2025 CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT FOR SURREY SCHOOLS

Surrey Schools
LEADERSHIP IN LEARNING

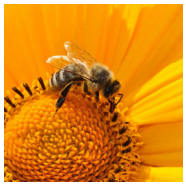
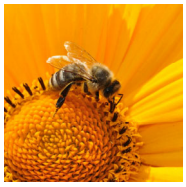


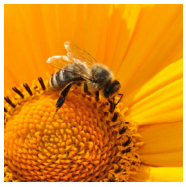
TABLE OF CONTENTS



DECLARATION STATEMENT

This Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1st to December 31st, 2025, summarizes Surrey Schools' greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the offsets purchased to achieve carbon neutrality, and the actions taken to mitigate climate change impacts from our operations.

By June 30th 2026, the Climate Change Accountability Report will be posted Surrey Schools' website.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On behalf of Surrey Schools, we are pleased to submit our Climate Change Accountability Report for 2025. Surrey Schools is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to protect the environment for the future of our students and in 2023, the Board of Education declared a climate emergency.

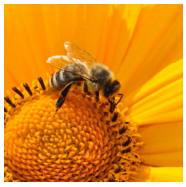
Surrey Schools recognizes the importance of reducing absolute emissions and is taking action to reduce our buildings' natural gas use — the main source of GHGs —along with emissions from fleet fuel and printer paper consumption. Emisisions are tracked annually and are influenced by variations in weather and especially in Surrey, increases in the number or size of schools. The commitment to reducing emissions has seen the District achieve the province's 2025 interim greenhouse gas target of a 16% reduction below the 2010 baseline. The next provincial target is a 40% reduction by 2030.

A large building portfolio requires a strategic approach to asset and energy management and this informs the District's plans and projects to manage utility costs, increase energy efficiency, and reduce emissions. These efforts include engagement across key departments, ongoing monitoring of energy consumption, targeted energy studies, and planning projects to reduce emissions.

In 2025 a number of lighting and HVAC equipment upgrades were completed and contributed to improving learning conditions, environmental benefits, and cost savings.

Mark Pearmain
Superintendent of Schools

Ray Velestuk
Secretary-Treasurer



ABOUT SURREY SCHOOLS

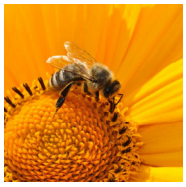
The Surrey School District was formed in 1906 and is the largest of 60 school districts in the province of British Columbia. Surrey Schools is governed by an elected board of seven trustees.

There are 134 sites and 7,030 teachers dedicated to providing education to our students in Surrey, White Rock, and Barnston Island. In order to service the growing population, the District has responded with new schools, additions, and portables.

Surrey Schools

2025 Quick Facts

- 78,870 K-12 students
- 13,060 teachers and staff
- Building area of 761,000 m2
- 107 elementary schools
- 21 secondary schools
- 2 learning centres
- 1 adult education building
- 3 administration buildings
- 350 portables
- School populations ranging from 70 to >2,000 students



GREENHOUSE GAS TARGETS

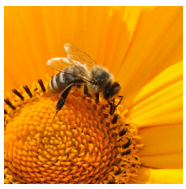
B.C.'s Climate Change Accountability Act (formerly the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act) specifies targets and the province has identified these overall greenhouse gas reduction targets for the province compared to a 2007 baseline:

- 16% reduction by 2025
- 40% reduction by 2030
- 60% reduction by 2040
- 80% reduction by 2050

The province's *CleanBC Roadmap* indicates more specific targets against a 2010 baseline for public service organizations, including schools, as follows:

- 50% reduction in building emissions by 2030
- 40% reduction in fleet emissions by 2030

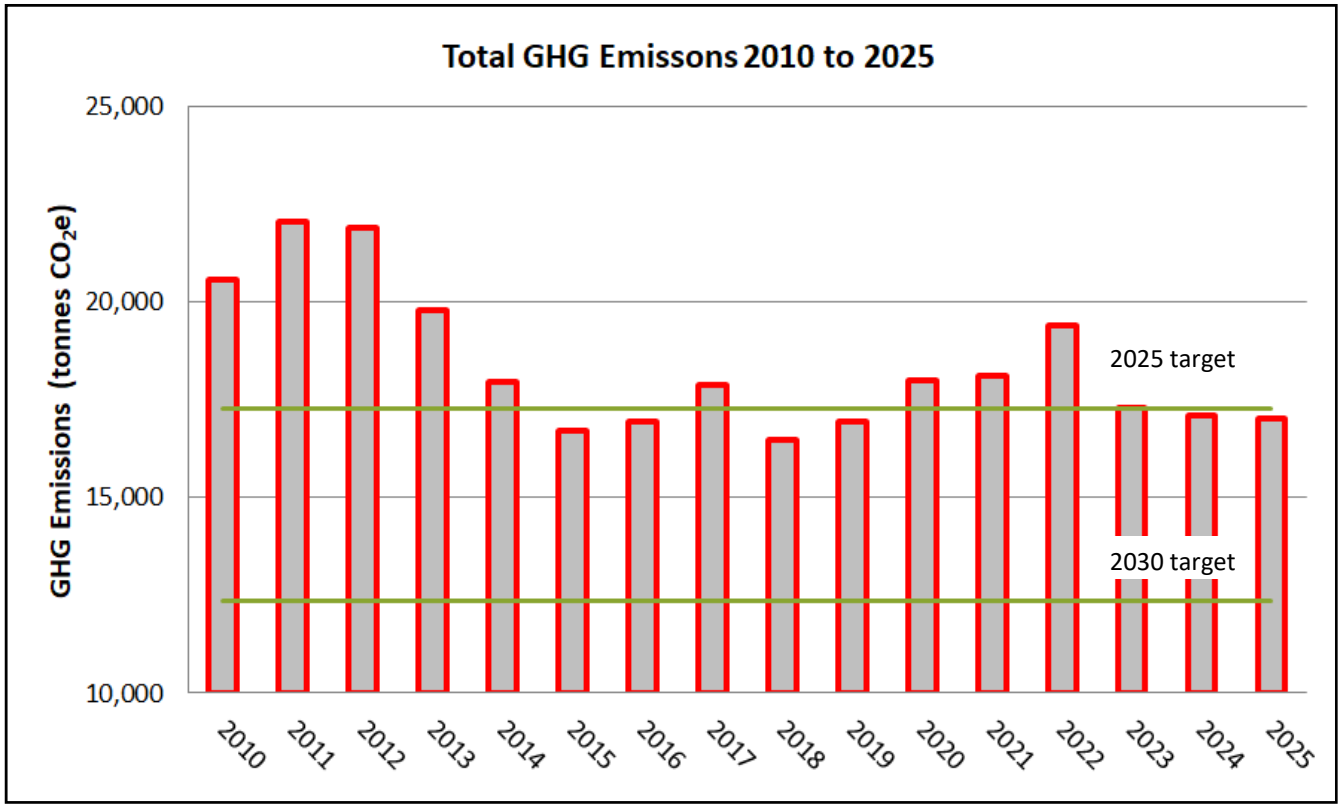
While overall provincial targets reference a 2007 baseline, specific targets for public service organizations reference a 2010 baseline with the latter corresponding to when greenhouse gas reporting began in BC. For Surrey Schools the 2007 quantities for paper and fleet are estimated but the baseline emissions for 2007 and 2010 are actually similar. As a public service organization, we reference actual 2010 emissions baseline for target tracking.

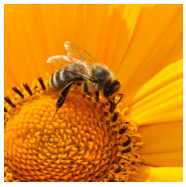


GREENHOUSE GAS TRACKING

Reportable greenhouse gases are based on the annual measured consumption of energy in buildings, office paper, and fuel for fleet vehicles. Recently, emissions related to refrigeration equipment have also been required.

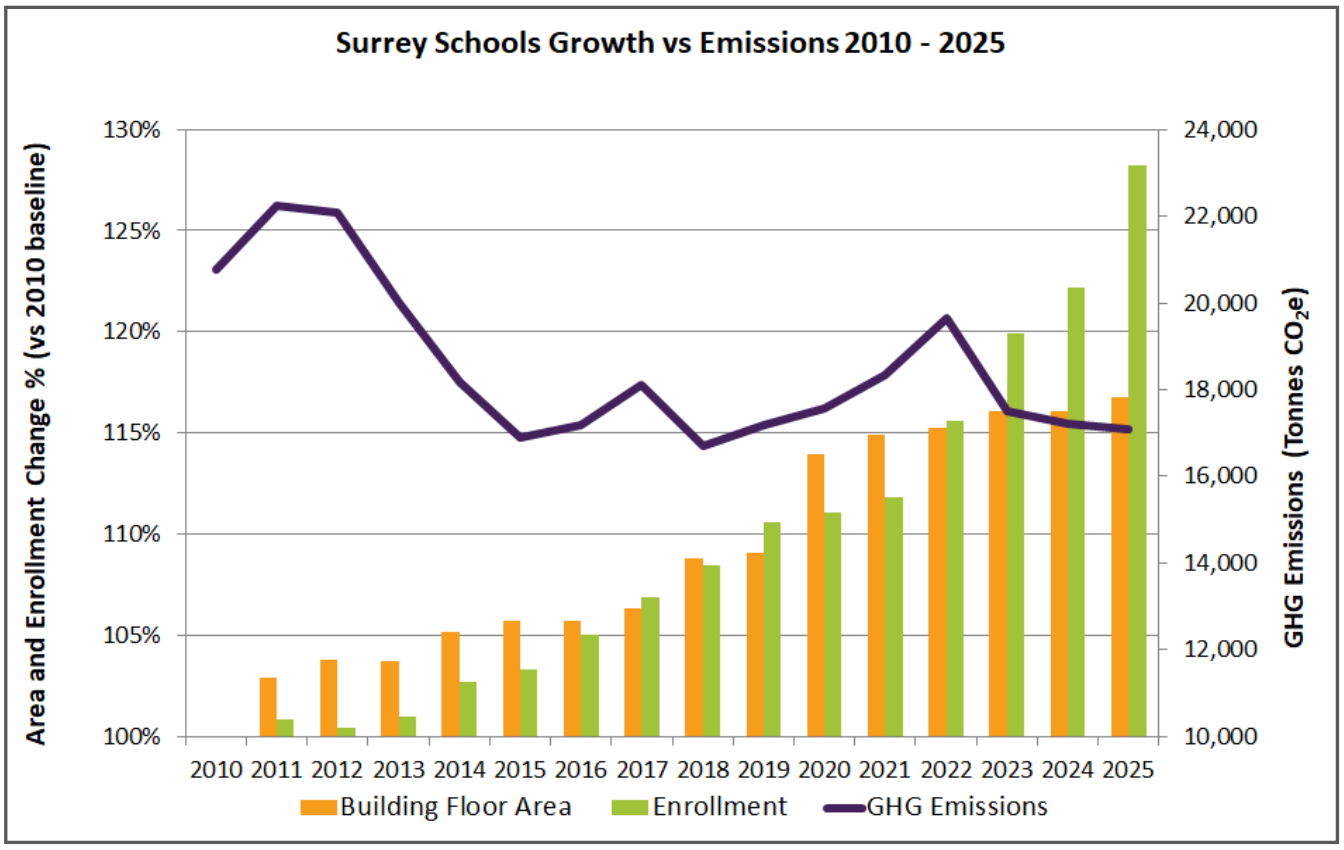
With 17 percent lower emissions compared to the 2010 baseline, the district achieved the province's target of a 16% reduction by 2025.

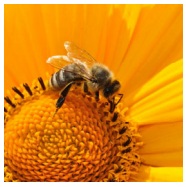




DISTRICT GROWTH

Surrey Schools has been growing to provide services for an increasing student population. Since 2010, Surrey Schools' portfolio area has grown with new buildings, additions, and portables. Despite these demands, energy management efforts have reduced greenhouse gas emissions compared to the 2010 baseline year.



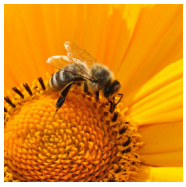


ACHIEVING CARBON NEUTRALITY

As of 2010, provincial legislation has required that provincial entities, including school boards, be carbon neutral each year and also issue a public report detailing their greenhouse gas emissions inventory and progress in reducing their emissions.

In order to achieve annual carbon neutrality, it is necessary to purchase carbon offsets equivalent to the annual quantity of reported greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The money collected by the provincial government for carbon offsets is invested in certified, emissions-reducing projects.

At $25 per tonne, Surrey Schools' cost to offset 2025's annual emissions is $426,111



2025 REPORTED EMISSIONS & OFFSET SUMMARY

School District #36 (Surrey) GHG Emissions and Offset for **2025** (tCO_2e)	
GHG Emissions created in calendar year 2025:	
Total $BioCO_2$ *	386
Total Emissions (tCO_2e) **	17,239
Total Offsets (tCO_2e) ***	17,106
Adjustments to GHG Emissions Reported in Previous Years:	
Total Offsets (tCO_2e) ****	-46
Grand Total Offsets for the 2025 Reporting Year :	
Grand Total Offsets Required (tCO_2e)	17,060
Total Offset Investment (includes GST)	$447,825

* the portion of biodiesel and renewable natural gas that do not require offsets

** excludes $BioCO_2$ but for tracking purposes, includes 133 t of emissions from school bus diesel though it is exempt from offset requirements

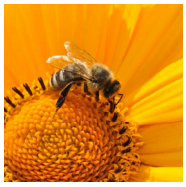
*** amount tracked for targets and offsets

**** recalculation of refrigerant emissions factor by the Province

Retirement of Offsets:

In accordance with the requirements of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, School District #36 (Surrey) (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. The Organization hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy 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.

	May 31, 2026
Signature	Date
Ray Velestuk	Secretary -Treasurer
Name	Title



2025 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS SOURCES

Buildings

Emissions from energy used to heat, cool, ventilate, and power district operated buildings. This also includes small quantities of emissions from leased buildings.

Office Paper

Emissions associated with the production of printer paper that is consumed in teaching and operations.

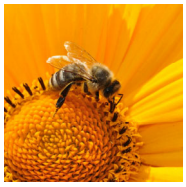
Fleet

Fleet emissions primarily arise from the use of gas and diesel fossil fuels in the vehicle fleet with a minor amount used for small equipment. The fleet is comprised of maintenance vehicles and school buses. Fuel for school buses is excluded from offset calculations but still tracked.

Refrigerant Emissions

Tracking fugitive emissions from the escape of refrigeration chemicals began in 2024 and were not included in the original baseline. For 2025, it was 137 tonnes.

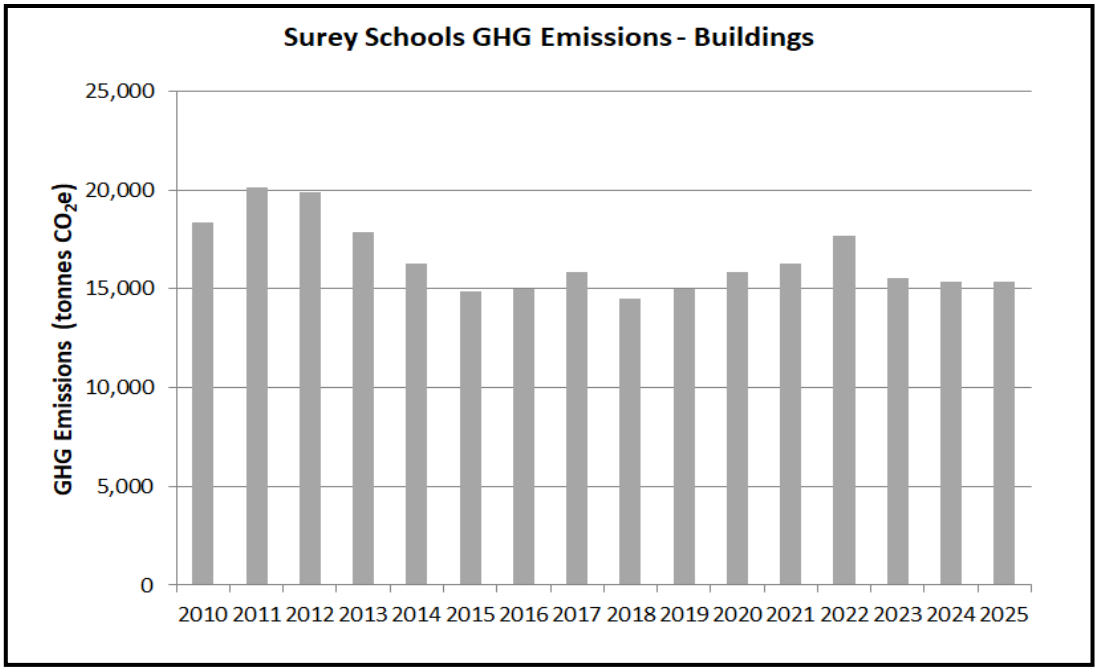
The following pages display the main sources of annual emissions since the 2010 baseline year.



2025 GHGs - BUILDINGS

Buildings

Buildings account for the majority of the district's emissions as the natural gas used for heating is a potent source of global warming. Electricity use also creates limited emissions and the associated emissions factor can vary year to year. Comparable winter temperatures contributed to similar heating-related emissions between 2024 and 2025. The benefits of the 2025 projects will be more fully realized in the 2026 heating season. Renewable natural gas (biogenic), with a lower emissions factor, is slowly being increased in the natural gas supply and will help reduce emissions.



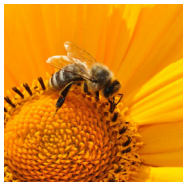
2025 Actions

Several energy upgrade projects were completed including:

- Boiler upgrades to more efficient models at three schools
- Conversion of a high school chiller to a heat pump to allow for low-carbon heating
- HVAC controls tune-ups at several schools

New Construction

- New schools and additions typically include heat pumps

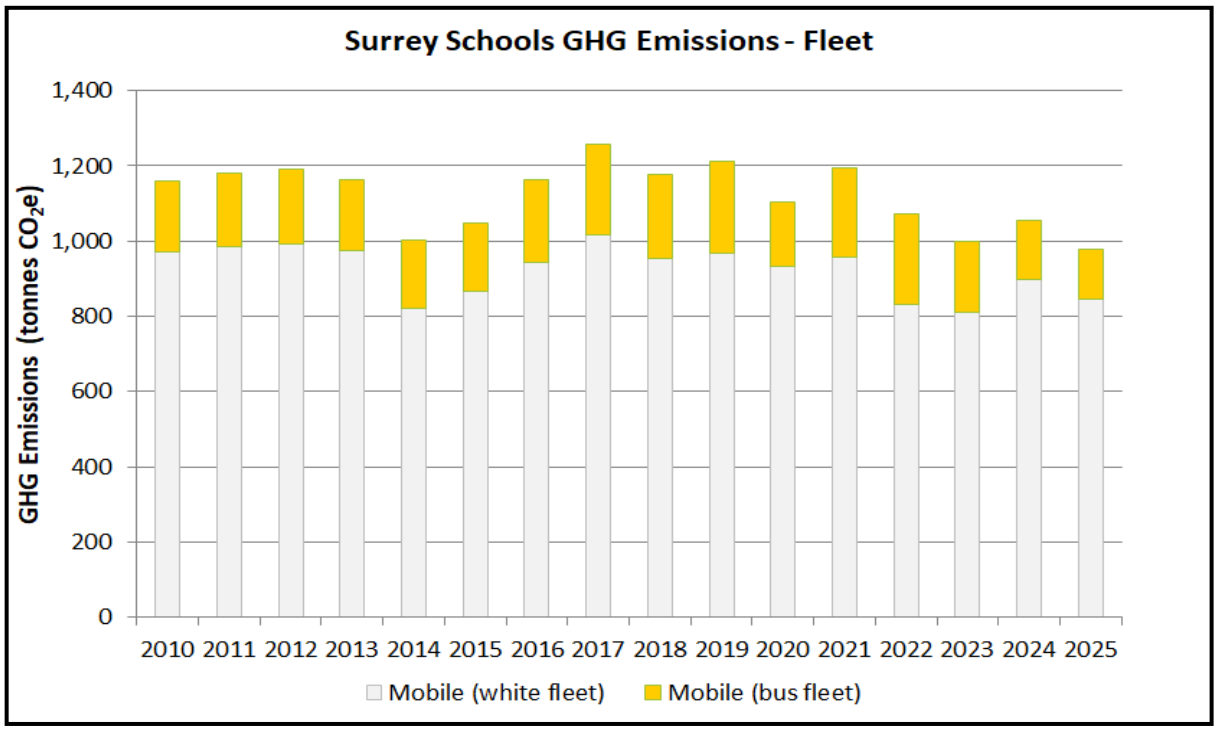


2025 GHGs - VEHICLE FLEET

Fleet

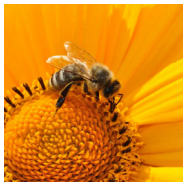
Fleet emissions come from the burning of fossil fuels in vehicles. Variations in annual consumption arise from ploughing and salting requirements, the addition of more efficient and electric vehicles, and changes in driving distances arising from operational demands e.g. the addition of more schools. Fuel consumption for both fleets decreased, leading to an overall drop of 7 percent from 2024. Compared to the baseline, emissions were down 16 percent. The data excludes a small amount of biogenic (carbon neutral) emissions from low-emission fuels.

Gasoline and diesel are mainly used to run white fleet vehicles and school buses, with a few powered by electricity.



2025 Actions

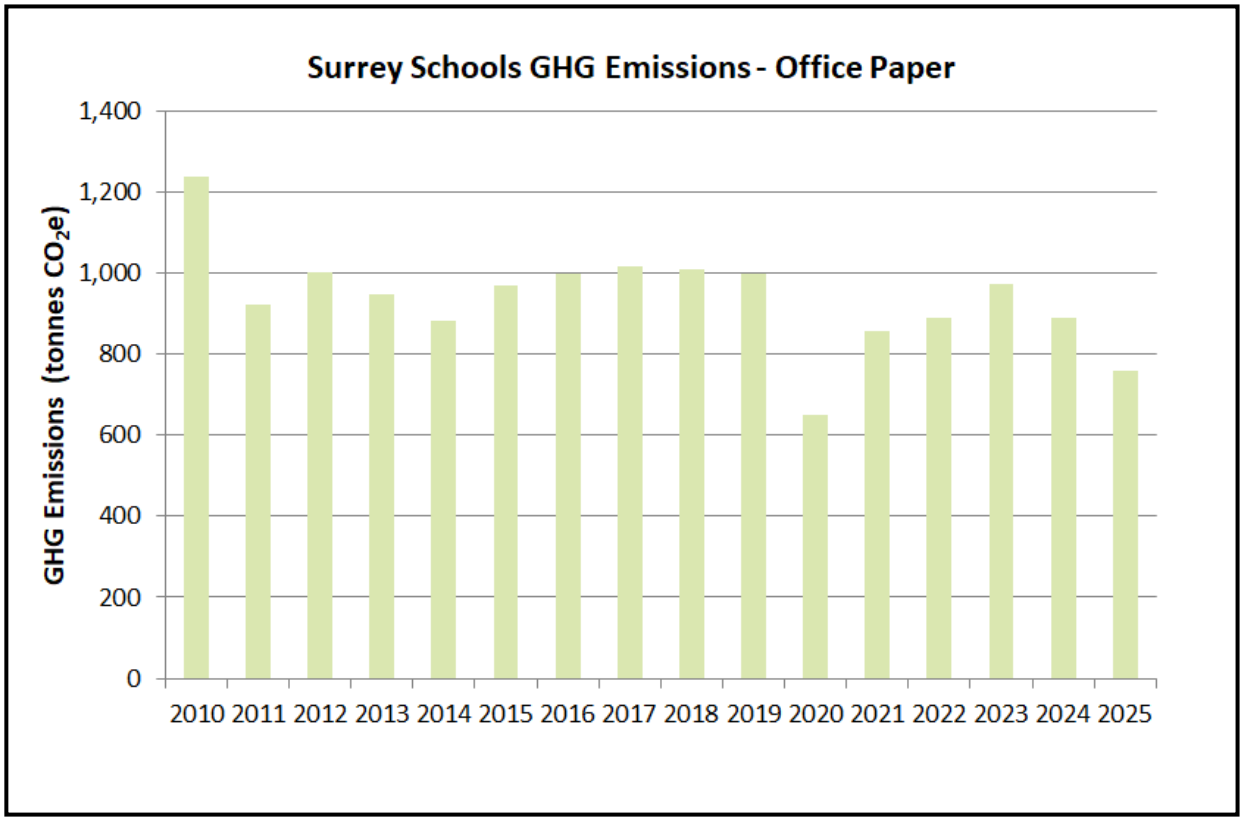
- Addition of an electric car to the white fleet



2025 GHGs - PAPER CONSUMPTION

Paper

2025 paper use was 15 percent lower than 2024 and 39 percent below the 2010 baseline. The adoption of paperless processes, centralized printers with better printing controls, and user behavior have contributed to the trend in paper reduction. The timing of bulk paper purchases by schools during a year may skew annual emissions.



2025 Actions

- Investigation of lower emissions paper products

ONGOING EFFORTS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS

As fossil fuel consumption in buildings is the main source of GHG emissions, the focus will remain on reducing their consumption through new technologies and operational efficiencies. Good building design often sees the benefit of incorporating resilience against climate change for schools. Surrey Schools is actively pursuing both low-carbon and more efficient technologies in new construction projects as it essential to limit emissions from growth as existing buildings are slowly retrofitted.

The detailed tracking of energy use combined with equipment and building inventories, allows for prioritization of projects in a strategic energy management plan. This ensures that investments will have the maximum impact on energy conservation and GHG reduction.

Upcoming energy efficiency and electrification projects planned for 2026 include:

- Improving energy use at multiple schools through controls improvements
- LED lighting retrofits to save energy and improve lighting
- Upgrading to more efficient boiler plants and HVAC equipment
- Targeted energy efficiency studies
- Completion of several energy efficiency pre-fab classroom additions
- Upgrading existing building envelopes through the BEP program

Beyond 2026, Surrey Schools will continue to evaluate and implement efficient technologies but also focus on reducing energy use and costs in existing buildings.