

June 19th, 2019

## **AMS Sustainability June 2019 Report**

Dear Council,

We're excited to be able to present to you our initial vision for AMS Sustainability for the 2019/2020 year. We've been working incredibly hard on identifying priorities for the AMS, as well as setting the stage to continue ensuring that the AMS is a leader when it comes to sustainable practices.

We appreciate you taking the time to review this document, and hope you share our vision for an AMS that continues to set the pace for a sustainable future.

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# Introduction

For the 2019-20 year, AMS Sustainability plans on focusing on these broader goals with several action items for each:

1. Restructuring AMS Sustainability to create sustainable, long-lasting actions/measurements/initiatives that keep the department thriving.
  - a. AMS Sustainable Action Plan
  - b. New Sustainable Resource Document
  - c. Rewritten definition of sustainability for the AMS.
2. Focus on becoming an extension of the AMS to support student-led initiatives through increased partnerships.
  - a. Internal in the AMS
  - b. External with campus groups
  - c. External with key organizations
3. Build upon previous projects.
  - a. SEEDS Projects
  - b. Climate Change Art Competition
  - c. Interactive Sustainability Centre

## Action Items

1. **Restructuring AMS Sustainability to create sustainable, long-lasting actions / measurements / initiatives that keep the department thriving**

In recent years, AMS Sustainability has seen a multitude of changes and shifts in positions. We see this as detrimental to the future of the department. To maintain it, we are proposing to create a new Sustainable Action Plan, recreating the current SDSS, and rewriting our definition of sustainability to better reflect the values of the AMS and students.

## **AMS Sustainable Action Plan (SAP)**

From reviewing the current Student Driven Sustainability Strategy (SDSS), we found it very vague and not useful. What we had expected to be a guideline for us to follow left more questions than answers. Although the SDSS has it written to not be updated until the 2021-2022 year, we believe that there is great potential for a document that the SDSS seemed to strive for but missed the mark on.

Sustainability is something bigger than just trees and mountains. It affects us all and having an action plan will ensure the longevity of not only AMS Sustainability, but hopefully the AMS as a whole. Building off of the Student Driven Sustainability Strategy, we envision the AMS Sustainable Action Plan to be used as a guideline for the AMS to follow that has measurable, specific goals which we can quantify progress, outline dates, and provide methods and measures for future members of the department and AMS to follow.

With recent reports outlining the extent of climate change and global warming, we will be including the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and BCCIC to develop well rounded sustainable initiatives in the AMS. The SAP can and should be used as a guideline for all departments to follow because together, we can achieve more.

## **New Sustainable Resource Document**

We plan on creating a resource platform for student groups and constituencies to use and model. It will provide instructions to allow easy implementation of green initiatives within their organizations, events, etc. It will include methods and measures that are followed with explanations of how to proceed. we're hoping to develop a sustainable version to be used for years.

Currently there are no models for student clubs and constituencies to implement sustainable practices. We will look into previous club and constituencies feedback to further develop this document to allow all student groups to implement easy sustainable practices. Our goal is to have the new resource document created by April 2020.

## **Definition of Sustainability**

The current SDSS attempts to define sustainability and what the three pillars of it are. It does justice of explaining sustainability but barely scratches the surface as to what economic sustainability, environmental sustainability, and social sustainability are and how they intersect.

We want to create a definition of sustainability that aligns with the mission and values of the AMS. This definition will clearly outline and define what economic, environmental, and social sustainability are, how they are applicable within the AMS, and how they intersect.

## **2. Focus on becoming an extension of the AMS to support student-led initiatives through increased partnerships.**

For the coming year, AMS Sustainability wants to approach it with a different perspective. AMS Sustainability will act as a support role for student groups to help them achieve sustainable success. This will be done through the implementation of the new AMS Sustainability Action Plan and an increase in partnerships. UBC Campus + Community Planning and UBC Sustainability currently act as the core group for sustainable development across campus. AMS Sustainability will look at different ways to interact with different organizations to mutually benefit each other.

In addition to maintaining our current partnerships with campus organizations, we want to create relationships and new partnerships with both on-campus organizations, sustainable or wannabe-sustainable, and off-campus organizations. New on-campus partnerships could be with student associations like the Geography Students Association or the Environmental Science Students Association, or student clubs such as the MELT Collective. Potential off-campus partnerships could be with Vancity, Chop Value, or Intuitive AI.

Lastly, we hope to improve upon the internal partnerships we have within the AMS. We see ample opportunity for us to collaborate with different departments to work on various goals together. For example, working with Services because they are an essential branch of the AMS and provided unparalleled help to students and we would love for them to continue to have a sustainable, long-lasting future. We also plan to continue our relationship with Food & Beverage and Conference & Catering in their endeavours in maintaining and implementing sustainable

practices. This year, the AMS Sustainability will look into further implementation of the UBC Zero Waste Foodware Strategy.

### 3. Projects

AMS Sustainability projects can be seen in two ways, physical and visible projects and social sustainability projects.

#### **Physical and Visible Projects**

These are projects that are done in collaboration with SEEDS and the Engineering Capstone Projects. They are first proposed as ideas and then brought to life through the Sustainability Projects Fund. A few projects that began last year will continue to be monitored this year, such as MugShare

At the moment, many of the projects completed in previous years need maintenance to be usable again. Our priorities for doing so are as follows:

#### **Physical Projects**

<b>Projects</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Issue/Notes</b>
Dashboard	The Dashboard is meant to be an interactive tech piece for students to interact with. It is connected to sensors in the AMS to display input and output information.	<i>ISSUE:</i> Currently disconnected to the network.
Waste Scale	A machine to weigh wastes. Designed for AMS Waste Audit.	<i>ISSUE:</i> Easy repair as it just needs to be relocated.
Citypod Composter	Citypod Composter is a machine that AMS invested in	<i>ISSUE:</i> However, there is currently no one to run it.

	to create a close compost system.	Need to hire labour force to work it.
Runoff & Revolving Gardens.	Sustainable Art pieces for display.	<i>ISSUE:</i> Requires lift rental and maintenance hiring to fix.
SolePower	SolePower is a bike that allows you to charge your phone through pedalling.	<i>ISSUE:</i> This project is currently placed in life building but might be redesigned by future students.
U-Square	An art installation that also acts as a wind turbine which can generate power to charge your phone.	<i>ISSUE:</i> Requires Installations and funding to go through.
Patio Wind	An engineering capstone project that is a light art installation powered by its Wind Turbine. It also meant to be interactive by showing wind knots and other information.	
Climate Art Competition 2019	Standing with the Defenders, an art piece that almost resembles a Rubix cube. Each side represents an environmentalist and their messages.	<i>NOTES:</i> We're looking into making this an annual competition.

\* Student Project Application

Some new projects that we plan to look into are:

1. Alternative waste cages (E.g. E-Waste)
2. Installing Dyson hand dryers to use instead of paper towels
  - a. If not possible, adding sorting stations into the bathrooms to cut down on what waste
3. Container Sharing Program: although also social sustainability, this program would have physical and visible impacts.
4. Rooftop beehives or planting more pollinator-friendly plants.

### **Social Sustainability Projects**

These are the projects that we see as having an impact on students socially so that they become more aware of sustainable practices or issues in their daily lives.

1. Interactive Sustainability Centre

In order to maintain our behavioural aspect of sustainability within the Nest, we will be looking into the development of an Interactive Sustainability Centre (ISC). This will allow students to have the opportunity to learn more about sustainability and engage with the AMS. We are looking to put the dashboard in this centre along with other technologies and our LEED plaque.

2. Communications

This year we are looking to redesign AMS Sustainability branding. One of the most effective marketing methods is through storytelling. We will be collaborating with First Week, UBC, AMS Communications to make the first UBC SDG 2030 Film to inspire students in their first week to take action for the Earth and their future.

Another aspect that we will be working on is creating more sustainability awareness content. This will be done through newsletters, AMS social media and more.