



THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 27, 2025
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), Dana Prymak, Hardeep Chahal, James Gordon, John Church, Robyn Hollas, Sarah Martin, Ted Gottfriedson, Warren Asuchak

Present (non-voting): Natalie Yao

Regrets (voting): Amie Schellenberg, Baldev Pooni, Carmen Love, Niki Remesz, Sarah Martin, Satwinder Paul,

Regrets (non-voting): Anna Rogers

Recording Secretary: Teams Recorder/Lora Sartori

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The co-chair, Catherine Tatarniuk, called the meeting to order at 9:41 pm.

2. Territorial Acknowledgment

Catherine Tatarniuk delivered the territorial acknowledgement.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda of the ESAC meeting of October 30, 2025.

*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 September 25, 2025.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the ESAC meeting of September 25, 2025 be approved as circulated.*

5. Business Arising from Previous Meetings

a. None

6. New Business

a. Welcome to new members, gratitude to departing members

Thank you to Kai Bauman and John Church for their contribution to the ESAC.

b. For approval: Minor revision of ESAC Terms of Reference

- A change was made accidentally to the Terms of Reference.
- On page 2 of the Terms of Reference to change the number of faculty member representatives appointed by Senate from three to five.


Proposed Motion

On motion duly made and adopted, ESAC approves the updated Terms of Reference as presented.

c. Discussion: Central Volunteering Hub, James Gordon

- James will meet with Larry Isles and possibly Sean Read from the Experiential Learning Office to discuss a Central Volunteering Hub.
- James has spoken with Wendy Krauza who runs a course on volunteering.
- A Central Volunteering Hub would simplify the volunteering experience at TRU and the Community.
- Will also allow us to track data.

d. Discussion: Mission Fulfilment Indicators, James Gordon, Shelley Church, Catherine Tatarniuk

- Please review the Mission Fulfilment Indicators and provide James, Shelley and Catherine any suggestions.
-  [MFE Sustainability Indicators.xlsx](#)

7. Reports of Committees

a. Awards Sub-Committee, James Gordon

- Still need a Chair for the Awards sub-committee.
- James met with President Airini and Matt Milovick and discussed elevating the ESAC Awards into the President's Awards. President Airini agreed with this.
- Agreed to separate the Staff and Faculty Environmental Achievement Award.

b. Zero-Waste Sub-Committee, Anna Rogers

- No report from Anna.
- James did report that TRU has a Zero-Waste Wizard located on the TRU Sustainability Website/Everyday Sustainability/Zero Waste Recycling and Composting.
- <https://www.tru.ca/sustainability/everyday/zero-waste-recycling-composting.html>

c. Sustainable Purchasing Sub-Committee, James Gordon

- No meeting.
- Hardeep report that the draft of the Purchasing Policy is complete and includes the Sustainability Pillars.
- The Policy was slated to go to the Board in December, however TteS was not consulted prior to the Board Meeting.
- Hope to bring the Policy before the Board in February, 2026.
- The Purchasing Policy is past the consultation process but could be sent to the ESAC.
- Procurement is ready to launch a new PCard Training Module which has some sustainability features built into it.
- Supplier code of conduct has now made it way into the new service agreement for the RFP process.

d. Mission Fulfillment Sub-Committee, Shelley Church

- On Hold.

e. Biodiversity Sub-Committee, James Gordon/Shelley Church

- Asked Tom Dickinson to review the Bird Strike information.
- The BioBlitz will take place September 15, 16 & 17, 2026.
- Expanded from one day to 3 days to increase engagement.
- Tory Anchikoski incorporated BioBlitz into her Biology course.
- She will connect with the Biology faculty to encourage other faculty to incorporate the BioBlitz into their curriculum.

f. Sustainability Education in the Curriculum Sub-Committee, Alexis Brown and Kara Lefevre

- Met on November 25, 2025.
- Discussed the purpose of the committee and how to weave sustainability into the curriculum.
- A lot of work on campus regarding experiential learning such as living lab projects, for example the BioBlitz.
- Would like a central portal to house what all the experiential learning projects are on campus.
- Kara Lafevre and Samantha Suppanz could house the portal on the EnviroColab website.
- CELT is working on workshops to help faculty incorporate sustainability into their curriculum.
- The Sustainability Office will offer \$400 to use towards future professional development to faculty to incorporate sustainability into their curriculum.

g. Landscape Sub-Committee, Elise Menard

- Met on October 27, 2025.
- Will be called the Living Landscape Advisory Sub-Committee
- Will be discussing the Terms of Reference and membership.

h. Energy Sub-Committee, Natalie Yao

- Only one person has shown an interest in the Energy Sub-Committee.
- Will wait until the new year in January or February to start the Committee.
- Advertise on the Connect about sub-committee participation.

8. Manager of Sustainability Programs Reports, James Gordon

- James met with Dr. Airini, Matt Milovick, and Alex Turnbull of Prism Engineering regarding the draft Campus Strategic Sustainability Plan.
- Dr. Airini reiterated how important Sustainability is to TRU as a whole.

- Change the name from the Campus Strategic Sustainability Plan to the TRU Sustainability Plan.
- The Plan is still in draft form.
- Still need to consult with TteS.
- Second Student Focus Group on December 3, 2025.
- Working on a rain barrel project with faculty members from Geography, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, and members of the grounds crew to capture and use rainwater. Will happen on the roof of the Wildfire Building. Start date Spring, 2026.
- Courtney Mason reports that 5 signs will be erected around campus regarding the importance of pollinators. This is part of our Bee City Campus initiative.
- Pledge Challenge Campaign ends today.
- Cake and Coffee Event on December 3 from 9:30 – 11:00 at Scratch Café to celebrate the Pledge Campaign and look for feedback.
- Working on resurrecting the staff/faculty sustainability ambassador program.
- Working on a Climate Change Resilience Committee/Task Force.
- Close to launching TRU Cycling Club pilot project.
- Close to launching the Enhanced EBike Discount Program.
- \$40 bike purchase program almost complete.
- Still need a JOHSC Member for the ESAC.

Discussion Points

- Hardeep points out that this is an adjourned meeting as there was no quorum at the October meeting.
- The By-laws state that at an adjourned meeting if quorum is not present within a half hour of the start of the meeting, the members present shall be the quorum.
- Dana Prymak reported on the Times Higher Education Impact Ratings submission.
- [Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- Results are available in June, 2026.

9. Manager of Energy Projects Reports, Natalie Yao

- After a year, we had the Solar PV Energization Event on November 15, 2025. Our 3 rooftop Solar PV systems is now working.
- On November 17, we submitted our BOMA Best Building Recertification submission.

10. Campus Infrastructure Report, Carmen Love

- No Report

11. Next Meeting

- a. **Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 9:30** via Teams

12. Adjournment

- a. **Meeting adjourned at 10:38.**