

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Environmental Advisory Committee Working Groups**

TRU seeks to be the University of Choice for students concerned about environmental sustainability and to be recognized for its leadership and stewardship in responding to environmental challenges. This is reflected in the Strategic Plan of the University and the Campus Sustainability Action Plan (CSAP). The Environmental Advisory Committee working groups will be based on the three components of Thompson River's University Campus Sustainability Action Plan. The groups will work towards developing evidence-based environmentally sustainable policies and practices for the University. Each working group will share similar composition and administrative guidelines, but will follow separate goals and objectives appropriate to their component of CSAP.

### **Composition**

#### **Members**

Each working group will consist of members of the Environmental Advisory Committee. Membership of sub-committees will be open to all students, staff, and faculty of Thompson Rivers University.

#### **Chair**

Each working group will elect a chair from among the members who will be responsible for distributing agendas and organizing meeting rooms and times. The Chair will serve for a one year term which is renewable and will be decided by nomination or on a volunteer basis.

### **Meetings, Agendas, Records, Reporting**

- The Chair of each working group will be responsible for writing and distributing the agenda to working group members no less than 24 hours prior to each meeting.
- Meeting dates and times will be decided by the members and meeting rooms will be booked by the Chair of each group.
- Minutes will be recorded at each meeting and distributed to members prior to the next meeting.
- Meetings will be held at a minimum frequency of twice per semester during an academic year.
- The Chair of each group will regularly report the working group activities to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

### **Sub-Committees**

Each working group has the ability to create sub-committees related to the group's fundamental goals.

## Natural Environment Working Group

### **Goals:**

To encourage responsible use of the natural environment at Thompson Rivers University and provide research and input regarding issues surrounding air quality, land use, and food consumption and production on campus.

### **Objectives:**

Objectives for the Natural Environment Working Group consist of, but are not limited to:

- Find opportunities to provide stewardship for on-campus and local natural areas.
- Minimize the environmental impacts of TRU's landscaping while maintaining current aesthetic values.
- Encourage more localized food consumption and production, better use of the natural features of the campus.

### **Potential Sub-Committees**

Air Quality

## Built Environment Working Group

### **Goals:**

Provide research and recommendations that aid TRU in achieving carbon neutrality. Encourage practices and strategies that limit the environmental impact of the built environment at Thompson Rivers University and reduce the level of consumption on campus.

### **Objectives:**

Objectives for the Built Environment Working Group consist of, but are not limited to:

- Recommend policies and practices that help TRU achieve a climate-neutral campus.
- Research ways to address concerns regarding sprawl in future campus developments.
- Reduce waste impacts and material consumption.
- Develop recommendations regarding efficient energy use in buildings at TRU.

### **Potential Sub-Committees**

Buildings and Energy

## Human Working Group

### **Goals:**

To encourage environmentally responsible citizenship in all members of the TRU community in a manner that will create an institutional culture of sustainability by engaging in education, research, policy formation, and information exchange.

### **Objectives:**

Objectives for the Socio-Cultural Working Group consist of, but are not limited to:

- Encourage sustainability as a participatory process at TRU.
- Develop a sustainability reporting system to track objectives, provide transparency and assist in sustainability.
- Foster environmental literacy amongst students, staff, faculty and alumni, and cooperate with other community partners to increase environmental awareness.
- Encourage the development of partnerships with public and private sector organizations in support of environmental stewardship and sustainability.

### **Potential Sub-Committees:**

Public Education

Research