

Environmental Sustainability Achievement Award for Faculty & Staff

(as of January 2019)

Introduction:

Environmental Sustainability is embedded as one of Thompson Rivers University's five priorities in the 2014-2019 Strategic Priorities, and is one of four major themes in the Academic Plan. Many faculty and staff at Thompson Rivers University are actively engaged in sustainability efforts—creating initiatives within their offices, integrating sustainability in their teaching curriculum, and conducting related research are just a few examples of the commitments to sustainability that faculty and staff at TRU make. Individuals who are making substantial contributions to sustainability at TRU deserve institutional recognition.

The Environmental Sustainability Achievement Award will increase awareness of sustainability efforts at TRU. The award will recognize individuals who, through their service to TRU and their scholarly activities, are doing the most to enhance environmental sustainability at TRU.

This award will help recognize staff and faculty who:

- Develop and expand programming and research activities in the areas of environmental sustainability;
- Develop best practices that support environmental stewardship and sustainability at TRU;
- Foster environmental literacy amongst students, staff and faculty; and
- Encourage the development of partnerships in support of environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Rationale:

A review of university sustainability literature confirms that support of and focus on environmental sustainability in both an academic and operational approach is an effective way of attracting students. The Environmental Sustainability Achievement Award will substantiate TRU's Strategic Priority of sustainability and will not only support those who are active in sustainability, but encourage others to become active as well. If students hold a high level of trust that the university will model and support sustainability, then in turn the students will hold attitudes and behave in ways that support the initiatives and policies of the institution. Sustainable initiatives will continue to build institutional trust, indicating that the university is "doing the right thing," thus prompting pro-environmental behaviour from the student body. A strong academic and operational sustainability component can also attract students. Focus group research conducted by the Sustainability Office under the direction of Mr. Gudjonson in 2011 found that the majority of focus group participants (seven out of eight) emphasized that "all things being equal," that is, if they had the option of attending two universities, both offering their desired program and with similar logistics and costs, they would choose the university with a better sustainability track record and course content.

Selection Process:

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC), which reports jointly to the Board and the Senate, will manage the Environmental Sustainability Achievement Award. The annual award will provide one faculty member or staff member with a plaque in their name.

ESAC will grant the award based on the following:

1. Full-time, part-time and sessional faculty members or full-time, part-time or auxiliary staff members are eligible to receive the award.
2. The Selection Committee for the Environmental Sustainability Achievement Award will consist of the following members from the ESAC:
 - 1 faculty member
 - 1 staff member
 - 1 student
 - Chair of ESAC
 - Director of TRU Sustainability Office
3. The Selection Committee will issue a call for nominations during the first week of January each year. The call will go out to all TRU faculty members, staff, and students by email and will be advertised on TRU's website.
4. The Nomination deadline is February 22nd of every year.
5. At least four nominators must sign nominations. Nominations must include a written submission from each of the nominators outlining specific reasons for the nomination.
6. Nominations must include:
 - a. Statements prepared by the nominees (500 words or less) describing their contributions to campus sustainability;
 - b. Relevant materials supporting campus sustainability involvement.
 - c. Filled-in *Nomination Application Form*
7. The selection committee will meet after February 22 and recommend to ESAC at the March meeting the successful candidate. The award will be presented at International Days.
8. Award recipients are not eligible for nomination in future years.

Criteria

Nominees should be recognized by staff, students, or faculty as individuals who significantly help to advance sustainability. The Selection Committee will consider an individual's

engagement through his/her teaching, scholarly and/or service activity and will make a recommendation regarding the award recipient based on the following criteria:

- Significance of the contribution made by the nominee to environmental sustainability;
- The magnitude of the influence of the contribution (quantitative measures of the effects of the contribution should be provided when possible);
- The breadth of the influence of the contribution (the number of people or groups positively affected);
- Innovation and originality.