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<b>SUBJECT</b>	Sustainability March Report
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	March 25, 2020
<b>MOTION</b>	For information submission
<b>PREPARED BY</b>	Dani Stancer, AVP Sustainability Ian Lin, Sustainability Projects Coordinator Cole Evans, VP Administration
<b>DOCUMENTS</b>	1. Sustainability March Report

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<b>DESCRIPTION &amp; RATIONALE</b>	Code mandates that the VP Administration coordinates a March update on the sustainability priorities outlined in the June Report.
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<b>BENEFITS</b> Reputational, Financial, Sustainable, Social	N/A
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<b>RISKS</b> Financial, Operational, Reputational	N/A
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<b>COSTS</b> Financial, Resources, Lifecycle	N/A
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<b>TIMELINE</b> Implementation Timeline	N/A
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**CONSULTATION**

Internal & External  
Groups

N/A

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**ATTACHMENT #1 – AMS Sustainability March Report**



# ams SUSTAINABILITY

## Sustainability Priorities March 2020 Update

March 25, 2020

Prepared by

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### Introduction

As outlined in our [June report](#) to Council, the following are our priorities for the year:

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

The remainder of this document will provide an update on the current status of our priorities and an updated timeline for the year.

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

As stated in the June report, the main focus points for this priority are the creation of the Sustainable Action Plan, the Sustainability Resources Document, and a rewritten definition of sustainability for the AMS. These focus points are what we feel are key to the longevity of the Sustainability portfolio because they are setting up the AMS with

documents that can be used for many years and provide a better foundation to build upon.

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

Currently, we are finalizing the newly named, AMS Sustainability Action Plan (ASAP). It will include six priority areas, goals for these areas, and actionable items for these goals. It will outline the history of AMS Sustainability, define sustainability, outline reporting and recording of all sustainability measures, and how the Society is meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals, among other things.

We have been working with a SEEDS class (PSYC 421) who have created a survey to consult with students on what sustainability issues are important to them and how they want the AMS to report on these issues. We are waiting for their final report to include their findings in ASAP. Additionally, we are combining the current AMS Ethical and Sustainable Purchasing Policy and the AMS Environmental and Sustainable Strategy to be updated with current practices and modern language so that ASAP is all encompassing of the AMS' current sustainability policies.

We have finally tracked down how Dashboard was initially paid for and after working out with Lucid, the software contractor, we have decided upon a route forward to implement it. We will be applying for SPF to pay for the Dashboard fees this year and work it into the Sustainability budget for future years. Use of Dashboard metrics will help the Society track its measurables so that we can make meaningful targets for the future of the AMS to keep us a leader in sustainability.

In ASAP, we will be outlining the ways that the AMS can continue to move forward on campus and as such, we will be meeting with David Speight, the Executive Chef and Culinary Director from UBC Food Services, to discuss moving forward with a container sharing pilot program once the Nest reopens.

Lastly, we will be including a section dedicated to sustainability issues of importance to Indigenous students that is being created entirely with the Indigenous Committee. This is being added as recognition of the importance of Indigenous consultation for all decisions made on campus.

This will be submitted for the next AMS Council meeting.

## **New Sustainability Resource Document (SRD)**

The Sustainability Resource Document (SRD) is being developed with previous data collected from a SEEDS project that surveyed constituencies on sustainability, with Kshamta Hunter, the Manager of Sustainability Student Engagement at the University

Sustainability Initiative (USI), and with members from Campus and Community Planning. The SRD will consist of important resources for making student groups more sustainable such as event planning documents, information on recycling and e-waste recycling spaces on campus, and sustainable catering options.

This will be completed by the end of April.

## **AMS Zero Waste Food Ware Implementation Strategy Plan**

In September, we presented Council with a Zero Waste Food Ware Implementation Strategy Plan that outlines how the AMS is going to adhere to the changes that UBC was making to its academic campus. Before COVID-19 meant that, for safety reasons, we could not accept personal mugs, Blue Chip successfully increased its fee for takeout cups to \$0.25 on January 27, 2020 with the rest of UBC's food outlets. Mugshare also had to take a hiatus to design a better mug, so in the time being, Blue Chip began offering for-here mugs. From September 1 - December 31, 2019, Blue Chip gave out ~61,500 takeout cups and 37 reusable mugs were used. From January 1 - March 15, 2020, the amount of takeout cups charged for was decreased to 18,498 and reusable cup usage increased to 1104. We fully switched cutlery at all outlets over to being bamboo, switched takeout containers to all have compostable bottoms with recyclable tops, and we are currently looking into suppliers to change our bubble tea straws to a compostable alternative (we're looking at sugar cane or coffee grind straws).

## **Rewritten definition of sustainability for the AMS**

As stated previously, we now have new branding and are working towards growing AMS Sustainability's capabilities of engaging with students on a volunteer and event basis as community engagement is a large part of sustainability. As we wrap up our guiding documents, ASAP and SRD, we will update the AMS Sustainability section on the website to reflect the final decision we have made as to how the AMS defines sustainability

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

### **Internal in the AMS**

As part of the ASAP, we will be meeting with various key players in the AMS to see how sustainability can continue to work within their areas, as from our initial review of AMS practices and the SDGs, the AMS is already working on all of these goals in various ways throughout the entirety of the AMS. We are working closely with Food and Beverage and Procurement for updates since the AMS Zero Waste Food Ware Strategy Implementation Plan and on the UBC Healthy Beverage Initiative went into effect, as well to decide on the best way forward for implementing a container sharing program.

## **External with campus groups**

This past year, Dani Stancer, the AVP Sustainability, has sat on the Student Sustainability Council where she was able to converse with over 20 student groups focusing on sustainability-related issues that mattered the most to all students. We have been working with the Climate Hub on the Climate Emergency campus engagement events and CCEL on the Vancouver City Wide Plan 2050 student consultations. In February, we attended the Sustainability Fair that was put on by the Sustainability Ambassadors, and before it was cancelled, we were set to be a partner for their event, Sustainability Hackathon. Lastly, we will be meeting with SEEDS soon to discuss transitions and updates, as outlined in the MoU we have with them.

## **External with key organizations**

We are coming up on eight months having the ChopValue chopstick collection bins dispersed throughout the Nest. From our starting date in September till March, we have collected 6,767 chopsticks in total, which offsetted 9.3kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e. We hope to increase this number in future years by strengthening the awareness of ChopValue bins. Suggestions in the future would be to invest in custom made ChopValue bins that look similar to the UBC waste collection bins. As well, Dani Stancer was asked to participate as a judge for the recently canceled (COVID-19) YouthTalk Sustainability Summit and the whole AMS Sustainability team was going to attend the showcase portion of the event that highlights various organizations

## **Build upon previous projects**

### **SEEDS Projects**

Throughout this year, we have collaborated with SEEDS on both new and old projects. Currently we are working on the maintenance of the past projects, and the creation of new ones. The repair projects consist of mainly the Waste Scale, Runoff and Revolving Gardens. Waste Scale is on the top of our list to repair, as it can help provide better data for the SAP and allow the opportunity for students to use the data for research and educational purposes. Runoff and Revolving are one of the sustainable centrepieces within our Nest. Currently, we are in the middle of working on building the Waste Scale wiring in the Life Building which will then allow us to operate it, however due to the Covid-19 situation, the repair for the wiring will unfortunately be delayed. For the rest of the repair projects and current SEEDS projects such as Revolving Gardens and Runoff will most likely be postponed to a later date. This year we collaborated with ECE Capstone Students to finish the electrical components of the U-Square Mobile dashboard and turbine. We are in the last phase of the project, what needs to be completed over the summer will be putting all the parts together which will require outsource labour.

## **Climate Change Art Competition**

This competition was hosted 2018-2019 to promote sustainability awareness by creating an art piece through a creative medium. We have been contacting the students in charge but are still waiting on an official reply to continue building the project. The next plan of action if there are no responses, would be to collaborate SEEDS and find a suitable student group to work on it. Moving forward, we are looking into the option of hosting a case competition instead. The planning and preliminary brainstorming have only just begun and we hope to have more information soon.

## **Interactive Sustainability Centre (ISC)**

Over this year, AMS Sustainability has been integrating student voice with the Interactive Sustainability Centre, which will replace its predecessor the Student Life and Sustainability Centre. We collaborated with Design AMS, SEEDS, and PLAN522 to explore the potential designs for the centre. Michael Kingsmill rendered potential Sustainability Centres that were then taken into research in a focus group. The PLAN522 led a student focus group study that targeted the subject of what students imagined the ISC would look like. We found that students wanted an area that was flexible for student usage and welcoming to everyone. Examples of recommendations included whiteboards for potential brainstorming during meetings and tables that can be moved around for ideal spacing. We are awaiting the final documents from the student groups. For next year's recommendation, we hope that the next AMS Sustainability Team will communicate with more student sustainability organizations to help develop further programming.