AMS Sustainable Action Plan (ASAP)

Dani Stancer
AVP Sustainability 2019-2020
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Background
History of Sustainability at the AMS

- In 1999, the Ad-Hoc Impacts Committee was started.
- In 2000, the Impacts Committee was upgraded to Standing Committee status.
- In 2008, the Lighter Footprint Strategy was passed in Council & a new position was created.
- Sustainability was shifted under the VP Finance portfolio until 2016 when it returned to the VP Administration Portfolio.
- In 2018, the Student Driven Sustainability Strategy (SDSS) was created.
- In 2020, the AMS Sustainable Action Plan (ASAP) was created.
Definition of Sustainability

Sustainability is about creating a resilient community.

The AMS will accomplish this by:
- using a systems approach
- looking at various ways to build community
- incorporating the three pillars of sustainability
  - social
  - economic
  - environmental

The Vision

- Create a comprehensive outline for the Society to be a leader in sustainability
- Include sociocultural, economic, and environmental factors of sustainability with AMS advocacy
- Outline priorities

The end goal is to create a livable, sustainable future that works for everyone.
The SDGs were adopted by all UN Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

As UBC moves forward, along with other leading organizations, they are evaluating and creating their sustainability strategies with the UN SDGs in mind. By applying the UN SDGs to our sustainability operation, the AMS is adopting the leading industry standard for effective sustainable development.
Priority Areas
UN SDG #6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
GOAL 1.1 Reduce personal and operational water usage in the AMS Nest.

UN SDG #7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
GOAL 1.6 Continue to reduce reliance on UBC district energy grid by developing AMS-operated renewable energy sources.

UN SDG #9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
GOAL 1.7 Ensure that future capital project development is done in accordance with sustainable principles.

UN SDG #11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
GOAL 1.11 Create disaster response plans to support resiliency efforts and to be proactive about student wellbeing and safety.

UN SDG #12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
GOAL 1.12 Reducing waste stream contamination for both personal and
UN SDG #2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
UN SDG #3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
GOAL 2.2 Eliminate food insecurity by improving food affordability and devoting more resources to the AMS Food Bank and other on campus food programs.

UN SDG #8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
GOAL 2.5 Ensure that all new partnerships, agreements, and contracts with external parties comply with the Society’s sustainability practices and goals.

UN SDG #12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
UN SDG #3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
GOAL 2.6 Significantly reduce the number of single-use items being purchased and sold at outlets and events.
UN SDG #1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
GOAL 3.1 Increase focus on social sustainability when advocating for students at all levels.

UN SDG #2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
GOAL 3.4 Continue to address the issue of food insecurity on at UBC through increased funding and improved programs and services.

UN SDG #4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
GOAL 3.9 Work strategically to encourage the development, growth, and involvement of students from marginalized communities to get involved in leadership roles on campus.

UN SDG #16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
GOAL 3.10 Have every AMS Executive identify how sustainability can be incorporated into annual goals.
UN SDG #1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
GOAL 4.1 Ensure that AMS Services continues to find new opportunities to help support students facing financial hardship at UBC.

UN SDG #3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
GOAL 4.4 Utilize the peer-support model in innovative ways to advance student mental health and wellbeing.

UN SDG #4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
GOAL 4.8 Continued development and support of initiatives and educational programs focused on equity and inclusion, the empowerment of women, healthy masculinity, and other related areas.

UN SDG #9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
GOAL 4.11 Foster career development and entrepreneurship centred around sustainable development.
Campus Coordination

UN SDGs: Cross-campus collaboration can apply to any one of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals. The goals outlined in this section are general, with the intention of having greater flexibility in their application relating to the SDGs moving forward.

GOAL 5.3 Support clubs and constituencies in transitioning to become more sustainable.

GOAL 5.5 Create both physical and digital centralized spaces for the sharing of sustainability related programming, information, and projects with the greater student population.
Social sustainability is a critical part of our strategic sustainability process. We can continue to pursue this part of our AMS Sustainable Action Plan by fostering wellbeing, inclusion, and deeper understandings of different groups in our community and what their needs are.

As such, we are working with the AMS Indigenous Committee to have them included in the process by inviting them to create this section. It will be added at a later date that is most convenient for the Committee to gather and create it together.
Partnerships
We collaborate on events and community dialogues, as well as resource sharing. We work with both of these groups continuously to create new sustainability projects with students and to follow through on sustainability initiatives on campus, among other work.

University Sustainability Initiative & UBC Sustainability Ambassadors
We help out with sustainable event planning and funding, as well the creation of sustainability resources for all student groups on campus.

UBC SEEDS & Campus + Community Planning

Campus Groups
Climate Hub & Student Environment Centre
We collaborate on events and community dialogues, as well as resource sharing.
Zero Waste & Food Ware Innovation

Zero Waste Food Ware Strategy
The strategy created by the AMS to comply with UBC’s own Zero Waste Food Ware Strategy

Zero Waste Food Ware Implementation Plan
The current Implementation Plan is primarily focused on AMS Food & Beverage, as such, it looks at which food ware can be switch to better materials and the use of reusables

Waste Rates
The Nest saw a rate of only 12% organics contamination from April - October 2019. There was also a decrease in take out cups used at Blue Chip

Next Steps
It would be advisable to amend the Plan to include AMS C&C and AMS Events, precautions that should be taken in light of the current pandemic, and the future of container sharing in the Nest
Ethical & Sustainable Purchasing

- Fair Labour
  - Fair working conditions, wages and benefits, working hours, overtime compensation, health & safety

- Sustainable Operating Practices
  - Recyclable or compostable packaging, written disclosure of internal waste management, compliance with applicable environmental laws

- Partnerships
  - Suppliers, licensees, sponsors, and contractors
Tracking

Food Warehouse
Continued measuring of use of take out, for here, and reusable products

Waste Streams
Chopstick collection bins added, Waste Scale re-installed

Dashboard
Track our five main facility-related metrics: water, electricity, gas, district energy, and solar hear

UBC Initiatives
Healthy Beverage Initiative, Plant Forward Food Initiative
From our work with a PSYC 421 SEEDS group, it was determined that students are most perceptive to reports that are easy to understand, and published through the use of social media. The Sustainability Team should also continually check in with UBC students through surveys, town halls, or consultation sessions to see what their sustainability priorities are.

The Sustainability Team should consistently publish content that updates on the progress of these goals and it should be readily available on the AMS website, our social media channels, and posted physically in a centralized space related to sustainability.
To stay modern with current sustainability practices, the policy should be reviewed every three (3) years, with the next review year being 2023, and the policy has an estimated lifespan of ten (10) years.
Thanks!
Does anyone have any questions?

danistancer17@gmail.com
president@ams.ubc.ca
sustainability@ams.ubc.ca
https://www.ams.ubc.ca/how-we-run/sustainability/