

TRU Office of Sustainability

Key changes that helped us go from gold in 2015 to platinum in 2018

Operations

Energy & Air Quality – using more renewable energy and using less energy overall

2014 objectives

1. Increase energy coming from local, clean and renewable sources
2. Reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions
3. Maintain high quality indoor environments for staff, students and faculty

Progress achieved:

- Retrofits completed on almost all buildings to achieve energy conservation
- Solar energy installations
- Hired full-time energy specialist
- Reduced the most energy of any BC institution over the past four years

Key statistics:

- 35% reduction in GHG emissions since 2010, exceeding 2020 target
- 665MMBtu of on-site solar energy installed

Growth in percentage of available points:

- 2011 – 9%
- 2015 – 21%
- 2018 – 84%

Waste – diverting waste from landfill and using less materials overall

2014 objectives

1. Move toward becoming a zero-waste campus
2. Reduce overall waste generation on campus
3. Safely manage all hazardous wastes

Progress achieved

- 500+ zero-waste containers installed
- All campus events and functions are zero-waste
- Electronic collection bins installed across campus

Key statistics

- Waste diversion rate rose to 61% in 2017
- Annual waste generated is 522 tonnes

Growth in percentage of available points:

- 2011 – 27%
- 2015 – 20%
- 2018 – 88%

Planning

Design & Construction – creating healthy and sustainable new buildings on campus

2014 objectives

1. Campus buildings are designed using sustainable design best practices
2. Negative impacts from construction are reduced
3. The campus is a complete destination where people can live, work, learn and play.

Progress achieved

- All new buildings must meet LEED Gold standard
- ITTC and NPH buildings are designed to be solar-ready
- ITTC electric heating system shared with Trades building – 10% GHG reduction

Key statistics

- Two campus buildings were previously certified to LEED standard

Growth in percentage of available points:

- 2011 – 15%
- 2015 – 44%
- 2018 – 40%

Campus Grounds – maintaining an attractive campus environment while protecting nature

2014 objectives

1. Natural landscapes are planned and maintained with the health of the local ecology in mind.
2. Hard landscapes (e.g., walkways) are planned and maintained to reduce environmental impacts and to facilitate social interaction

Progress achieved

- Integrated Pest Management principles used to reduce pesticide/herbicide use
- Non-toxic ice melting products are used in the winter

Key statistics

- Total grounds managed are 165 acres
- Three at-risk species inhabit TRU property

Growth in percentage of available points:

- 2011 – 92%
- 2015 – 92%
- 2018 – 85%

Transportation – promoting active and alternative transportation choices

2014 objectives

1. The need to travel by personal vehicle is reduced
2. Traveling to and from campus by transit is viable and convenient
3. Campus is pedestrian and cyclist friendly
4. Operations vehicles and equipment use clean fuels

Progress achieved

- BC Transit UPASS provided to all students
- TRU RideShare and Zipcar programs implemented
- 8 electric vehicles introduced to operations fleet
- Bike share and bike purchase programs introduced

Key statistics

- 33% increase in transit use, resulting in 30% reduction in single occupant vehicle trips
- 8 electric vehicle chargers are located on campus

Growth in percentage of available points:

- 2011 – 40%
- 2015 – 43%
- 2018 – 75%

Total growth in percentage of available points for Planning

2011 – 24% > 2015 – 44% > 2018 – 74%

Advocacy & Engagement

Internal Advocacy – building a culture of sustainability at TRU

2014 objectives

1. Leaders, faculty, staff and students actively seek and integrate sustainability learning into their personal lives and with the TRU community

Progress achieved

- Introduced Sustainability Ambassador Program
- Introduced Sustainability Grant Fund
- iDays and professional development days held on United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Key statistics

- \$100,000 per year available through Sustainability Grant Fund

Growth in percentage of available points:

- 2011 – n/a
- 2015 – 66%
- 2018 – 99%

External Advocacy – making an impact on our community

2014 objectives

1. Leaders, faculty, staff and students actively advance sustainability initiatives and learning beyond TRU campus in the broader Kamloops community

Progress achieved

- Informal support for student volunteering
- Major campus events including David Suzuki: Beyond Climate film event raised more than \$12,000 for local non-profits
- Ongoing partnerships with City of Kamloops (e.g. United Way)

Key statistics

- 48% of students reported volunteering in some capacity in 2018
- On average, each student volunteers 30.74 hours per year
- 10% of students are Indigenous

Growth in percentage of available points:

- 2011 – 48%
- 2015 – 78%
- 2018 – 91%

Total growth in percentage of available points for Advocacy

2011 – 48% > 2015 – 72% > 2018 – 95%

Learning

Curriculum – Teaching students to be the sustainability leaders of tomorrow

2014 objectives

1. TRU research community is engaged in wide-spread, multi-disciplinary research on sustainability topics

Progress achieved

- Leadership in Environmental Sustainability certificate introduced
- Began tracking/monitoring all courses
- Introduced new courses and programs with sustainability focus (e.g. Master in Environmental Economics)

Key statistics

- 25% of TRU courses include sustainability content

Growth in percentage of available points:

- 2011 – 46%
- 2015 – 86%
- 2018 – 94%

Research – contributing to global knowledge of sustainability issues

2014 objectives

1. TRU research community is engaged in wide-spread, multi-disciplinary research on sustainability topics

Progress achieved

- Sustainability Research Grants for Students and Faculty introduced
- Voluntary open access policy
- Ground-breaking sustainability research by TRU faculty (e.g. Lauchlan Fraser rejuvenated land research)

Key statistics

- 41% of faculty conduct research related to sustainability
- Student Research Grant valued at \$5,000 per year

Growth in percentage of available points:

- 2011 – 50%
- 2015 – 87%
- 2018 – 89%

Total growth in percentage of available points for Learning

2011 – 52% > 2015 – 86% > 2018 – 93%

Administration

Governance – Setting clear standards and responsibilities to manage progress

2014 objectives

1. Sustainability is a core and integrated component of TRU's governance framework

Progress achieved

- Environmental Advisory Committee reports to the TRU Senate and Board of Directors
- Staff, faculty and students involved in all campus planning
- External stakeholders involved in capital planning

Key statistics

- 2 students serve on the Environmental Advisory Committee
- 4 students serve on the Senate

Growth in percentage of available points:

- 2011 – 100%
- 2015 – 100%
- 2018 – 100%

Human Resources – treating our staff fairly and equitably; keeping staff safe on the job

2014 objectives

1. Sustainability requirements are embedded in TRU human resources programs and policies

Progress achieved

- 100% of full-time employees earn a living wage
- First-ever employee engagement survey completed in December 2017

Key statistics

- 1,269 full-time employees as of 2017
- Living wage in Kamloops is \$17.31/hr
- 0.55 injuries per 100 full-time employees as of 2016 (56% reduction over 2010)

Growth in percentage of available points:

- 2011 – n/a
- 2015 – 43%
- 2018 – 69%

Investment – using our money for good

2014 objectives

1. TRU endowment investments are managed in alignment with socially responsible investment (SRI) principles

