

15 June 2018

AMS Sustainability Report

Background

AMS Sustainability's overarching goals for the year are as follows:

- Ensure a smooth transition to the new Student Driven Sustainability Strategy, including a robust process for oversight and implementation.
- Embed environmental, social and economic sustainability across all AMS departments.
- Hold UBC accountable to its sustainability and climate change commitments.
- Involve students and student groups in AMS Sustainability decision-making and project implementation.

In order to ensure that sustainability is embedded as a core value of the AMS and that the SDSS is followed, we will prioritize developing a system for implementation. This will involve: 1) creating a Sustainability Subcommittee under Operations, 2) developing an Implementation Plan for the SDSS, including metrics and a tracking document, and 3) working with other AMS staff to incorporate sustainability into their portfolios.

A critical component of the Student Driven Sustainability Strategy (SDSS) is its consideration of not only environmental sustainability but also social and economic sustainability. As quoted in the SDSS, "we believe that these three pillars should be considered together because attempts to mitigate the current environmental crisis must include a consideration of how we can create a more just and equitable society and how we can use our economic resources responsibly and ethically to support those objectives" (4). The SDSS expands beyond traditional areas of sustainability towards social issues. These include a commitment to equity, Indigenous rights and climate justice. The SDSS recognizes these issue areas as key opportunities for improvement and meaningful leadership in sustainability. These issues are of high importance to the AMS Sustainability team and we hope to work with the rest of the AMS to ensure they are instilled across AMS practices.

The key projects that AMS Sustainability aims to complete over the following year are outlined below. Projects are listed under the staff that will lead them. As a team, we will support each other in all projects, especially when they are relevant to another staff person's area of sustainability expertise. References to the relevant SDSS target are included in parentheses next to the project.

Food & Beverage

- AVP Sustainability:
 - Fair trade products (1.4): Work with the Food & Beverage manager to incorporate fair trade ingredients and snacks into AMS Food & Beverage outlets.
- Sustainability Projects:
 - Establish a Mugshare program at Blue Chip Cafe (4.1 and 4.2): Work with the AVP Sustainability and UBC stakeholder groups to ensure success and expansion of this program. Develop a system to monitor the program and ensure its long-term sustainability.
 - SEEDS food outlet practices study (4.5): Coordinate a study on reducing single use items and increasing diversion rates in back of house waste bins.
 - UBC single use strategy (4.5): Attend UBC single use strategy meetings and support their development of a single use policy for UBC.

Building Operations

- AVP Sustainability:
 - Food & Beverage outlet waste audits (1.1): Conduct audits of back of house sorting in all food and beverage outlets and support outlets in making improvements, including installing coloured bags and bins and facilitating waste training for kitchen staff. Expand to tenants if possible.
- Sustainability Projects:
 - Waste audits (1.1): Support Common Energy's Annual Waste Audit of the Nest and use the audit's findings to inform AMS Sustainability on the Nest's waste diversion rates.
 - SEEDS non-traditional waste streams project (1.4): Work with a SEEDS team to establish stations for recycling of e-waste and other non-traditional waste streams (e.g. stationery, soft plastics, toxic waste, etc.) in the Nest. Work with either the SLSC or the Student Environment Centre. Develop a communications strategy.

Communications

- AVP Sustainability:
 - Sustainability constituency strategies (1.3): Support constituencies in developing 3-year sustainability strategies that are tailored to each constituency's structure, events and processes. Work with the VP Admin.
- Sustainability Outreach:
 - Orientations (Imagine/Jumpstart) (1.1): Have a presence during orientation events, including Imagine, Jumpstart and AMS Firstweek. Promote ways to get involved with sustainability on campus and increase the presence of AMS Sustainability.
 - Events (1.2): Support AMS events and other on-campus events in making their events sustainable. Have a presence at on campus events, alongside other student organizations such as the Zero Waste Squad. Receive feedback on the operations of the AMS.
 - Website (3.2): Update the AMS Sustainability website to contain our current resources, team, sustainability initiatives, volunteer opportunities, SDSS outline, and SPF information.
 - Social media (3.2): Maintain the Instagram account and leverage external social media accounts such as UBC Sustainability. Increase awareness of the SPF and other AMS Sustainability resources.
- Sustainability Projects:
 - Sustainability training (1.1): Develop sustainability training for food service staff (kitchen and front of house). Pass a sustainability training policy through council to ensure training happens.
 - Website (3.2): Update the AMS website's list of sustainability projects and initiatives.
 - Dashboard (3.6): Develop a plan for the future of AMS Sustainability's Dashboard.

Biodiversity and Climate

- AVP Sustainability:
 - Sustainable investing (3.1): Work with the VP Finance and Sustainability Funds Administrator to develop a more sustainable investment policy.
 - UBC divestment external policy (3.2): Work with the VP Academic and University Affairs to update the existing policy and ensure the AMS holds the University accountable to its related commitments.
 - Climate change advocacy external policy (4.1): Work with the VP Academic and University Affairs and the VP External to develop a climate change advocacy policy.

- Climate Hub support (4.3): Support the Sustainability Collective in their efforts to establish a Climate Hub on campus.
- Sustainability Projects:
 - SEEDS biodiversity project (1.2): Develop a SEEDS project focused on increasing student engagement with biodiversity and local ecology in the Nest and surrounding area. Engage students with the importance of biodiversity, its relationship to our wellbeing and the dangers of biodiversity loss.
 - SEEDS climate project (4.3): Develop a SEEDS project focused around engaging users of the Nest in the urgency of climate change and the need for climate justice through a creative display of scientific and social data (4.3).

Partnerships

- AVP Sustainability:
 - Formal partnerships (1.1): Work with the VP Admin to create a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with SEEDS and/or Campus and Community Planning. Investigate the possibility of also creating MOUs with student groups, such as the Sustainability Collective.
 - Curriculum (1.3): Work with Student Senators and the VP Academic and University Affairs to develop a policy to advocate for the inclusion of sustainability in curriculum.
- Sustainability Projects:
 - Student volunteer opportunities (3.1): Brainstorm and develop a strategy for possible collaboration with student groups and classes for low-barrier entry, small scale volunteering. Use the SDSS and past SEEDS projects to identify gaps in data and translate those needs into opportunities for student engagement and partnerships with campus groups as well as faculty. Investigate potential collaborations with the Sustainability Ambassadors.
 - SEEDS club sustainability project (3.1): Help oversee a SEEDS project to advise AMS clubs on ensuring sustainability in their operations, especially in terms of waste management.
- Sustainability Outreach:
 - Sustainability events (2.1): Partner with the Sustainability Ambassadors to plan the Sustainability Fair and Sustainability Storytelling Night.
 - Sustainability Ambassadors collaboration (3.1): Support the group of Sustainability Ambassadors to act as sustainability consultants for clubs & constituencies.
 - Resource document (3.1): Create and share resource documents that support sustainable club operations.
 - Meetings and collaboration with student groups (3.1): Create a network of student groups to foster partnerships and collaborations. Co-manage the Zero Waste Squad. Assist students involved in sustainability and promote their successes and events.
 - Meetings and collaboration with UBC sustainability staff (3.1): Attend UBC committee meetings and meet with UBC Sustainability staff to discuss potential partnerships.

Finance and Transparency

- AVP Sustainability:
 - Student consultation (3.2): Consult the Sustainability Collective, AMS Resource Groups and student clubs on all relevant sustainability projects and policies.
- Sustainability Projects:
 - Project maintenance fund (2.1): Work with the Sustainability Funds Administrator to create a Sustainability Project Maintenance Fund to ensure the continued use and

benefit of past sustainability projects in the Nest, as well as any operational systems needed to carry out the SDSS. Create a system to monitor and assess these projects, develop an efficient and effective application system for the fund and establish the fund as annually recurring to ensure these projects continue to benefit students and the Nest.

- Project maintenance (2.2): Get any projects relevant to the SDSS back up and running, or develop a plan for future use. This includes the composter, revolving gardens and waste scale.
- Sustainability Funds Administrator:
 - SPF process (3.1): Make the SPF more accessible to students and revamp the application process to make it easier and more digestible to applicants.

Social Sustainability

- AVP Sustainability:
 - Equity and social justice (1.1): Engage in discussions with AMS executives, staff and councillors around how the AMS can better advance equity, especially in relation to Indigenous affairs, through its advocacy, services and structure.
 - Sustainability Subcommittee (2.1): Work with the VP Admin to create a sustainability subcommittee for oversight and implementation of the SDSS.
 - Integration across the AMS (2.2): Meet regularly with staff under each AMS portfolio to discuss options for incorporating sustainability into their work. Develop a document that outlines the relationship between sustainability and each other portfolio.
- Sustainability Projects:
 - SEEDS reconciliation project (1.2): Work with Indigenous groups, SEEDS, UBC faculty and AMS staff to explore what Indigenous reconciliation looks like for the AMS, specifically reconciliation in the AMS Nest due to its function as a 'hub' for students on campus. Ensure that the project involves proper consultation with Indigenous stakeholders and its outcome moves to centre Indigenous voices in a way that is meaningful to First Nations.