plan for Catastrophic Events, and Bill 31 – Emergency and Disaster Management Act.

Columbia Basin Climate Source recently released their Climate Risk Calculator, a tool that allows users to assess the risk of local climate conditions exceeding a set threshold. Columbia Basin Climate Source is a Selkirk College-developed, Columbia Basin Trust-led hub providing region-specific climate data, impacts, and practical guidance for Columbia Basin-Boundary communities. In addition, Selkirk’s Sustainability Coordinator completed the Climate Change Resilience for Building Sector Professionals Course offered through the Climate Risk Institute to support climate resilience planning and climate risk assessments.

### *Operations and Infrastructure*

Selkirk College is making incremental changes to our operations and infrastructure in preparation for climate impacts.

Fire smart assessments were completed at Castlegar Campus in early 2023 and our Facilities team is working with a landscape architect to address some of the concerns in the assessment, including actions to increase resilience to drought and wildfire. Numerous danger trees were removed in the fall of 2025 and fire-smarting including landscaping, tree maintenance, and brush maintenance are ongoing. In 2025, the Castlegar Campus Waterline project was completed, and the entire campus was officially tied into the City of Castlegar water system. Access to the existing well will be maintained for emergency continuity, irrigation and forest fire mitigation, with new hydrants along the waterline enhancing campus wildfire resilience. Students in our Forest Technology program continue to work annually with the Ootischenia Fire Department on ladder fuel reductions within the forests surrounding our Castlegar Campus and in partnership with the City of Castlegar to reduce ladder fuels surrounding the municipality. In the spring of 2025, the School of Environment and Geomatics worked with our Health and Safety team and the Ootischenia Fire Department on a mapping project to identify areas requiring fire smart intervention within the Castlegar Campus trail network.

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Back-up generators are in place to ensure that emergency lighting and IT infrastructure remain operational during power outages. Fire resistant asphalt roof tiles were used to replace cedar shakes on the Castlegar Mir Centre for Peace in 2025. Fire alarm upgrades are ongoing at the Castlegar and Trail campuses. In 2026, the Castlegar Campus Daycare will undergo a complete upgrade of life-safety, emergency response, and fire alarm systems. All future building construction will follow the new CleanBC Requirements for the Government of British Columbia's Environmental, Social and Governance Framework for Capital.

### *Procedures and Services*

Selkirk College is making changes to our procedures and services in response to impacts driven by climate change and is collaborating and coordinating with local communities on regional emergency preparedness.

Our Health & Safety team is working on training and tabletop exercises to increase staff awareness and emergency response to risks including those associated with heat, drought, fire, and floods. They are also working with the Ootischenia Fire Department to deliver and receive training. Selkirk College participates in the Province of BC's Annual Emergency Preparedness Week. Every spring, we work with the Regional District of Central Kootenay and Emergency Support Services to determine what services we could potentially provide in the case of an emergency. Our Health & Safety Team is also working on developing procedures regarding evacuations and school closures. Procedures and resources for climate-related emergencies are available for all staff to access and include actions in case of fire and wildfire, flooding, extreme weather and power failure. In 2026, Selkirk College will be implementing a new emergency mass notification system through Regroup Mass Notification.

### *Utilization of Data and Analysis Tools*

Selkirk College utilizes PUMA Utility Monitoring by Prism Engineering to track energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources. PUMA is a web-based utility accounting software and a service developed to meet the unique monitoring needs of its clients. PUMA is a user-friendly software system that delivers clear, customized reports and is supported by the services of Prism Engineering's energy expertise. PUMA helps interpret utility data, adjusts for weather, and can identify problems sooner so that corrective action can be taken. The Columbia Basin Climate Source, Environment and Climate Change Canada, ClimateData.ca and Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium are utilized for accessing historical climate data and projections.

## **Additional Sustainability Initiatives**

In 2025, Selkirk College advanced its commitment to sustainability through a wide range of initiatives across four key areas: academics, engagement, operations, and planning and

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governance. This work was guided by the Sustainability Plan and our commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Accord and the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System, through which Selkirk College is striving for a Gold STARS rating.

### *Academics*

Sustainability and climate change education continues to be integrated across academic programming. In 2025, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing rolled out its new curriculum which includes a focus on Planetary Health, and two new programs were recently approved in 2026: Tourism & Destination Management Diploma and Foundations in Rural Data Science Certificate. These new programs embed principles of sustainability across their curricula. An annual sustainability literacy assessment and re-assessment are released to all students in the fall and spring semesters. This assessment provides insight into student knowledge and perceptions of sustainability and climate change. Selkirk's Teaching and Learning Centre actively works with instructors to embed sustainability education into new course and program proposals and updates.

Selkirk College's research and innovation department, Selkirk Innovates, is a leader in local and rural sustainable development and climate research. From rural homelessness and economic development to forest technology practices and manufacturing solutions, Selkirk Innovates helps to solve real-world challenges through the provision of specialized expertise, cutting-edge technology, research infrastructure assets, and enthusiastic students.

### *Engagement*

From orientation to graduation, abounding opportunities for sustainability education and engagement were provided in 2025. Sustainable Selkirk facilitated diverse hands-on workshops aimed at encouraging responsible consumption and production and environmental stewardship, including regular workshops in textiles repair and repurposing, hand-made recycled paper making, sustainable food wrap creation, seed starting, bicycle repair, and native plant identification. Outreach efforts included sustainability orientation, Fair Trade awareness, documentary screenings, sustainability community walks, sustainability and artificial intelligence tabling events, hosting the Students for Sustainable Development Speaker Series for SDG Month, hosting the Basin Food Summit, and more.

Selkirk College has an active student Sustainability Club and a staff Sustainability Committee who plan events, workshops, projects, and campaigns for advancing sustainability on campus. Indigenous Services, Healthy Campus, Athletics & Recreation, Co-op Services, and Student Access & Support also offered an abundance of services and workshops aimed at supporting holistic wellbeing (physical, mental, spiritual), from accessible fitness classes to the Real Deadly

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Wellness programs to sexual health supports. Student service departments have been working together to support the student experience, weaving values of sustainability, reconciliation, and holistic wellbeing into the work we do together.

### *Operations*

Sustainable procurement, land stewardship, and waste management were operational priorities in 2025.

The BCNET Sustainability Procurement committee, which Selkirk participates on, has worked to develop an action plan, sustainable procurement material topics, a sustainable procurement toolkit, and a high impact procurement list. In participating in this committee, the college is supporting sustainable procurement for all BCNET members and improving our own sustainable procurement processes by incorporating sector-wide best practices. In 2025, Selkirk College drafted a sustainable procurement framework and supplier code of conduct to guide responsible procurement decisions; these documents are expected to be released to the college community in 2026. In 2025, the college diversified strategies and increased efforts to divert surplus from the landfill, ensuring that more than 90% of surplus items ended up in the hands of community members.

The Grounds and Sustainability committees as well as the Mir Centre for Peace and other staff volunteers have been collaborating on solutions to steward the Doukhobor heritage orchard on Castlegar Campus. On September 25, 2025, a harvest event was held with the intention to bring awareness to the orchards and the need for stewardship, to reduce wildlife attractants, and to support food security. Apples were taken home by participants, utilized in the Professional Cook program to make specialty desserts, and utilized in the Recreation, Fish & Wildlife Program to collect bear hair samples.

Sustainable Selkirk worked with indigenous Services to restore the Spirit Garden, the outdoor courtyard area of Castlegar Campus' Indigenous Gathering Place. The Spirit Garden is a cultural space for stewarding and harvesting sacred plant relatives that provide food, materials, and medicines. The space is also a demonstration that we can uphold ecosystem integrity and provide access to cultural materials and practices, even heavily modified spaces. The Spirit Garden is currently home to 17 Indigenous species of plants, at least two species of birds, and a resident squirrel.

Organic waste diversion continued to be a successful initiative, with 5,611 kilograms of food waste diverted in 2025 across three campuses. See Figure 7 for an overview of organic waste diversion over time. The program promotes innovation through the use of commercial FoodCyclers, organic waste pre-treatment appliances that dehydrate and grind food waste,

reducing waste volume by up to 90%. A dry, sterile, nutrient rich, and shelf-stable soil amendment that can be easily packaged, stored, or transported is produced and given away to local farms, and as of 2026, the Castlegar Community Food Garden. The program provides employment for two work study students and valuable experience to students in the School of Hospitality & Tourism and Academic Upgrading & Development. In 2025, a dumpster audit was performed and waste hauler pickups reduced in response to reduced waste production. The number of trash bins across our campuses was reduced by 23% to encourage recycling, reduce custodial workload, and reduce plastic bag consumption and disposal.

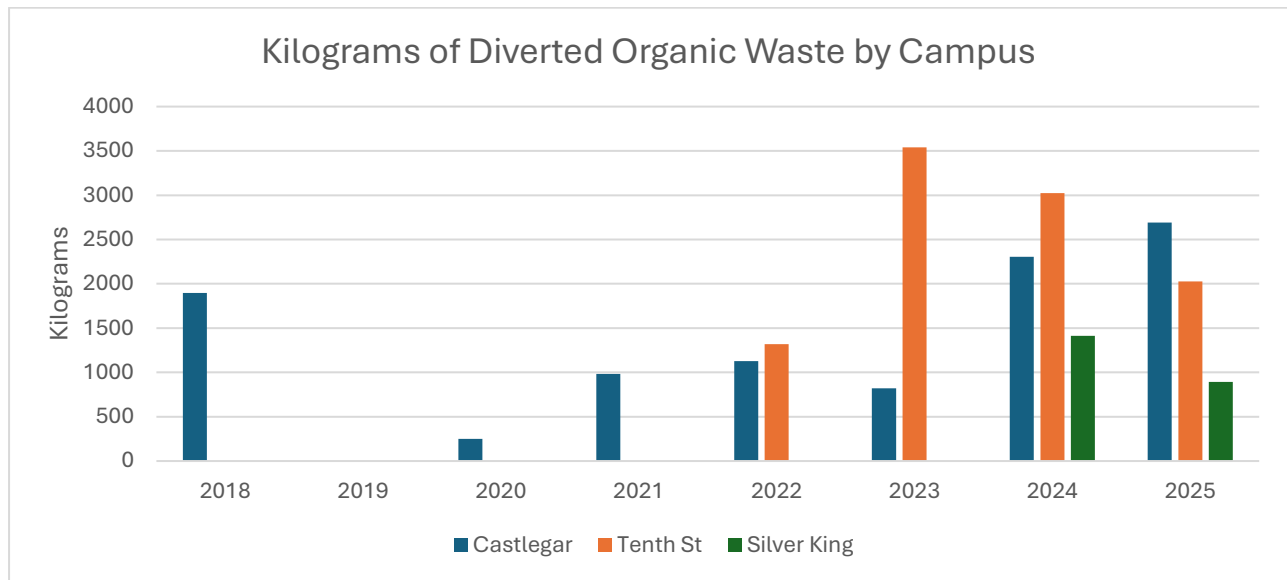


Figure 7: Kilograms of Organic Waste Diverted by Campus, 2018-2025

With the completion of the Castlegar Campus waterline project in 2025 and subsequent connection to the City of Castlegar water system, water metering and tracking became possible. Water consumption is now being tracked across campuses that are metered. Water pressure reducing valves were installed at Castlegar Campus in 2025 to reduce water consumption.

### Planning and Governance

In 2025, Selkirk College released its updated [Sustainability Policy](#). The policy formalizes Selkirk College’s commitment to embedding sustainability into all aspects of its operations, education, and decision-making. It applies to all employees and promotes a consistent, institution-wide approach grounded in climate action, responsible resource use, and continuous improvement. The policy positions sustainability as a core institutional responsibility, integrating environmental, social, and economic considerations into how the college operates, teaches, and interacts with its communities.

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Please refer to the next section, *Success Stories*, to learn about two major successes that exemplify Selkirk College’s commitment to prioritizing sustainability at the planning and governance level.

## Success Stories

In January 2025, Selkirk College launched its new Strategic Plan, [\*Land, Learning & Legacy: Our Path to 2040\*](#), which places sustainability at the heart of institutional priorities and articulates a vision where sustainability is thoroughly imbued across all college functions. Sustainability is a foundational goal of the plan, ensuring that environmental, social, and economic resilience are embedded across all aspects of the institution. “Sustainability” remains one of the college’s five core commitments, and is reflected in the college’s new mission, vision, and goals. The college is deepening its relationship with the land by strengthening environmental stewardship initiatives, integrating Indigenous ways of knowing into sustainability practices, and fostering a culture of reciprocity and collaboration in sustainability efforts.

**OUR VISION:** We are Canada’s destination for applied learning and inquiry grounded in a sense of land and place.

**OUR MISSION:** Together, we inspire generations of changemakers through relevant, inventive and sustainable education.

**Our Foundational Goal:** Positioning Selkirk College for Sustainability.

Sustainability is our foundational goal, underpinning all our efforts to create a college that best serves our students and communities. There are four dimensions to our strategy. Together, they provide the strategic direction to ensure Selkirk College excels well into the future.

### Goal 1) Sustainability: Seven Generations and Beyond

Sustainability is not a fixed state but a continuous improvement process. It encompasses environmental, social and economic resiliency in a rapidly changing world. It demands that we ground our efforts in Indigenous ways of knowing that suggest holistic ways of seeing the world and considering the future. It implies responsibilities for reciprocity, co-learning and collaboration.

- 1.1 Deepen our relationship with the land and strengthen our commitment to environmental stewardship.
- 1.2 Nurture our role as a trusted partner.
- 1.3 Safeguard the college’s long-term fiscal health.

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In August 2025, Selkirk College released its new [visual identity and brand](#), which is grounded in place, with the natural environment shaping its purpose, approach to learning, and commitment to sustainability and Indigenization. The brand emphasizes hands-on education supported by strong community partnerships, positioning students to be adaptable and well connected to their communities, workplaces, and environments.

**Our Brand Story:** The Selkirk College community draws its identity and purpose from the mountains, forests, animals and water around us. The land sustains us and shapes how we teach, learn and innovate. Here, students gain practical, real-world experience that prepares them to adapt and thrive in a changing world. Through partnerships with local businesses, organizations and communities, they learn problem-solving, industry-leading practices and relationship-building skills. Selkirk College offers a distinctive post-secondary experience grounded in land and community.

**Our Brand Promise:** Selkirk College offers a hands-on education that connects students to the land and community, preparing them to thrive in a changing world.

**Our Brand Strengths:** Get Hands-On; Learn with the Land; Build Connections; Chart Your Path; Cultivate a Sustainable Future.

A 15-year strategic plan focused on building connection to the land, incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing and being, and advancing commitments to environmental sustainability, and that is supported by an aligned brand identity, positions the college for a *fundamental shift* toward environmental stewardship and responsibility. This marks a significant milestone in Selkirk College’s climate change accountability and will underpin our transformation as a distinct leader in land-based learning.

## Executive Sign-off



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**Signature**

May 26, 2026

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**Date**

Taya Whitehead

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**Name (please print)**

Vice-President Academic and Provost

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**Title**