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APPROVAL DATE	MAY 24, 2012
LAST AMENDMENT	FIRST VERSION
AUTHORITY	BOARD OF GOVERNORS
PRIMARY CONTACT	OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

POLICY

Thompson Rivers University (TRU) is committed to being the 'University of Choice for Environmental Sustainability' as set out in the Strategic Plan 2007-2012.

The University is a signatory to the Taillores Declaration and the University and College Presidents' Climate Statement of Action for Canada.

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.

I. DEFINITIONS

1. **Sustainability:** Meeting present needs without compromising the needs of future generations.
2. **Environment:** Surrounding conditions, forces, or influences which affect the natural, built, or human systems.
3. **University Community:** All individuals who design, deliver, participate in and support the programmes which the university delivers.

II. PURPOSE

1. To facilitate and support the University's mission with respect to Environment and Sustainability as set out in the Strategic Plan.
2. To establish the process and responsibilities for monitoring sustainability initiatives at the University.
3. To outline the principles through which the environmental and sustainability objectives can be achieved.
4. To outline the roles and responsibilities for implementing Sustainability Action Plans.

III. PRINCIPLES

1. Leadership in Sustainable Operations
 - a. The University will increase energy efficiency, use of renewable resources and the use of carbon reduction technology.
 - b. 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.
 - c. The University's procurement processes will consider social, ethical, and economic factors in the purchasing process through the use of such tools as life cycle costing or similar analysis.
 - d. The University will consider biodiversity when deciding about the use and development of campus lands.
2. 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 Sustainability Action Plan that will be updated every three years.
3. Leadership in 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 programmes and actions in the broader community.
 - c. The University will work with other universities, government departments, and organizations to further the objectives of sustainability.
4. Leadership in Managing Environmental Risks
- a. The University, through the Office of Environment and Sustainability, will establish and administer an environmental management plan that sets targets, indicators and measures environmental performance and reports progress.
 - b. The University commits to a process of continual environmental improvement and best practices.
 - c. The University will disseminate knowledge regarding sustainability to the community at large.

REGULATIONS

I. RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

1. The Vice-President, Administration and Finance is responsible for reviewing the Campus Environmental and Sustainability Action Plan and for approving actions, schedules, and funding for its implementation. Information from the Plans will be compiled and published in one of the Environmental Advisory Committee's bi-annual reports to the TRU Board of Governors and Senate.
2. The Director of the Office of Environment and Sustainability, reporting to the Vice President, Administration and Finance, is responsible for co-ordination, advocacy, and communication of the sustainability principles, objectives, targets, and activities on campus. The Director will also support TRU's sustainability actions within the broader community, government departments and other organizations and universities.
3. The Director of the Office of Environment and Sustainability is responsible for regulatory reporting.