



<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	BRD 23-0
<b>APPROVAL DATE</b>	April 12, 2024
<b>AUTHORITY</b>	Board of Governors
<b>CATEGORY</b>	Board
<b>PRIMARY CONTACT</b>	Manager of Sustainability Programs
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACT</b>	(TBD)

## POLICY

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Thompson Rivers University (TRU) is committed to being one of the top universities regarding overall performance in sustainability. As is stated in the TRU Vision Statement, “The focal point of the statement is the Secwépemc word Kw’seltnéws, which means we are all related and interconnected with nature, each other and all things.” Because of this, and in light of the litany of core environmental elements around the world that are threatened, a concerted effort must be made to include sustainability and environmental, social, and economic factors in decision making.

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)

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.

## REGULATIONS

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### 1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. **“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.
- 1.3. **“Energy”** - Energy represents all energy sources on site (electrical, natural gas, diesel, gasoline, propane, and renewable energy sources etc.).
- 1.4. **“ISO 50001”** - A framework of requirements based on the management system model of continual improvement for organizations to manager their energy use.
- 1.5. **“Energy Management System”** - A set of procedures that defines how Thompson River University manages its energy performance in accordance with ISO 50001

## 2. PURPOSE

- 2.1. 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.
- 2.2. To establish the process and responsibilities for monitoring sustainability initiatives at the University.
- 2.3. To outline the principles through which the environmental and sustainability objectives can be achieved.
- 2.4. To outline the roles and responsibilities for implementing Campus Strategic Sustainability Plans, with a focus on the plans’ priorities.

## 3. PRINCIPLES

### 3.1. Leadership in Sustainable Operations

- 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.
- b. 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.
- 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.

### 3.2. Leadership in Energy Management

- a. 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:

- i. Establish energy and greenhouse gas 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.

### **3.3. 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.

### **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.
- b. The University will work cooperatively in support of sustainability programs and actions in the communities TRU serves.

- c. The University will work with other universities, colleges, government departments, and organizations to further the objectives of sustainability.

### **3.5. Leadership in Managing Environmental Risks**

- a. The University commits to a process of continual environmental improvement and best practices.
- b. The University commits to reviewing and updating this Policy every three years.
- c. The University will disseminate knowledge regarding sustainability to the community at large.
- d. Due to the obvious and long-term effects that climate change will foreseeably pose to the University, the Vice-President Administration and Finance or designate will conduct an assessment of the possible risks to the University every three years in conjunction with the review of this policy.

## **4. RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1. 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 Advisory Committee's reports to the TRU Board of Governors and Senate as needed.
- 4.2. 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.
- 4.3. The Manager of Sustainability Programs is responsible for regulatory reporting.
- 4.4. The Energy Manager is responsible for energy management.