



THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

Date: March 22, 2024

To: Brett Fairbairn, President & Vice-Chancellor

From: Matt Milovick, Vice-President Administration and Finance

RE: Revisions to BRD 23-0 (Environmental Policy)

Attachment: Red-lined and clean copies of BRD 23-0

Executive Summary: This report is being presented to the Board of Governors as a **NOTICE OF MOTION / APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE**. The rationale for the proposed revisions are as follows:

- Updates to the policy to reflect administrative changes since 2012;
- Add or alter elements of the policy to better reflect the overall state of environmental sustainability issues now compared to 2012;
- To add specific energy-related elements which are in keeping with what is required to be in compliance with the needs of the ISO 50001 energy management standards.

Background: In 2012, the Board approved BRD 23-0, Environmental Policy. There have been no substantive changes to the policy since its approval.

Discussion: The changes proposed modernize the policy based on activities, affiliations and administrative changes that are contemporary and relevant to TRU's approach to sustainability. The most substantive change involves specific energy-related elements that are required for TRU to be compliant with ISO 50001 energy management standards.

ISO 50001 is a continuous improvement framework that makes it easier for organizations to integrate energy management into overall efforts to improve quality and environmental management. It provides a framework of requirements for organizations to develop a policy committing the organization to efficient energy use with fixed targets and objectives to meet the policy; to use data to

better understand and make decisions about energy use; to measuring results and to regularly review how well the policy works to continually improve energy management.

Consultations: This policy was primarily revised by the team in the TRU Sustainability office. The policy has been endorsed by the Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Committee of the Board and Senate and it has been reviewed by legal counsel.

Recommendation: Administration is presenting the revised BRD 23-0 Policy for **Notice of Motion** (a two-week notice period) as well as for **Approval In Principle**. If there is no material feedback received through the notice of motion period, the approval will be formalized at the end of the notice period.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Matt Milovick', written over a horizontal line.

Matt Milovick
Vice-President Administration & Finance

POLICY NUMBER	BRD 23-0
APPROVAL DATE	MAY 24, 2012
LAST AMENDMENT	FIRST VERSION
AUTHORITY	BOARD OF GOVERNORS
PRIMARY CONTACT	OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

POLICY

Thompson Rivers University (TRU) is committed to being the 'University of Choice for Environmental Sustainability' as set out in the Strategic Plan 2007-2012.

The University is a signatory to the Taillores Declaration and the University and College Presidents' Climate Statement of Action for Canada.

The University has a significant role to play in preserving the local and global environments. 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 policy will assist members of the University community to understand and fulfill their responsibilities with respect to environmental sustainability.

I. DEFINITIONS

1. **Sustainability:** Meeting present needs without compromising the needs of future generations.
2. **Environment:** Surrounding conditions, forces, or influences which affect the natural, built, or human systems.
3. **University Community:** All individuals who design, deliver, participate in and support the programmes which the university delivers.

II. PURPOSE

1. To facilitate and support the University's mission with respect to Environment and Sustainability as set out in the Strategic Plan.
2. To establish the process and responsibilities for monitoring sustainability initiatives at the University.
3. To outline the principles through which the environmental and sustainability objectives can be achieved.
4. To outline the roles and responsibilities for implementing Sustainability Action Plans.

III. PRINCIPLES

1. Leadership in Sustainable Operations
 - a. The University will increase energy efficiency, use of renewable resources and the use of carbon reduction technology.
 - b. The University will decrease water consumption, waste generation and the use of toxic substances in campus operations. Where substitution, reuse, or recycling cannot be reasonably implemented, best practices will be pursued in the disposal of waste.
 - c. The University's procurement processes will consider social, ethical, and economic factors in the purchasing process through the use of such tools as life cycle costing or similar analysis.
 - d. The University will consider biodiversity when deciding about the use and development of campus lands.
2. Leadership in Evaluating Success
 - a. The University will continually measure and monitor the impacts of its activities against the principles of sustainability, setting objectives, targets and measuring results in the form of a Campus Sustainability Action Plan that will be updated every three years.
3. Leadership in Community Sustainability
 - a. The University will foster and encourage the development of sustainable practices and activities by the University community on and off campus.

- b. The University will work cooperatively in support of sustainability programmes and actions in the broader community.
 - c. The University will work with other universities, government departments, and organizations to further the objectives of sustainability.
4. Leadership in Managing Environmental Risks
 - a. The University, through the Office of Environment and Sustainability, will establish and administer an environmental management plan that sets targets, indicators and measures environmental performance and reports progress.
 - b. The University commits to a process of continual environmental improvement and best practices.
 - c. The University will disseminate knowledge regarding sustainability to the community at large.

REGULATIONS

I. RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

1. The Vice-President, Administration and Finance is responsible for reviewing the Campus Environmental and Sustainability Action Plan and for approving actions, schedules, and funding for its implementation. Information from the Plans will be compiled and published in one of the Environmental Advisory Committee's bi-annual reports to the TRU Board of Governors and Senate.
2. The Director of the Office of Environment and Sustainability, reporting to the Vice President, Administration and Finance, is responsible for co-ordination, advocacy, and communication of the sustainability principles, objectives, targets, and activities on campus. The Director will also support TRU's sustainability actions within the broader community, government departments and other organizations and universities.
3. The Director of the Office of Environment and Sustainability is responsible for regulatory reporting.

RED-LINED VERSION SHOWING PROPOSED REVISIONS



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

POLICY NUMBER	BRD 23-0
APPROVAL DATE	MAY 24, 2012
LAST AMENDMENT	FIRST VERSION
AUTHORITY	BOARD OF GOVERNORS
PRIMARY CONTACT	<u>SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE</u> OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

POLICY

Future generations will benefit by strong and far-reaching environmental decisions made by members of the current TRU community, in particular by those in leadership positions. In light of the litany of core environmental elements around the world that are threatened, a concerted effort must be made to use a rigorous sustainability systems-thinking approach to decision making in order to try and simultaneously account for environmental, social and economic factors. As is stated in the TRU Vision Statement, “The focal point of the statement is the Secwépemc word Kw’seltknéws, which means we are all related and interconnected with nature, each other and all things.”

Thompson Rivers University (TRU) is committed to being one of the top universities regarding overall performance in sustainability as gauged by third-party rankings or ratings (for instance the AASHE STARS rating and/or THE Impact Rankings).

The University is a signatory to the following environmental or sustainability-focused initiatives and, as such, will comply with the spirit and reporting requirements of each one:

- The University and College Presidents’ Climate Statement of Action for Canada (2008).
- Taillores Declaration (2010)
- Race To Zero for Universities and Colleges (‘climate emergency letter’) (2021)
- SDG Accord (2022)

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I. ~~DEFINITIONS~~

~~1.~~ **Sustainability:** Meeting present needs without compromising the needs of future generations.

~~1.~~ _____

~~2.~~ **Environment:** Surrounding conditions, forces, or influences which affect the natural, built, or human systems.

~~2.~~ _____

~~3.~~ **University Community:** All individuals who design, deliver, participate in and support the programmes which the university delivers.

~~4.~~ **Energy:** Energy represents all energy sources on site (electrical, natural gas, diesel, gasoline, propane, and renewable energy sources etc.).

~~5.~~ **ISO 50001:** A framework of requirements based on the management system model of continual improvement for organizations to manage their energy use.

~~6.~~ **Energy Management System:** A set of procedures that defines how Thompson River University manages its energy performance in accordance with ISO 50001.

~~7.~~ **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other compounds emitted from the burning of fossil fuels.

~~3.~~

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY (BRD 23-0)

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REGULATIONS

I. ~~H.~~ **PURPOSE**

~~1.a.~~ To facilitate and support the University's mission with respect to Environment and Sustainability as set out in the 5-Year Campus Strategic Sustainability Plan~~Strategic Plan.~~

~~2.b.~~ To establish the process and responsibilities for monitoring sustainability initiatives at the University.

~~3.c.~~ To outline the principles through which the environmental and sustainability objectives can be achieved.

d. To outline the roles and responsibilities for implementing [Campus Strategic Sustainability Plans](#), with a focus on the plans' priorities.

~~4.e. [Sustainability Action Plans](#).~~

II. ~~III.~~ PRINCIPLES

1. Leadership in Sustainable Operations

~~a. The University will increase energy efficiency, use of renewable resources and the use of carbon reduction technology.~~

~~b.a.~~ The University will decrease water consumption, waste generation and the use of toxic substances in campus operations. Where substitution, reuse, or recycling cannot be reasonably implemented, best practices will be pursued in the disposal of waste.

~~e.~~ The University's procurement processes will consider environmental, social, ethical, and economic factors in the purchasing process through the use of such tools as the TRU Purchasing Policy, and life cycle costing or similar analysis. ~~life cycle costing or similar analysis.~~

~~d.b.~~ _____

c. The University will consider biodiversity and the preservation of remaining wild areas of its campuses when deciding about the use and development of campus lands.

2. Leadership in Energy Management

i. The University is committed to continuously improving energy performance in its facilities and activities, and the Energy Management System, while minimizing its environmental footprint. To achieve this, the University will:

1. Establish energy and GHG targets that are reviewed annually and updated as needed.

2. Ensure employees receive ongoing training in energy management specific to their role within the organization.

3. Maintain an active workplace energy conservation awareness program for all employees.

4. Ensure that all documentation related to energy performance is available to employees based on their specific roles within the organization, including objectives, targets, and operating procedures.

5. Ensure all legal and other requirements related to energy efficiency, energy use, and energy consumption are met.

6. Ensure that the procurement of equipment and services that impact energy performance includes consideration for energy efficiency and energy performance improvement.

7. Ensure that the design of new buildings and/or facilities include consideration for energy efficiency and energy performance improvement.

8. Ensure maintenance of BOMA BEST certification for all existing and new buildings.

9. Ensure that this Policy is available as documented information, communicated within the organization, and available to interested parties, as appropriate.

e.ii. The University is committed to aligning its energy management practices with ISO 50001 at the Kamloops Campus. This applies to all Kamloops Campus activities and facilities including buildings and fleet.

2.3. Leadership in Evaluating Success

- a. The University will continually measure and monitor the impacts of its activities against the principles of sustainability, setting objectives, targets and measuring results in the form of a Campus Strategic Sustainability Action Plan that will be updated every five~~three~~ years.

3.4. Leadership in TRU Community Sustainability

- a. The University will foster and encourage the development of sustainable practices and activities by the University community on and off campus.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY (BRD 23-0)

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- b. The University will work cooperatively in support of sustainability programmes and actions in the ~~broader~~ communities the University serves.
 - c. The University will work with other universities, colleges, government departments, and organizations to further the objectives of sustainability.

4. Leadership in Managing Environmental Risks

~~a. The University, through the Office of Environment and Sustainability, will establish and administer an environmental management plan that sets targets, indicators and measures environmental performance and reports progress.~~

~~b.a.~~ The University commits to a process of continual environmental improvement and best practices.

b. The University will disseminate knowledge regarding sustainability to the community at large.

c. Specifically, due to the obvious and long-term effects that climate change will foreseeably pose to the University, key University employees (see below*) will conduct an assessment of the possible risks to the University every three years in conjunction with the review of this policy.

* AVP of Capital Planning, Sustainability and Ancillary Services; Energy Manager; Manager of Office of Safety and Emergency Management; Manager of Risk Management; Manager of Sustainability Programs.

e. The University commits to reviewing and updating this Policy every three years.

REGULATIONS

~~I.~~ RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

1. The Vice-President, Administration and Finance is responsible for reviewing the Campus ~~Strategic Environmental and~~ Sustainability ~~Action~~ Plan and for approving actions, schedules, and funding for its implementation. Information from the Plans will be compiled and published in ~~one of~~ the Environmental ~~Sustainability~~ Advisory Committee's ~~bi-annual~~ reports to the TRU Board of Governors and Senate as needed.
2. The ~~Director Manager of the Office of Environment and Sustainability Programs,~~ reporting to the Vice President, Administration and Finance, is responsible for coordination, advocacy, and communication of the sustainability principles, objectives, targets, and activities on campus. They ~~Director~~ will also support TRU's sustainability actions within the broader community, government departments and other organizations and universities.
3. The ~~Director Manager of of the Office of Environment and~~ Sustainability ~~Programs~~ is responsible for regulatory reporting.
4. The Energy Manager is responsible for energy management.
- 3.5.



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

POLICY NUMBER	BRD 23-0
APPROVAL DATE	
LAST AMENDMENT	MAY 24, 2012
AUTHORITY	BOARD OF GOVERNORS
PRIMARY CONTACT	SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE

POLICY

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6. **Energy Management System:** A set of procedures that defines how Thompson River University manages its energy performance in accordance with ISO 50001.
7. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other compounds emitted from the burning of fossil fuels.

REGULATIONS

I. PURPOSE

- a. To facilitate and support the University's mission with respect to Environment and Sustainability as set out in the 5-year TRU [Campus Strategic Sustainability Plan](#).
- b. To establish the process and responsibilities for monitoring sustainability initiatives at the University.
- c. To outline the principles through which the environmental and sustainability objectives can be achieved.
- d. To outline the roles and responsibilities for implementing Campus Strategic Sustainability Plans, with a focus on the plans' priorities.

II. PRINCIPLES

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 - i. Establish energy and GHG targets that are reviewed annually and updated as needed.
 - ii. Ensure employees receive ongoing training in energy management specific to their role within the organization.
 - iii. Maintain an active workplace energy conservation awareness program for all employees.
 - iv. Ensure that all documentation related to energy performance is available to employees based on their specific roles within the organization, including objectives, targets, and operating procedures.
 - v. Ensure all legal and other requirements related to energy efficiency, energy use, and energy consumption are met.
 - vi. Ensure that the procurement of equipment and services that impact energy performance includes consideration for energy efficiency and energy performance improvement.
 - vii. Ensure that the design of new buildings and/or facilities include consideration for energy efficiency and energy performance improvement.
 - viii. Ensure maintenance of BOMA BEST certification for all existing and new buildings
 - ix. Ensure that this Policy is available as documented information, communicated within the organization, and available to interested parties, as appropriate.
- b. The University is committed to aligning its energy management practices with ISO 50001 at the Kamloops Campus. This applies to all Kamloops Campus activities and facilities including buildings and fleet.

3. Leadership in Evaluating Success

- a. The University will continually measure and monitor the impacts of its activities against the principles of sustainability, setting objectives, targets and measuring results in the form of a Campus Strategic Sustainability Action Plan that will be updated every five years.

4. Leadership in TRU Community Sustainability

- a. The University will foster and encourage the development of sustainable practices and activities by the University community on and off campus.
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- a. The University commits to a process of continual environmental improvement and best practices.
- b. The University will disseminate knowledge regarding sustainability to the community at large.
- c. Specifically, due to the obvious and long-term effects that climate change will foreseeably pose to the University, key University employees (see below*) will conduct an assessment of the possible risks to the University every three years in conjunction with the review of this policy.
- d. The University commits to reviewing and updating this Policy every three years.

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RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

1. The Vice-President, Administration and Finance is responsible for reviewing the Campus Strategic Sustainability Plan and for approving actions, schedules, and funding for its implementation. Information from the Plan will be compiled and published in the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee's reports to the TRU Board of Governors and Senate as needed.

2. The Manager of Sustainability Programs is responsible for co-ordination, advocacy, and communication of the sustainability principles, objectives, targets, and activities on campus. They will also support TRU's sustainability actions within the broader community, government departments and other organizations and universities.
3. The Manager of Sustainability Programs is responsible for regulatory reporting.
4. The Energy Manager is responsible for energy management.