



THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 22, 2026
9:30 am to 11:00 am

Minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee, held via MS Teams, at
Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC

MINUTES

Present (voting): Shelley Church (Co-Chair), Catherine Tatarniuk (Co-Chair), Amie Schellenberg, Baldev Pooni, Dana Prymak, Scott Blackford, James Gordon, Niki Remesz, Robyn Hollas, Sarah Martin, Yanmin Gao

Present (non-voting):

Regrets (voting): Carmen Love, Satwinder Paul, Ted Gottfriedson, Warren Asuchak

Regrets (non-voting): Anna Rogers, Natalie Yao

Recording Secretary: Teams Recorder/Lora Sartori

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The co-chair, Shelley Church, called the meeting to order at 9:33 pm.

2. Territorial Acknowledgment

Shelley Church delivered the territorial acknowledgement.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda of the ESAC meeting of January 22, 2026.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the agenda be approved as circulated.*

4. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the ESAC meeting of November 27, 2025.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the ESAC meeting of November 27, 2025 be approved as circulated.*

5. Business Arising from Previous Meetings

a. **None**

6. New Business

a) Update on the Sustainability Plan

- James and Alexandra Turnbull from Prism working on plan and it is about 95% complete.
- Need to have good and meaningful conversations with TteS but our agreement with TteS has not been finalized yet.
- Hopefully by March, 2026 the plan will be finalized.

b) Need an Awards Subcommittee Chair and Subcommittee Membership

- Need a Chair for the subcommittee.
- James is the only member of the subcommittee.
- We have 3 student awards and one staff/faculty award.
- Looking for the people who have moved the sustainability dial around the university.
- Received the go ahead to divide the staff/faculty to be divided into one staff and one faculty award.
- Awards will also be part of the President Award Series.
- Amie can help with the Awards subcommittee.
- Baldev can help with the Awards subcommittee.
- Niki can help with the Awards subcommittee.

7. Reports of Committees

- a. **Awards Sub-Committee**, James Gordon
- No report.

- b. **Zero-Waste Sub-Committee**, Anna Rogers
 - No report

- c. **Sustainable Purchasing Sub-Committee**, James Gordon
 - New Purchasing Policy is moving through the system for approval.
 - Will go to the Board hopefully for February 20, 2026.
 - Michelle will take over the Chair position in due course.

- d. **Mission Fulfillment Sub-Committee**, Shelley Church
 - On Hold.

- e. **Biodiversity Sub-Committee**, James Gordon/Shelley Church
 - Met on January 20, 2026.
 - Still waiting on the bird strike toolkit.
 - BioBlitz will go ahead on September 15, 16, and 17, 2026.
 - Working on a TRU specific Tree App to identify trees on campus. Scan a QR code near a tree on campus and it will identify trees on campus. Besides the inherent benefits of having this app, it will help TRU's application if it decides to pursue establishing an official arboretum on the campus.
 - 130 distinct species on campus.
 - No Mow Zone project.

- f. **Sustainability Education in the Curriculum Sub-Committee**, Alexis Brown and Kara Lefevre
 - Met on January 13, 2026.
 1. *Sustainability in the Curriculum Fellowship* – Began January 14th
 - [Sustainability Course Design - Events Calendar - Thompson Rivers University Library](#)
 - This series includes five sessions. If participants attend all five sessions and demonstrate a sustainability-focused change to the course, they are eligible for a \$400 stipend for Professional Development (in collaboration with the Office of Sustainability)
 - 12 people are registered

 2. Applied Learning/Living Labs Project
 - The committee discussed [TRUSpace](#) (an institutional repository) as likely being the best potential space to build a Living Labs Repository. This site will be maintained as long as TRU exists. Built around the idea of providing a choice of copy-right licenses for projects available on the repository. It is part of a consortium that is used by other institutions in BC with a software package underneath it that is used internationally. Currently, Erin May, Scholarly Communications and Liaison Librarian maintains TRUSpace.
 - STARS asks for a public portal that anyone can access to see what other Living Lab projects have been done in the past.

3. **Green Leaders**
 - Lists compiled by Samantha (EnviroCollab) and Dana Prymak will be forwarded to James in the Office of Sustainability in order to have a compiled list of those doing sustainability work on campus, this includes faculty and staff in academic and non-academic departments as well as a list of department chairs.
4. The sub-committee also began discussions on what is relevant and feasible for its scope of work. A document has been started in order to facilitate the discussion while the committee works towards revising the Terms of Reference.
5. Loss of members to the sub-committee will mean the capacity of the group will change. The sub-committee will be seeking a second co-chair, as well as a notetaker for meeting minutes.

g. Living Landscape Sub-Committee, Elise Menard

- Met on January 15, 2026.
- Developing the committee's ToR.
- Good committee participation.
- After the ToR, the committee will determine the next steps and projects.

h. Energy Sub-Committee, Natalie Yao

- No Report.

8. Manager of Sustainability Programs Reports, James Gordon

- Working on STARS report with the goal of submitting the report on May 1, 2026.
- Reintroduction of the Staff/Faculty Sustainability Ambassador Program. Relaunch in February with cake and coffee. It will be rebranded to The Green Leaders Program.
- Start up a TRU Sustainability Office Newsletter.
- Discussion: Where do all sustainability projects live. In theory, on the TRU Sustainability website.
- TRU will be participating in SDG Month Canada in March, 2026.
 - Will help with the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings which TRU reports annually.
 - THE tracks how an institution is doing with respect to the 17 SDGs.
 - President Airini started this initiative at TRU.

 - Brainstorm SDG Initiative for March 2026
 - SDG TRU Double Bingo.

- Open to students, staff/faculty, Kamloops community.
 - Meant to educate, participate and take action on the 17 SDGs.
 - Robyn can help with small prize funding around food services, zero-waste.
 - Promote the Bingo in classes the last week of February, 2026.
 - Will be seeking volunteers.
- The Livable Cities, Collaborative Communities Conference – February 18 & 19, 2026. Free registration. <https://www.tru.ca/livable-cities-collaborative-communities.html>

9. Manager of Energy Projects Reports, Natalie Yao

- No Report.
- Yanmin Gao would like to join the Energy Subcommittee.

10. Campus Infrastructure Report, Carmen Love

- No Report
- Sustainability office is anticipated to move into the Sustainability Powerhouse November, 2026.

11. Next Meeting

- a. **Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 9:30** via Teams

12. Adjournment

- a. **Meeting adjourned at 10:52.**