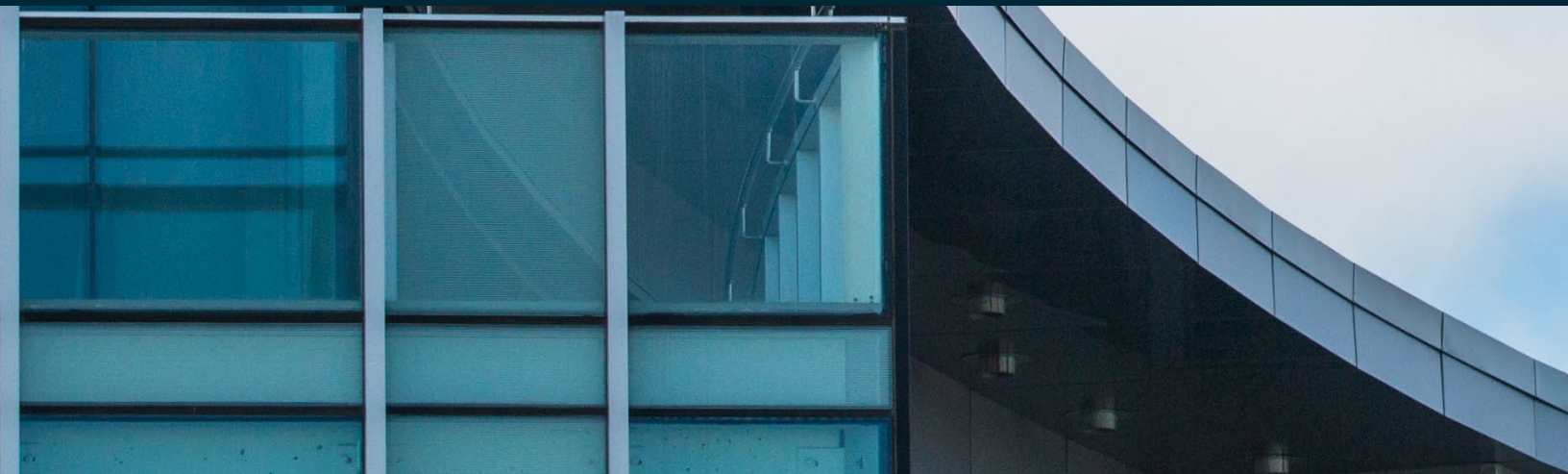




# 2025 Climate Change Accountability Report

Thompson Rivers University | May 2026



## DECLARATION STATEMENT

This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2025 to minimize our GHG emissions, and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2026 and beyond.



## TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thompson Rivers University campuses are on the traditional lands of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (Kamloops campus) and the T'exelc (Williams Lake campus) within Secwepemcúl'ecw, the traditional and unceded territory of the Secwépemc. The region TRU serves also extends into the territories of the St'át'imc, Nlaka'pamux, Nuxalk, Tâilhqot'in, Dakelh, and Syilx peoples.

# EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS: 2025 ACTIONS & FUTURE PLANS

**TRU’s bold journey towards zero carbon continues!** TRU is on the brink of a monumental achievement—progressing toward our ambitious goal of becoming one of the first universities in North America to hit zero carbon. Keep reading to learn about the strides taken in 2025 to maintain our unwavering momentum towards achieving this goal as well as the incredible partnerships and initiatives helping us get there.

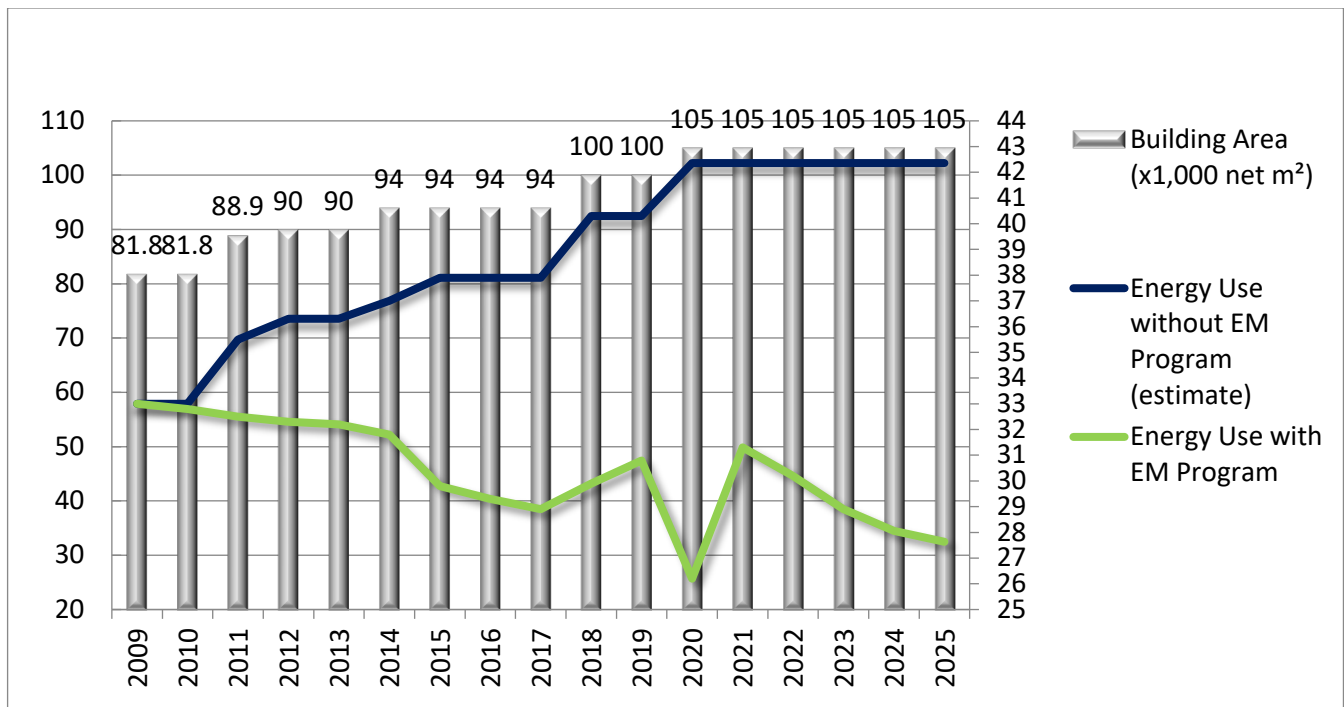
Included in this report is a summary of actions TRU has taken throughout the 2025 calendar year to minimize emissions from stationary sources, mobile sources, paper consumption and fugitive sources as well as plans for reducing emissions in the future. Also included is a summary of campus community engagement initiatives, many of which are either ongoing or offered annually.

## A. Stationary Sources

### Energy Reduction Projects and Initiatives

Since 2010, TRU has had an ongoing goal to reduce energy consumption by 3% every year. In 2025, TRU successfully maintained this direction by achieving a 51% reduction compared to 48% in 2024. Technical changes, TRU’s continued involvement in the Energy Wise Network Program, and support from the TRU Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee, have all contributed to an ongoing reduction in our carbon emissions and environmental impact.

The table below illustrates TRU’s reductions in the Energy Management program to date relative to the growth of building space.



## Campus Solarization Project: Phase 1 (Three Rooftops) Complete



As part of TRU's commitment to expanding renewable energy generation on campus, Phase 1 of the Campus Solarization Project was successfully completed thanks to a strong collaborative effort between TRU, BC Hydro, Riverside Energy Systems and Stantec. This phase included the installation of 655 rooftop panels that will produce approximately 400 megawatt-hours (MWh) of clean electricity annually; that's enough to power 35 to 40 homes for an entire year!

The solar panels were installed across the rooftops of three buildings; the Arts & Education Building, Industrial Training & Technology Centre, and the Campus Activity Centre. The switch to activate the new system was flipped on November 14, 2025. From that moment onwards, TRU has been drawing power from the new rooftop solar arrays, marking a practical step toward running more of the campus – and its Low-Carbon District Energy System – on electricity generated on-site.

By generating clean electricity, the system is helping to reduce the university's reliance on grid-supplied power, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and advancing TRU's long-term sustainability and carbon reduction objectives.

## Low-Carbon District Energy System (LCDES): Construction and a Demand Response Study well underway

In partnership with BC Hydro and Creative Energy, which is known for innovative district energy solutions, TRU is in the process of building a cutting-edge Low-Carbon District Energy System (LCDES) on the Kamloops campus. The project started to take root throughout 2025 as construction progressed as scheduled.

The LCDES is the most ambitious energy project in TRU's history and replaces old natural gas boilers with a sustainable electrical heating source, which will make the campus greener than ever by offsetting over 100,000 tonnes of GHG emissions over the next 30 years – this is like planting a 4,000-acre forest, a space 16 times larger than the TRU campus.

Construction is now nearing completion and the LCDES is expected to come online in the Fall of 2026. Since the system will result in a significant increase in TRU's electricity demand, TRU is actively exploring demand response strategies. These efforts include Phase 2 of the Campus Solarization Project and the potential integration of energy storage systems. TRU is currently in discussions with BC Hydro to determine whether undertaking a feasibility study on this integrated strategy is the appropriate next step.

Once operational, the LCDES aims to reduce emissions from heating campus buildings by 95% compared to a 2020 baseline. Full project details and progress reports continue to be made available at [tru.ca/sustainability/lcdes.html](https://tru.ca/sustainability/lcdes.html).



### Did you know?

TRU earned an honourable mention in the 2025 Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO) Quality and Productivity Awards Program for its groundbreaking Low-Carbon District Energy System and PV Solarization projects. To learn more about this recognition, [click here](#).

## **Continuous Optimization Program: Round 2 Complete, Next up Round 3**

In 2025, TRU completed Round 2 of BC Hydro's Continuous Optimization Program at the Campus Activity Centre and the Trades & Technology buildings. All Round 1 measures have been reviewed and based on the changes in occupancy, building use and the buildings' systems, new recommendations were suggested and implemented to ensure both buildings are performing optimally. It is anticipated that a total of 96,533 kWh will be saved annually.

Looking ahead, BC Hydro approved another three buildings – Arts & Education, International Building and the Brown Family House of Learning – to go through what will be Round 3 of the Continuous Optimization Program, and to be recommissioned again. All Round 1 and 2 measures will be reviewed and based on the changes in occupancy, building use and the buildings' systems, new recommendations will be made to ensure each is performing optimally.

## **Additional Electricity Saving Measures**

Based on previous energy studies funded by BC Hydro and conducted across five buildings – Arts & Education, Culinary Arts Training Centre, Clock Tower, International Building and Old Main – TRU has implemented several identified Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs), including holiday and summer scheduling optimization as well as Direct Digital Control (DDC) system optimization. These initiatives, which were worked on in 2025 and completed in March 2026, are expected to achieve annual electricity savings of approximately 180,600 kWh.

## **ISO 50001 – NRCAN Funded Project**

TRU continues to align its energy management practices with the principles of ISO 50001 which is now in its second year of implementation and provides a structured framework for monitoring, managing, and optimizing energy use across campus. TRU remains committed to strengthening its energy management system and is actively working toward establishing a fully operational Energy Management Information System (EMIS). This effort will enhance TRU's ability to monitor, analyze, and optimize energy performance across campus, particularly in advance of the LCDES coming online.

## **Campus Wide Energy Audit**

As part of a continuous improvement approach and to maintain compliance with BOMA BEST certification requirements, TRU is planning to undertake another comprehensive campus-wide energy audit following the implementation of the Low-Carbon District Energy System (LCDES). This audit will assess post-implementation energy performance, validate anticipated savings, and identify further optimization opportunities across building systems and operations. The results will inform targeted system adjustments, support ongoing energy management

practices, and ensure alignment with both BOMA BEST standards and TRU's long-term greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability objectives.

## Renewable Natural Gas Purchase

In 2025, TRU continued purchasing 100% renewable natural gas (RNG) instead of regular natural gas for the Kamloops campus. By switching to RNG since 2022, the university has been able to reduce its emissions from heating significantly, contributing to its overall goal of carbon zero by 2030. This investment demonstrates the university's commitment to sustainability and its proactive approach toward mitigating the impacts of climate change.

## B. Mobile Sources

### Bicycling Program

TRU maintains a strong commitment to promoting cycling as a means of commuting among its students, faculty and staff. The Bicycling Program aims to better support existing cyclists and encourages those who don't currently cycle to TRU to do so. Key components of the program that continued to be offered in 2025 included:

**E-bike Purchase Discount Program** – TRU continued to offer staff and faculty a \$300 discount on the purchase of an e-bike to help encourage more commutes to campus by bicycle. Work was also started to develop an enhanced version of the program for roll out in 2026 that will increase the total discount available for employees to \$700 while placing limitations on the number of times participants will be able to park their personal vehicles on campus.

**Advocacy** – A staff member of the TRU Sustainability Office sits on the City of Kamloops' Active Transportation Engagement Group which meets quarterly. The group is administered by the City of Kamloops Transportation Division and includes representatives from organizations across the city who are interested in improving infrastructure and safety for those choosing active means of transportation.

**E-scooter and E-bike Demonstration Program** – To help members of the TRU community experience what it is like to ride an e-scooter or an e-bike, the TRU Sustainability Office offers an ongoing program whereby campus members can sign up for a free 30-minute demonstration of an e-scooter or e-bike. All they need to do is submit a request online, sign a waiver and bring their own helmet.

**BC Go By Bike Week** - TRU has participated in this long-standing provincial event since 2013. The event encourages people to ride bicycles as much as possible during the entire week, which is both good for physical and mental wellness and often means people are

leaving their cars at home. TRU promotes all three events - fall, winter and spring - and offers a variety of programs during the week to increase engagement.

**Secure Bicycle Storage** – TRU offers secure, reliable, and convenient bicycle storage for all employees and students. This includes a central bicycle shelter that can accommodate about 30 bikes, as well as 10 under-stair bicycle cages throughout campus which can accommodate about 4 bikes each. These facilities are offered for free upon completion of a simple registration form. Outdoor bicycle racks are also offered throughout the campus near entrances to most major buildings.



### **\$40 Student Bike Purchase Program**

In Fall 2025, TRU expanded the Bicycling Program offerings listed above by launching a \$40 Student Bicycle Purchase Program. This new program allowed TRU students who don't own a bicycle to put their name into a draw for a chance to purchase one of eight used bicycles for only \$40. The bikes were acquired for free from the City of Kamloops. They were confiscated by the RCMP after being stolen but couldn't be reunited with their rightful owners. A bike mechanic was hired in 2024 to repair the bikes using new or used parts and the program was successfully launched in Fall 2025 with all 8 bikes being successfully rehomed to TRU students.

### **Bringing Short-term Rentals of Electric Bicycles and Scooters to Kamloops**

Throughout 2025 TRU continued to be actively involved in encouraging the City of Kamloops to allow a third-party electric scooter and electric bicycle rental company to operate within the city. The pilot program was successful, and a rental service would ultimately be launched in March 2026. Further plans for 2026 include program expansion aimed at increasing ridership by offering dedicated parking spots on the TRU campus and discounted rates for TRU community members.

## **Car Share Program**

Any staff or faculty member who is engaged in TRU business (conferences, meetings, etc.) can reserve a vehicle online at any time to use for their business trip just as one would reserve a meeting room. The program vehicles include a full electric and two hybrid vehicles. Any gas costs are borne by the employees' department and charging costs are borne by the TRU Sustainability Office, which also organizes and pays for maintenance of the vehicles. Students are occasionally allowed to reserve a vehicle with a faculty member's approval and supervision.

## **Electric Vehicle Conversion Project Resumes**

Instructors and students from the TRU Trades & Technology Department, with help from the TRU Sustainability Office, are converting a 1999 gas-powered TRU fleet vehicle to be fully electric. The Electric Vehicle Conversion Project started in 2023 but stalled for much of 2024 due to staffing shortages. The project restarted in early 2025 and will continue into 2026. Although there is no firm deadline to complete the project – nearly all the work is coordinated by instructors who are supporting this project on top of their regular work duties – it is anticipated that the conversion will be complete by the end of 2026.

The goals of the project are primarily three-fold; to convert an older model gas vehicle with rising maintenance costs to fully electric which will also significantly reduce emissions once it reenters the fleet as a regular service vehicle, add to the educational knowledge base of those doing the conversion, and to promote the use of electric vehicles as a powerful choice towards reducing emissions. If the project is successful, TRU may convert other older model service vehicles.

## **C. Paper Consumption**

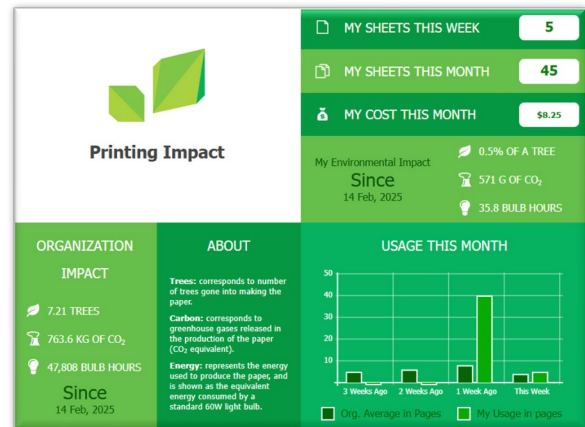
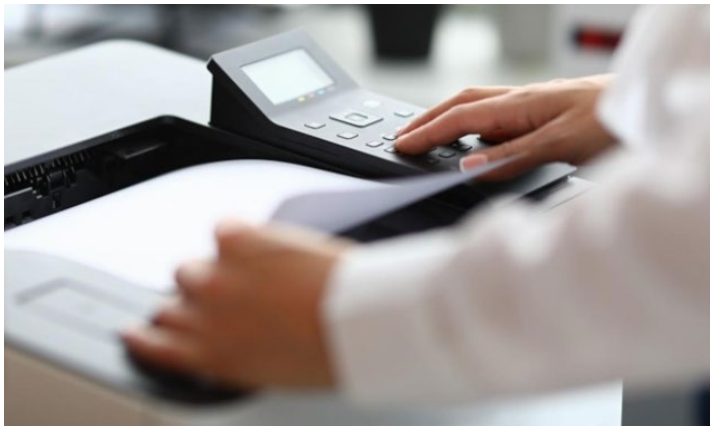
### **Update to Printer Fleet and Communicating Impact**

Over the spring and summer of 2025, TRU's printer fleet was replaced with either more efficient models or consolidated, reducing our fleet from 140 devices to 95. During this fleet revision, a new queuing system was implemented that allows users to print on any Ricoh device of their choosing. Once the user is standing in front of the device, they log in and select their print job(s) from their queue and print only what they require thereby reducing the amount of faulty and forgotten print jobs which saves paper while protecting the privacy of sensitive documents. The new process also allows the user to delete unnecessary prints prior to printing.

These changes have resulted in a 46% decrease in the amount of 20lb copy paper purchased throughout the 2025 calendar year (2,172,000 sheets) compared to 2024 (4,016,500 sheets).

Since use of printers requires a PaperCut account, users can log in to view their individual printing costs and impact as well as TRU's. Environmental impact is shown as the number of

trees that went into making the paper that was used, the amount of greenhouse gases released in the production of the paper (CO2 equivalent), and the energy used to produce the paper which is shown as the equivalent energy consumed by a standard 60W light bulb.



## Using FSC and SFI Certified Paper

TRU Print Services most frequently uses 8.5" x 11" sized paper. By default, this paper size is 30% postconsumer recycled paper, certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), made with Elemental Chlorine Free (ECF) virgin fiber content, and manufactured under alkaline (acid-free) conditions. The least frequently used 11" x 14" sized copy paper is FSC Certified.

TRU Print Services continues to seek out and try new paper options, such as Sugar Sheet and Wheat Sheet, to test less emission-intensive papers and see if they can effectively support the institution's printing needs without compromising overall efficiency and ease of use in operations.

## D. Fugitive Sources

Throughout 2025 several steps were taken to support the reduction of fugitive emissions from equipment directly owned or leased by TRU.

Two of TRU's main buildings have monitors that will notify authorities of any refrigerant equipment leaks. TRU also follows an equipment lifecycle replacement protocol to replace older equipment with brand new pieces as well as a biannual preventative maintenance schedule to help prevent any maintenance failures. All pieces of equipment using R-22 refrigerant, which emit with hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), are regularly being replaced as they age out.

For 2026, TRU plans to continue with the steps taken in 2025.

# ADDITIONAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

## BC Energy Wise Network Campaign: Sustainability Pledge Challenge

As part of the Energy Wise Network campaign started in September 2025 and wrapped up in early 2026, TRU ran a [Sustainability Pledge Challenge](#) which encouraged students and employees to create an online pledge towards a sustainable action. They could either choose from a list of examples or create their own. The goal was to engage 50% of students and employees in making at least one pledge to help protect our planet, and to implement their pledge by November 27, 2025.

The campaign aligned with TRU organizational priorities including demonstrating sustainability leadership in the university sector and engaging with as many students, faculty and staff as possible throughout the institution to think about and act on sustainability. To wrap up the campaign, an in-person celebration event was held in December, which encouraged participants to reflect on their experiences and learnings and share them with others. An infographic (provided below) was created to show the results of the pledge campaign and share the most popular pledge categories. Positive feedback was received on how this pledge campaign inspired and encouraged them to continue with their sustainable actions. For example, one participant said, “I learned new things to contribute & reinforce the ones I already did”. Participants also expressed that the campaign helped them to recognize the importance of small everyday actions. They expressed that meeting in-person was important to discuss how they can contribute more to sustainability and to build community on campus. In turn, the TRU Sustainability Office plans to coordinate an ongoing series of in-person gatherings over coffee and cake throughout 2026.



### TRU Sustainability Pledge Challenge

**416 students & employees made pledges**

- **735 pledges** in 7 categories
  - Top 3 pledges listed for each category



## Employee Energy Management Online Training Course Campaign

Halfway through 2024 the Sustainability Office launched its Employee Energy Management Online Training Course campaign. The goal was to get 100% of the approximately 2,450 employees to complete a 15-minute course. The essential elements of the course included

explaining TRU's overall objectives with its energy management program, the importance of using energy wisely and efficiently on campus but also off campus, and practical things employees can do to conserve energy on a regular basis. By the time the campaign finished on January 31, 2025, 26% of employees completed the course, which was still considered a success. The top prize was an electric bicycle and there were also several smaller prizes throughout the campaign used as incentives to encourage participation.

## Campus Tree Program

Throughout 2025 TRU continued with its Campus Tree Program which started in 2021, building upon TRU's successful tree-planting events and tree care activities. The program planted 56 large trees (6'-12' tall) and 56 small trees (under 6' tall) on the campus, reflecting the age of the TRU institution. The keystone event of 2025 was a large tree planting event on National Tree Day, September 24<sup>th</sup>, that saw 30 people consisting of TRU community members and volunteers with a local accounting firm plant many trees. Additionally, staff and faculty organizers coordinated several tree care events with student and employee volunteers to provide ongoing maintenance, including the reapplication of mulch to the bases of existing trees. The program strives to enhance the campus environment and promote sustainability.

## TRU Solar Table Design Competition

In 2025, various steps were taken to move ahead with completing the three solar table projects on campus that were announced in 2022, 2023 and 2024 as part of the [TRU Solar Table Design Competition](#).

TRU wants to support the development of solar tables around campus to help promote and support renewable energy use, encourage student participation and learning, and to have more outdoor places to study and socialize while being sheltered from snow, rain, and direct sun. The competition is on pause until one table is complete. The construction of tables is being carried out mostly by instructors and students in the Trades & Technology department with help from contractors as needed. The competition was only open to students from TRU and they could enter either individually or as part of a student-only team. One winning submission was picked from all submitted designs by a selection committee made up of TRU staff and faculty members, with the winner receiving \$650.

## Heat Your Seat Program: Library of Personal Heating Devices

To address the many negative issues associated with space heaters including energy inefficiency (typically 1200-1500 watts); potential for causing malfunction of central heating system; fire hazards, along with wanting to promote energy efficiency, the TRU Sustainability Office launched the Space Heater Defeater Program in 2023. After the success of this program, the Sustainability Office created the Efficient Personal Heating Devices Library. The program

name was shortened to [Heat Your Seat](#) in 2025. The initiative has become popular with great engagement across TRU staff and faculty as it provides alternative heating solutions that are both effective, safe and sustainable. This program achieves three of TRU's main goals for indoor work environments: comfortable working temperature for everyone; safe; and eco-friendly.

The new Heat Your Seat program provides employees the opportunity to try out alternative personal heating devices for their offices during a free two-week trial. These devices have been carefully selected to provide safe and efficient heating while minimizing energy consumption (typically 50-75 watts). The program includes the following devices: seat heaters, heated keyboard pads, electric blankets, heating pads, and ceramic under-desk/feet heaters. After the trial if an employee likes the device, they can either buy one themselves or ask their department to buy one for them. The next step in the program is to create a TRU policy that will essentially ban space heaters unless an exception is made by the Facilities Department.



## 2025 GHG EMISSIONS AND OFFSETS SUMMARY TABLE

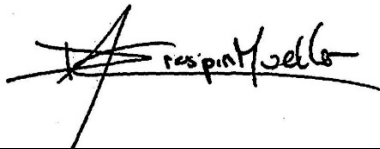
Thompson Rivers University 2025 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary	
<b>GHG emissions for the period January 1 - December 31, 2025</b>	
Total BioCO <sub>2</sub>	2,351
Total Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	4,721
Total Offsets (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	2,370
<b>Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years</b>	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	100 - 133 - 904 = -934*
<b>Grand Total Offsets for the 2025 Reporting Year</b>	
Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2024 Reporting Year (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	2,370 – 934 = 1,436
Offset Investment (\$)	\$35,900

*\*Thompson Rivers University had some additional credits in 2025. One of 133 tonnes due to HFC adjustments and the other of 904 tonnes due to an overpayment made in a previous year that exceeded TRU's total tonnes in 2024 and had to be carried forward to 2025.*

### RETIREMENT OF OFFSETS

In accordance with the requirements of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, Thompson Rivers University (**the Organization**) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2025 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years (if applicable). The Organization hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions (**the Ministry**) ensuring that these offsets are retired on the Organization's behalf, the Organization will pay within 30 days, the associated invoice to be issued by the Ministry in an amount equal to \$25 per tonne of offsets retired on its behalf plus GST.

# EXECUTIVE SIGN-OFF



**Signature**

May 28, 2026

**Date**

Dorys Crespín-Mueller

**Name**

Acting VP Administration & Finance

**Title**

