



OFFICE OF THE  
**Auditor General**  
of British Columbia

## **2013 Carbon Neutral Action Report**

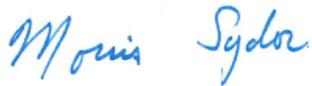
## Executive Summary

This is the 2013 Carbon Neutral Action Report (CNAR) for Office of the Auditor General (the Office). This report contains the actions we have taken in 2013 to reduce our GHG emissions and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2014 and beyond.

The Office has committed to making a difference by adopting sound environmental management practices. This commitment includes adherence to the legislated requirement for public sector organizations to become carbon neutral in their operations.

In 2013 the Office, through its Green Team hosted education sessions and events for staff to increase their knowledge of and participation in environmentally focused topics. During a green commuting challenge, 52% of the Office used a green method of transportation.

The Green Team championed and supported the Office in the pursuit of funding for LEED Gold Commercial Interior certification in its new building. The Green Team will continue to provide certification research and support throughout 2014 as the project progresses towards completion.

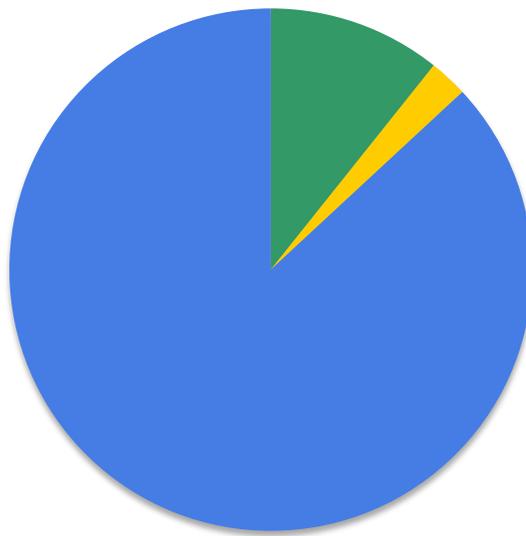


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## 2013 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In 2013, the total Green House Gas (GHG) Emissions for the Office were 84 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e as illustrated below.

### Office of the Auditor General Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Source for the 2013 Calendar Year (tCO<sub>2</sub>e\*)



**Total Emissions: 84**

- Stationary Fuel Combustion (Building Heating and Generators) and Electricity
- Supplies (Paper)
- Travel

\*Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) is a standard unit of measure in which all types of greenhouse gases are expressed based on their global warming potential relative to carbon dioxide.

\*\* Under the *Carbon Neutral Government Regulation of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act*, all emissions from the sources listed above must be reported. As outlined in the regulation, some emissions do not require offsets.

### *Sources of Emissions*

The Office's GHG emissions consist of four sources:

- Travel:** The majority of the Office's GHG emissions are from travel, which represents 86.9% of total emissions.
- Buildings:** GHG emissions produced from the heating, cooling and electricity used to run the physical office account for 10.7% of the Office's GHG emissions.
- Supplies:** 2.4% of the GHG emissions is a result of the Office's use of paper.

### **Offsets Applied to Become Carbon Neutral in 2013**

To become carbon neutral the Office purchased 82 tonnes of carbon offsets from Pacific Carbon Trust.

#### **GHG Emissions created in calendar year 2013**

Total Emissions	84
Total Emissions for Offsets	84

#### **Adjustments to GHG Emissions Reporting in previous years**

Total Emissions	(2)
Total Emissions for Offsets	(2)

<b>Total emissions for Offsets for the 2013 Reporting Year</b>	<b>82</b>
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### **Emissions Reduction Activities**

#### *Education and Events*

Throughout the year, the Office's Green Team actively promoted sustainability, which included the following events:

- A breakfast talk entitled "The Dragons of Inaction" with Dr. Robert Gifford, University of Victoria professor of psychology.
- Bike to Work/Green Commuting Week, including hosting a Green Commuting Roundtable that allowed cycle commuters to share advice. During the week, 52% of the Office took a green method of transport to work, with 11%-15% riding their bikes.
- Lunch and Learn on Beekeeping.

- An article on the OAG Executive cycling to work was posted on our intranet and shared with the public service @Work blog.
- Launched educational campaign aimed at encouraging people to cancel print subscriptions to publications in favour of e-versions.
- Held a paper reduction challenge for the entire month of April and achieved a reduction of 4,000 sheets of paper

### *LEED Commercial Interior Certification*

The Office's current leases expire in the fall of 2014 and as a result the Office will be relocating to a new building in the fall of 2014. The Green Team championed the need for the Office to consider LEED building features in our new building. This included providing research support to prepare cost estimates for LEED Commercial Interior certification in our annual Estimate of Resources.

In December 2013, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services supported our request and approved a budget to pursue LEED Gold Commercial Interior certification. In the coming year, the Green Team will provide ongoing support and research throughout the LEED certification process.