

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS TRAVEL

In some cases, business-related travel cannot be avoided. However, it is worth noting that business travel is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and therefore a reduction in business travel, where possible, can help to reduce the carbon footprint.

A couple of quick things to reflect upon...

- Is this travel necessary?
- Can the same objectives be accomplished virtually instead?

If travel is required, here are some ways you can reduce the impact it has on the environment.

Carbon Offsets

Offsets are described as credits that travellers pay to add to their travel-related purchases. This is to account for the emissions (GHGs) their travel will produce. The pre-calculated credits or offsets that are mentioned below, when purchased, help fund projects elsewhere that reduce the CO₂ emissions by the same amount.

Offsets are measured in tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e). In other words, *1 metric ton or 2,205 lbs of CO₂e reduced = 1 carbon offset*

Flights

On average, a return flight from North Bay to Vancouver accounts for 515.2 kg of CO₂. This is the equivalent of 577 pounds of coal burned (EPA, 2024).

Did you know that many airlines will offer to offset your travel for a small fee?

For example, [Air Canada](#) has launched a carbon offset project partnership with [CHOOOSE](#), enabling travellers to purchase verified carbon offsets based on the estimated emissions associated with their flight.

Offsetting the flight above would cost approximately \$14.65.



SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS TRAVEL

Rental Vehicles

Where possible, carpool using rentals and select models that are economical and best suit the needs of a trip. For example, a large SUV is not required for one person travelling with a suitcase. In support of this, rental must also be in compliance with the College's Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Guidelines as follows:

2.13.4 The size of the rental vehicle must be the most economical. Exceptions must be documented and pre-approved by the appropriate executive team member when the vehicle rented is the most economical and practical size for the business tasks, number of occupants and weather conditions. Luxury and sports car rentals are prohibited.

Rental companies offer a similar option to offset your travel.

Enterprise allows renters to offset their carbon emissions for only \$1.25 to fund certified offset projects through their [Carbon Offset Program](#).

Accommodations

Green Key Global is the hotel and lodging industry's sustainability certification program of choice. Their rating system looks at everything from infrastructure to food.

Find the list of green key accommodation [here](#).

Travelling outside of North Bay? Here are a few ways you can make your inner-city travel more sustainable.

- If feasible, consider walking to meetings, restaurants, or appointments.
- Use public transit (bus, metro, subway, and streetcars).
- Carpool
- Using Uber? Try selecting the [Uber Green](#) option for a hybrid or fully electric vehicle.

Dining and Purchasing

- As always, the first question should be, "Do I need it?"
- Dine in to avoid packaging waste. If this is not feasible, select vendors with limited or recyclable packaging.
- Try low-carbon foods such as vegan or vegetarian. The guide linked [here](#) provides several calculators to help quantify the carbon footprint of the food being consumed.

