



# THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 26, 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

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

**Present (non-voting):** Anna Rogers, Natalie Yao

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

**Regrets (non-voting):**

**Recording Secretary:** Teams Recorder/Lora Sartori

#### 1. Call to Order and Welcome

The co-chair, Catherine Tatarniuk, called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

#### 2. Territorial Acknowledgment

Catherine Tatarniuk delivered the territorial acknowledgement.

#### 3. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda of the ESAC meeting of March 26, 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 January 22, 2026.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the ESAC meeting of January 22, 2026 be approved as circulated.*

#### **5. Business Arising from Previous Meetings**

a. None

#### **6. New Business**

##### **a) Update on the Sustainability Plan**

- Plan is approximately 96% complete.
- TRU has not signed a partnership agreement with TteS and hopefully will be signed on April 28.
- Scott Blackford offered James to help with connections.

#### **7. Reports of Committees**

##### **a. Awards Sub-Committee, James Gordon**

- Met with Niki, Baldev, Amie, Shelley and James.
- Deadline for applications was moved from March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 14, 2026.
- Please review the website and nominate student, staff and faculty members for the Awards.
- [\*\*Awards: Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee: Thompson Rivers University\*\*](#)
- **Action Item:** Lora to change meeting from April 9, 2026 to after April 14.

##### **b. Zero-Waste Sub-Committee, Anna Rogers**

- We were using both Textbooks for Change and book recycling which accepted a wider stream of materials. As book recycling was very successful, we have phased out Textbooks for Change and now everything goes through the book recycling program. Book recycling accepts textbooks and bound books. We now use Planet Earth for the book recycling program.
- To prevent contamination at the residence, we worked with Waste Management to lock down the bins and put holes in the bins which now has

eliminated contamination. Also updated signage to include “no bagged items”.

- Another challenge which TRU faces are people/homeless taking bottles and cans. Risk has reached out to find solutions to this problem. We rely on Chris Rose Centre for Autism to empty the refundable bins. We have asked Janitorial to help out when they are able.
  - Regarding zero-waste STARS submissions, TRU is doing very well for points. The only points that are unattainable for TRU is eliminating plastic.
- b. **Sustainable Purchasing Sub-Committee**, James Gordon
- Michelle and James met last week.
  - Subcommittee has been on hold while we await for the approval of the Sustainable Purchasing Policy which will go to the Board on March 27.
  - Michelle will be taking over the Chair position as James steps back.
- c. **Mission Fulfillment Sub-Committee**, Shelley Church
- On Hold.
- d. **Biodiversity Sub-Committee**, James Gordon/Shelley Church
- Met on March 17, 2026.
  - BioBlitz will now align with BioBlitz Canada – September 22, 23, & 24, 2026
    - Guided walks.
    - Talking with Science Faculty to use a Science Seminar Series on Thursday afternoons to highlight the BioBlitz.
  - Shelley is working the Bird Strike Guidelines.
  - Bird School will be May 13, 2026 from 8 – 11:30 run by Tom Dickinson. Meet at the Horticulture Gardens.
  - Bird Strike – James to follow-up with Warren, Carmen and Garry to get the film installed on the new Indigenous Building and the LCDES.
- e. **Sustainability Education in the Curriculum Sub-Committee**, Alexis Brown and Kara Lefevre
- Met on March 10, 2026.
  - Sustainability in the Curriculum Fellowship concluded a couple of weeks ago. Both Shelley and Catherine participated.
  - Applied Learning Living Labs Project was discussed. There may be space on [TRUSpace](#) – which is an institutional repository. This site will be maintained as long as TRU exists. Built around the idea of providing licenses. 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.
  - Green Leaders program is the rebirth of the Staff and Faculty Sustainability Ambassador’s Program. Would like to get one staff or faculty member from every department on campus to be a sustainability champion for that office/department to work with the Sustainability Office to communicate sustainability initiatives to their co-workers. There is a cake and coffee

event on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 – 11:00 at Scratch Café to kick off the event.

**f. Living Landscape Sub-Committee, Elise Menard**

- Met on March 12, 2026.
- Approved the Terms of Reference.
- Brainstorming projects for the Committee.

**g. Energy Sub-Committee, Natalie Yao**

- **Action Item:** Lora will set up a meeting with Amie S. and Yanmin G. for the week of March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**8. Manager of Sustainability Programs Reports, James Gordon**

- James will be retiring on July 3, 2026.
- Working on STARS report with the goal of submitting the report on May 1, 2026.
- Play [TRU SDG Bingo](#). Part of SDG Month Canada.
- Earth Day is on April 22, 2026.
- Solar Table Update:
  - Year one table is almost complete. Will be installed by the upper deck of the Trades building by the Horticulture Gardens. Needs to be powder-coated and then assembled;
  - Year Two main construction is also almost completed. Needs a table. Installation will happen soon.
  - Year Three construction needs some roof work and electrical. Will be installed behind AE Building. Using the existing table.
- EV van conversion project is moving forward. It is a 1990 Chevy Astro Van converted from gas to electric. Trades instructors and students are doing all the work. Hope to be done by the end of April, 2026. Will go back into the facilities fleet. Van will be wrapped.

**9. Manager of Energy Projects Reports, Natalie Yao**

- TRU IT Department could not get the wireless solar metering connected to the network due to shortage of staff. Looking at options to get the meters online.
- Initial discussions with a science professor to help with using AI for metering.
- Investigating the next solar project.

**10. Campus Infrastructure Report, Carmen Love**

- No Report

## **11. Next Meeting**

- a. **Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 9:30** via Teams

## **12. Adjournment**

- a. **Meeting adjourned at 10:30.**