

# Environmental Sustainability Achievement Award for Students

(as of January 2019)

## **Introduction:**

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 students at Thompson Rivers University are actively engaged in sustainability efforts—creating sustainability initiatives and conducting related research are just a few examples of the commitments to sustainability that students at TRU make. Individuals who are making substantial contributions to sustainability at TRU deserve institutional recognition.

The Environmental Sustainability Achievement Award for students will increase awareness of sustainability efforts at TRU. The award will recognize the students who do the most to enhance environmental sustainability at TRU.

## **Rationale:**

This award will help recognize students who conduct research in the areas of environmental sustainability, participate in the development of best practices that support environmental stewardship and sustainability at TRU, foster environmental literacy across campus and in their communities and encourage the development of partnerships in support of environmental stewardship and sustainability.

## **Selection Process:**

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC), which reports jointly to the Board and the Senate, will manage the Student Environmental Sustainability Achievement Award. The annual award will provide to each of two students who are active in environmental sustainability a plaque in their name and a \$1,000 annual bursary.

ESAC will grant the awards based on the following:

1. Full-time and part-time students 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 for this award. 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 sustainability;
  - b. Relevant materials supporting sustainability involvement.
  - c. Filled-in *Nomination Application Form*
7. The selection committee will meet after February 22nd and recommend to ESAC at the March meeting the successful students. The award will be presented to students 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 review nominations and make recommendations regarding the award recipients 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.