



THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 23, 2026
9:30 am to 11:00 am

Minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee, held via MS Teams, at
Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC

MINUTES

Present (voting): Shelley Church (Co-Chair), Amie Schellenberg, Baldev Pooni, Scott Blackford, James Gordon, Robyn Hollas, Sarah Martin, Ted Gottfriedson, Yanmin Gao

Present (non-voting): Anna Rogers

Regrets (voting): Catherine Tatarniuk (Co-Chair), Carmen Love, Dana Prymak, Niki Remesz, Satwinder Paul, Warren Asuchak

Regrets (non-voting): Natalie Yao

Recording Secretary: Teams Recorder

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The co-chair, Shelley Church, called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.

2. Territorial Acknowledgment

Shelley Church delivered the territorial acknowledgement.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda of the ESAC meeting of April 23, 2026.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the agenda be approved*

as circulated.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the ESAC meeting of March 26, 2026.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the ESAC meeting of January 22, 2026 be approved with the following changes:*

6.(a). TRU has not signed a partnership agreement with TteS and is scheduled to be signed on April 28, 2026.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meetings

a. None

6. New Business

a. **For approval: ESAC Awards**, James Gordon

The Awards subcommittee consisting of James Gordon, Shelley Church, Amie Schellenberg, Baldev Pooni and Niki Remesz met to adjudicate the Environmental Sustainability Achievement Awards for faculty/staff and student, the Tom Owen Environmental Sustainability Award and the Herbinlay Happy Planet Award. We had 11 nominations for this year. The following people are the recommendations of the Awards Subcommittee:

- Environmental Sustainability Achievement Awards for faculty/staff – Tory Anchikoski
- Environmental Sustainability Achievement Awards for students – Emerson Goodall
- Environmental Sustainability Achievement Awards for students – Rabeya Shikdar Orpa
- Tom Owen Environmental Sustainability Award – Buhimila Mboja
- Herbinlay Happy Planet Award – John Kang

Scott would like the nomination packages to be made available to the ESAC Committee.

Proposed Motion for ESAC

On motion duly made and adopted, it is RESOLVED that ESAC approve the nominations for the Environmental Sustainability Achievement Awards, the Tom Owen Environmental Sustainability Award and the Herbinlay Happy Planet Award.

7. Reports of Committees

- a. **Awards Sub-Committee**, James Gordon
 - Always looking for new committee members.
- b. **Zero-Waste Sub-Committee**, Anna Rogers
 - 29th Annual Trash Bash is confirmed for Thursday, May 14, 2026 from 9:00 – 1:00, lunch will be from 11:30 – 1:00. The BBQ will be going ahead this year for all participants.
 - Daniel, our Zero-Waste Work Study Student, is now finished in our office.
 - Residence move-out is now underway. We have eliminated contamination in the recycling through new signage and bins.
 - Trades introduced the Lug-A-Mug program. Carpentry created mug tree. Vendors give discounts if you bring your own mug.
 - A student is looking for options to divert plastic pipette holder containers. This could be another waste diversion stream.
- b. **Sustainable Purchasing Sub-Committee**, James Gordon
 - Michelle and her team got the new Purchasing Policy approved by the Board and she will give a presentation at the May ESAC meeting.
 - Michelle will be the new Chair of the Sustainable Purchasing Sub-Committee.
- c. **Mission Fulfillment Sub-Committee**, Shelley Church
 - On Hold.
- d. **Biodiversity Sub-Committee**, James Gordon/Shelley Church
 - Have had some interest from the Naturalist Club to participate in our BioBlitz in September.
- e. **Sustainability Education in the Curriculum Sub-Committee**, Alexis Brown and Kara Lefevre
 - No report.
- f. **Living Landscape Sub-Committee**, Elise Menard
 - Met on April 16, 2026.
 - Approved the Terms of Reference.

- Created a spreadsheet to brainstorm projects on campus.

g. Energy Sub-Committee, Amie Schellenberg and Yanmin Gao

- Met on April 1, 2026 with Amie S. and Yanmin G.
- Action Item: Amie will follow-up with Facilities with the solar arrays, while Phase I is up and running, they are not communicating the data.
- Action Item: Yanmin will be working with AI application and energy management projects.
- Next meeting is scheduled for July 2, 2026.

b. Manager of Sustainability Programs Reports, James Gordon

- James will be retiring on July 3, 2026.
- TRU belongs to the Air Quality Round Table which is an information sharing forum. Met April 21, 2026. The 2026 forest fire season has already started. Just a reminder that statistically 40 – 60% of BC's forest fires are human caused. This does not mean they are intentional. Reminder that even a hot muffler can start a fire on the side of a highway.
- Relaunch of the Green Leaders Program. First meeting is May 7 in IB1023 11:00 – 11:45. Ideally would like to get one staff/faculty member from every department to be a green leader.
- Working on STARS report with a new goal of submitting the report on May 29, 2026.
- The TRU Sustainability Plan is moving ahead.
- Wrapped up the SDG Action Bingo. Had 19 submissions.
- New Energy Co-Op student is starting on May 19 until the end of December, 2026.
- Working on the rainwater capture pilot project with four faculty members. Will be collecting rainwater on the Wildfire Building. Will analyze the chemistry and volume of the water. Start for the beginning of May and go to October, 2026.
- Solar Table Design update – year 1 project is almost complete. Will be going for powder coating and then set up by the Trades Building. Year 2 is built and functioning and needs a table which is on the way. Year 3 project is 2/3 complete.
- EV van conversion project is moving forward. It is a 1990 Chevy Astro Van converted from gas to electric. Trades instructors and students are doing all the work. Hope to be done by the end of June, 2026.
- TRU Botany Club initiative planted both native and non-native plants in front of the AE Building.

c. Manager of Energy Projects Reports, Natalie Yao

- No Report

d. Campus Infrastructure Report, Carmen Love

- The LCDES is still scheduled to be complete in November, 2026.
- Indigenous Centre is well underway.
- The AI Data Centre is part of the lands that the Trust manages. Many students approach our office asking for details. It is a closed loop water system. The waste heat will be recovered on site but it will not be tied into the LCDES.

e. Next Meeting

Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 9:30 via Teams

f. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:40.