



HERBINLAY HAPPY PLANET AWARD

Terms of Reference 2026

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS: April 14, 2026

Introduction

This endowed award was established by a TRU alumni to create the **Herbinlay Happy Planet Award**.

Rationale

This award is to help recognize an **undergraduate and graduate student** who displays a keen interest in and contributes to **environmental sustainability**, through **research, leadership, and career aspirations**.

Award

Each year one student will be selected to receive **an award of \$1000.00** to recognize their contributions to sustainability. Students can only win the award once. Priority for winning the award will be given to a student who displays a keen interest in and contributes to environmental sustainability, through research, leadership, and career aspirations.

Selection Process

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC), which reports jointly to the TRU Board and the Senate, will select a recipient of the **Herbinlay Happy Planet Award**.

ESAC will grant the award based on the following:

1. Full-time and part-time students in any year of study are eligible to receive the award.
2. The awards committee will issue calls for nominations in winter each year with a stated deadline. Deadlines may be extended to encourage applications. The call will go out to all TRU faculty members and staff via the wide variety of communication channels at TRU.
3. At least one nominator must sign each nomination. Nominations must include a written submission from the nominator(s) outlining specific reasons for the nomination.

4. Nominations must include (a) A statement prepared by the nominator(s) (500 words or less) describing how the nominee a) displays a keen interest in environmental sustainability, through research, leadership, and career aspirations; b) contributes to environmental sustainability, through research, leadership, and career aspirations.
5. ESAC's awards subcommittee will make a recommendation to the full committee of ESAC for consideration. The awards subcommittee will meet in spring and recommend to ESAC at the next meeting the successful candidate. Quorum for the committee will be 50% +1 of the committee present, excluding vacancies. If quorum is not achieved, the chair of the committee shall call a special meeting within two days, and a decision will be made at that time based on committee members present.
6. The award will be presented to the recipient at a suitable event prior to the next academic year.
7. Award recipients are not eligible for nomination in future years.

Criteria

Nominees should be **recognized by staff or faculty** as individuals who significantly help to advance sustainability. The Selection Committee will review nominations and recommend the award recipient based on the following criteria:

- **Displays a keen interest in environmental sustainability**, through research, leadership, and career aspirations.
- **Contributes to environmental sustainability**, through research, leadership, and career aspirations.