**New TRU Employee Orientation Package**

**TRU Sustainability Office**

**(located in House 4; 250-852-7153)**

# Sustainability Ambassador Program

Sustainability Ambassadors help spread the ‘s­­pirit of sustainability’ at TRU by being a force for change and improving the culture of sustainability. This group is: Ideas-Driven. Action-Driven. Goal-Driven, while still trying to have fun! They meet quarterly from October to May, and are supported by the program coordinator at all times.

* New ambassadors from any TRU office or department are welcome to apply at any time.
* Please find the attached Terms of Reference.

# Sustainability Grant Fund

The annual TRU Sustainability Grant Fund ($100,000) was created with the goal to advance sustainability at Thompson Rivers University. Grants are awarded to any TRU student, staff member or faculty member to improve the university’s operational environmental performance, foster sustainability literacy and campus community engagement, advance applied research, and demonstrate the viability of sustainability technologies. Pre-Proposal deadline is November 7, 2016, and Proposal deadline is February 17, 2017. Winning submissions are awarded funds by March 3, 2017, and have one year to spend them. Each submission must have at least one student, one staff member and one faculty member on the project team.

* The Submission Review Committee is made up of students, staff and faculty, and those interested in sitting on it are encouraged to contact the Sustainability Office.
* Please find the attached Terms of Reference.

# RideShare (launching Fall 2016)

A new online carpooling solution for students, staff and faculty (<https://www.trurideshare.com/public/home.aspx>). Registration takes less than 5 minutes, and does not oblige anyone to participate in the Rideshare program. Similar Rideshare programs have been used successfully at other Canadian campuses for years. The program is easy to understand, and simple to use with any digital device. Rideshare isn’t just for vehicle drivers and passengers either; it’s for everyone who commutes to campus in any way.

* Please find the attached Media release from 2015 (latest 2016 one is in draft form)

**Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee**

(a TRU Senate Standing Committee)

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) is dedicated to providing evidence based advice with regard to environmental l sustainability policies and practices that foster a sustainable future and lead to health and economic benefits for the University community. The ESAC will act to promote dialogue and discussion on issues related to the environment and sustainability. The ESAC is also committed to fostering environmental literacy, sustainable development, and environmental responsibility at TRU that can serve as a model for others. The ESAC meets for 90 minutes on the first Wednesday of each month (besides July and August).

* Those students, staff or faculty members interested in joining it can contact the Sustainability Office.
* Please view this site for details: https://www.tru.ca/senate/committees/eac.html

# Zero Waste

The Sustainability Office works with other campus departments to manage all of the Zero Waste Stations both inside and outside around campus, as well as most of the other micro waste and recycling streams (for instance battery recycling and electronic recycling). If you have any ideas on how to improve any of these systems or have questions about them, please contact the Sustainability Office.

* Please find the attached Zero waste Toolkit.

# Volunteer Opportunities

The Sustainability Office has ongoing volunteer opportunities for the initiatives and events just listed, along with many others. Please contact the office if you’d like to help out.

## Events

* Sweater Days (in February): the thermostats are turned down a couple of points in all the major campus buildings and everyone is encouraged to put on a sweater in order to save on burning natural gas. It’s an event to bring awareness to climate change and have some fun in the process. Natural gas savings are recorded and reported on.
* Green Golf (summertime): the Tom Owen Memorial Green Golf Tournament is an opportunity for staff to get to know each other in a fun environment away from work and play a game that the Sustainability Office’s original director was very fond of. It’s also a fundraising event for the Tom Owen Sustainability Award.
* Bike To Work Week & Month - as the name suggests, this provincial event is all about using two wheels to get to and from work all week. This past year, the event was expanded in order to encourage people to keep riding all month.
* Casual Shirt Days (in June) - This is the opposite of Sweater Days. Now we let the temperature rise in all major campus buildings by a couple of degrees and encourage people to dress more casually, more suited to the outdoor temperatures. Electricity savings are then recorded and reported on.
* Mugs For Hugs (in November) - this partnership between our office and a student group had its debut in 2015 to great reviews. It’s all about encouraging people to bring their own travel mugs and not use disposable coffee cups.
* Trash Bash (in May) - 2016 will be the 20th year for this annual staff event that attracts up to 100 staff and faculty members to head off into the campus hinterlands to give it a good cleanup every spring. The event is followed by a free barbecue and prize ceremony.
* Earth Day (April 22) - Started in 1970, this international event is all about raising awareness of the importance of treating our earth sustainably. The TRU Sustainability Office does various things each year to celebrate this fact.
* Earth Hour (in March) - this one hour ‘lights out’ event around the world is designed to bring awareness about how we all use power. In the past the Sustainability Office has partnered with students from the campus residences to celebrate this event.

# Follow us on Social Media

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Blog: <http://inside.tru.ca/category/sustainability/>

[www.tru.ca/sustain](http://www.tru.ca/sustain)