AMS Sustainable Action Plan
The world is at a crossroads. As the climate crisis continues to worsen, the need for bold action is greater than ever. As the leading student union in Canada, it is imperative that the AMS take an active role in both the creation and support of initiatives that take an intersectional approach to help the planet, support students, and create a better world for us all.

The AMS Sustainable Action Plan (ASAP) is a reimagining of sustainability at the AMS. By introducing the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals into the strategic process, we’re able to redefine what sustainability means in our organization by incorporating priorities for the three core pillars of mainstream sustainable strategy - environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

This plan serves as a comprehensive guide for future work relating to sustainability at the AMS and has been created in consultation with student leadership, staff, and faculty from across UBC.

Here’s to a better future for us all, and let’s get to work.

The world needs us.
The AMS Sustainable Action Plan (ASAP) aims to create a comprehensive outline that acts as a vision for the Society to be a leader in sustainability. ASAP works to combine sociocultural, economic, and environmental factors of sustainability into an actionable vision that intersects with AMS priorities involving advocacy, operations, and student services. ASAP outlines priorities that are inclusive, with an end goal of working to create a livable, sustainable future that works for everyone.
In June 2019, the Office of the Vice-President Administration presented plans to AMS Council for a new and comprehensive sustainability strategy based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This approach was selected to align the Society’s sustainability targets with the strategic thinking of leading domestic and international organizations, as well as create comprehensive goals that are centred around an expanded definition of sustainability.

After consulting various stakeholders, six key target areas were identified within in the organization as having the greatest potential for meaningful and sustainable impact.
These six categories represent key strategic priority areas for sustainable development and positive, student-benefiting outcomes at the AMS. These areas of focus were also selected because of their ability to allow this Action Plan to outline goals that are relevant to the entire scope of the Society’s operations.

The strategic process that future sustainability teams should follow when interacting with this Action Plan and the goals within it is as follows:

1. EXECUTIVE CAMPAIGN GOALS + CARRYOVER
   Compile relevant campaign promises from Executive campaigns and carryover items from previous year.

2. GOAL CREATION
   Create additional goals based on ASAP goals and priorities.

3. CONSULTATION
   Consult with both internal and external stakeholders on relevance and feasibility of drafted goals.

4. GOAL FINALIZATION + JUNE REPORT
   Finalize annual sustainability goals and submit in June Report to AMS Council with corresponding goals and priorities from ASAP.

5. EXECUTION + TRACKING
   Execute on annual goals and continue to track progress made on long-term ASAP goals.

6. YEAR END REPORTING
   Submit annual final report to AMS Council with progress on both short-term annual goals and long-term ASAP goals.

7. TRANSITION
   Create transitional materials that outline work completed, carryover projects, progress on ASAP goals, and recommendations for next year.
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations 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.

The 17 SDGs are integrated—that is, they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability. Everyone is needed to reach these ambitious targets. The creativity, knowhow, technology and financial resources from all of society is necessary to achieve the SDGs in every context.

As UBC moves forward, they along with many other leading organizations are evaluating and creating their sustainability strategies with the UN SDGs in mind. By applying the UN SDGs to our sustainability operations, the AMS is adopting the leading industry standard for effective sustainable development.

via UN Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG)
Facilities Operations
Facilities Operations.

The AMS operates the AMS Nest, a $110 million+ state of the art facility that has been engineered for sustainability. With a LEED Platinum Certification the Nest has always been environmentally-friendly, but that doesn’t mean we can stop there. Facilities operations at the AMS encompasses waste, water, electricity, district energy, gas, and solar heat.

The Society is currently using eco-friendly systems such as a rainwater collection system to flush toilets, as well as utilizing solar panels to power the Nest.

Future work relating to facilities must continue to reduce the building’s environmental impact, while simultaneously pushing the boundaries of innovation at UBC.
GOALS

**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.

**GOAL 1.2** Increase availability and access to sustainable sources of water in the building for personal use.

**GOAL 1.3** Continue to investigate innovative methods of collecting and recycling grey water.

**UN SDG #7:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

**GOAL 1.4** Reduce personal and operational energy usage in the AMS Nest.

**GOAL 1.5** Increase the use of energy from renewable sources to power operational needs.

**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.

**GOAL 1.8** Work with on-campus partners to develop innovative infrastructure and other physical projects that advance sustainability and showcase student work.
**GOAL 1.9** Utilize the latest innovative technology to track quantitative data and metrics on the Society’s progress relating to sustainability initiatives.

**UN SDG #11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

**GOAL 1.10** Ensure the AMS is continually working to foster inclusive spaces for all.

**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 operational activities.

**GOAL 1.13** Reducing overall waste generated by the AMS Nest.

**GOAL 1.14** Supporting new and existing methods of recycling, waste diversion and circular systems including e-waste, soft plastics, composting, and food saving.

**GOAL 1.15** Implementing carbon neutral operational practices in coordination with internal and external stakeholders.
Business Operations
Business Operations.

At the AMS, we want to ensure our organization is ethical throughout all our operations and services. Our food and beverage departments are striving to purchase more local, ethical and ocean wise products and ingredients.

Our Sustainability, Food and Beverage, Events, and Conferences and Catering teams collaborate a number of stakeholders on campus. These organizations include UBC Wellbeing, Campus + Community Planning, and SEEDS where goals and projects are created, as well as work on initiatives such as the UBC Food System Project, Healthy Beverage Initiatives, and the Plant Forward Food Initiative. The Society has also already executed divesting from fossil fuels to ensure we are aligned with where global markets are heading.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

AMS Executives
- AMS Senior Management
- Business Operations

AMS Events
- Campus + Community Planning
- Various UBC Departments

RELEVANT SDGs

2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-being
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
17. Partnerships for the Goals
GOALS

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 2.1 Continued development of plant-based menus available for clubs, constituencies, and commercial clients to buy from.

GOAL 2.2 Eliminate food insecurity by improving food affordability and devoting more resources to the AMS Foodbank and other on campus food programs.

GOAL 2.3 Reduce the number of sugar-sweetened beverages at food outlets.

GOAL 2.4 Ensure adherence to sustainable purchasing practices when purchasing ingredients, supplies and other food products.

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.

GOAL 2.6 Significantly reduce the number of single-use items being purchased and sold at outlets and events.

GOAL 2.7 Increase the availability of reusable foodware options and continue to develop programs such as container sharing and “For Here” options for consumers.
GOAL 2.8  Develop innovative ways of implementing circular economy practices in all business operations.

GOAL 2.9  Work strategically with departmental leadership to create relevant sustainability-related action items at a more detailed level.

GOAL 2.10  Continue to pursue and innovate on zero-waste related strategies and initiatives.

GOAL 2.11  Ensure that AMS team members are trained in proper waste sorting procedures, and continue to advance waste mitigation within AMS Business Operations.

UN SDG #13:  Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

UN SDG #14:  Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

UN SDG #15:  Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

GOAL 2.12  Transition to local suppliers or those that are using methods of collection and transportation that have a limited impact on the environment.

GOAL 2.13  Create strategies and procedures for reducing the carbon footprints of individuals travelling for official business.

GOAL 2.14  Continue to promote OceanWise food options to consumers.

GOAL 2.15  Ensure that strategic development of business operations is consistent with reducing environmental impact.
Advocacy and Leadership
Advocacy and Leadership.

Representing almost 60,000 students, the AMS is a true leader in advocating for student priorities. Over the next decade, it is critical that the goals and priorities outlined in the AMS Sustainable Action plan are at the centre of our advocacy efforts to the University and all levels of government.

Additionally, it is equally as important that the AMS takes an active role in supporting the activities of other student organizations on campus through their own advocacy efforts and organized initiatives.

AMS Council also has an important role to play in ensuring that the values contained in this Action Plan are continually emphasized at all levels of student leadership at UBC.
GOALS

**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.

**GOAL 3.2** Continue to be a leader in advocating for student affordability on topics such as housing and food.

**GOAL 3.3** Advocate for increased development of affordable on-campus options for student housing.

**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 #3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

**GOAL 3.5** Work to address the mental health needs of students through increased funding and support.

**GOAL 3.6** Collaborate with stakeholders on creating accessible and diverse physical-activity programming options for students of all backgrounds.

**UN SDG #4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

**UN SDG #5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

**GOAL 3.7** Advocate for more equitable education and accommodations practices.
**GOAL 3.8** Increase support for equity, inclusion, and diversity initiatives at UBC.

**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 #10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries.

**UN SDG #11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

**UN SDG #13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

**UN SDG #15:** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

**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.

**GOAL 3.11** Increase the number of policies and resources that protect and promote student safety and rights.

**GOAL 3.12** Lead by example on environmental sustainability and work closely with other student organizations, UBC, and government to advance priorities.

**GOAL 3.13** Support student climate-justice organizations in their operational and advocacy efforts to increase overall work capacity.

**GOAL 3.14** Create more opportunities for student engagement and feedback on issues of sustainability.
GOAL 3.15 Advocate for accessible and sustainable public transit solutions at UBC and in and around Metro Vancouver.

GOAL 3.16 Seek to advocate for and support other innovative methods of transportation including improved cycling environments, ridesharing, and carsharing.

GOAL 3.17 Work with UBC stakeholders to grow and create new academic, extracurricular, and co-curricular programs centred around sustainability.

GOAL 3.18 Ensure the Society’s sustainability communications are updated to provide the most up to date information on relevant sustainability initiatives on and off campus.
Student Services
Student Services.

The Society offers a diverse range of student services designed to support students in a variety of aspects relating to their university life. Services like the SASC, Peer Support, Foodbank, and Safewalk are primarily focused on student safety and wellbeing. Other services like Tutoring and eHub focus more on strategic areas relating to education and innovation.

All of our AMS Services can directly relate to many of the UN SDGs, allowing them to tie in perfectly with the goals and priorities outlined in ASAP.

While AMS Services continue to be at the forefront of student-support innovation at UBC, it is crucial that we continue to evaluate our offerings, and their gaps, through a comprehensive sustainability-focused lens.

**KEY STAKEHOLDERS**

AMS Executives
AMS Senior Management
Business Operations

AMS Services
AMS Council
Various UBC Departments

**RELEVANT SDGs**

1. NO POVERTY
2. ZERO HUNGER
3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4. QUALITY EDUCATION
5. GENDER EQUALITY
6. INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
7. REDUCED INEQUALITIES
8. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
GOALS

UN SDG #1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

UN SDG #2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

   GOAL 4.1 Ensure that AMS Services continues to find new opportunities to help support students facing financial hardship at UBC.

   GOAL 4.2 Continue to grow and develop service offerings at the AMS Foodbank, and continually develop sustainable funding models for sustained food security support.

   GOAL 4.3 Utilize the AMS Housing Service help students navigate finding an affordable place to live.

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.

   GOAL 4.5 Continue to innovate on existing services offerings that focus on wellbeing related to sexuality, substance use, and student safety.

UN SDG #4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

UN SDG #5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

   GOAL 4.6 Ensure the sustainable operation of the AMS Sexual Assault Support Centre (SASC) and the continuation of organization-wide survivor-centric approaches.
GOAL 4.7  Continue to innovate and expand on service offerings provided by AMS Tutoring while continuing to maintain accessibility.

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.

GOAL 4.9  Work to reduce barriers and any related stigmatization associated with the use of AMS Services.

UN SDG #9:  Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

GOAL 4.10  Innovate and expand on access to personal career development skills and tools.

GOAL 4.11  Foster career development and entrepreneurship centred around sustainable development.
Campus Coordination
Campus Coordination.

As the AMS continues to work towards the goals outlined in ASAP, it’s important that the Society continue to work closely with other on campus organizations. This collaboration between UBC departments, student groups, AMS subsidiaries and others is key to the successful execution of the strategic priorities outlined in this Action Plan. The Society collaborates with UBC organizations such as SEEDS, USI and C+CP to work on various projects and initiatives that not only promote richer personal experiences for students, but ones that also advance experiential learning.

Additionally, the AMS works with various sustainability-focused student groups on climate and advocacy priorities, as well as coordinating operational sustainability efforts with clubs and constituencies.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

AMS Executives
AMS Senior Management
AMS Subsidiaries

Student Groups
Campus + Community Planning
Various UBC Departments

RELEVANT SDGs

1. Good Health and Well-Being
2. Quality Education
3. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
4. Sustainable Cities and Communities
5. Climate Action
6. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
7. Partnerships for the Goals
GOALS

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 5.1 Work to increase the number of Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) applications received annually.

GOAL 5.2 Continue and expand on close collaborations with on-campus partners such as SEEDS and Campus + Community Planning to further innovation.

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

GOAL 5.4 Work closely with and support non-AMS student groups in their own sustainability related efforts.

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.

GOAL 5.6 Collaborate with other groups and organizations on events that relate to this Action Plan.
Indigenous Coordination
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.
BACKGROUND + GUIDELINES
Background

**HISTORY**

Although the AMS has existed since 1915, it wasn’t until 1999 that sustainability at the AMS found its first home within the Ad-Hoc Impacts Committee. The main purpose of the Committee was to “investigate ways the AMS, its businesses, and affiliated groups can increase their positive impacts on people and the environment while reducing negative impacts,” and to “investigate sustainable and fair business practices at AMS owned businesses, including a review of current purchasing policy.”

In 2000, the Impacts Committee was upgraded to Standing Committee status by AMS Council and was assigned the mandate of conducting work relating to “environmental and social justice issues.” Some of the initiatives started by the Impacts Committee can still be seen in the AMS at the time of writing ASAP, such as the use of fair trade coffee in Blue Chip and electronic-version of minutes for Council meetings. At the time, the Chair of the Committee, and the responsible Executive was the Vice-President Administration.

In 2007, the Impacts Committee began work on the Society’s first sustainability strategy - the Lighter Footprint Strategy - which was then passed by AMS Council in 2008.

In 2008, sustainability continued to grow at the AMS with the creation of a new position - a Sustainability Coordinator. Sustainability was then later shifted to the Vice-President Finance portfolio, and with the move came the addition of a Sustainability Fund, which is known today as the Sustainability Projects Fund.
In 2015, the Society moved into the state-of-the-art AMS Nest as its new home, which was later officially certified LEED Canada Platinum in 2017. In 2016, sustainability returned back to the Vice-President Administration portfolio where, in 2018, they created a new sustainability strategy for the AMS - the Student Driven Sustainability Strategy (SDSS).

Today in 2020, the AMS continues to advance our commitment to sustainability. The development of the AMS Sustainable Action Plan is a full-fledged modernization of all the previous work that has been completed over the past two decades. ASAP also introduces the AMS to industry-standard, long-term sustainable development strategy with the incorporation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the expansion of the definition of “sustainability”.

THE DEFINITION OF SUSTAINABILITY

Two major approaches to viewing sustainability are through the systems approach, and through the three-pillar model of sustainability introduced in the Brundtland Commission of the United Nations. A systems approach looks at events as a particular set of elements that are interconnected and organized in a specific way to achieve a particular thing (Meadows, 2009). For sustainability this may mean analyzing a food chain, production management, or looking at how quality of life may affect education and learning.

Systems thinking breaks down an event into three parts: elements, interconnections, and a function or purpose (Meadows, 2009). The systems approach is beneficial for strategic uses because it allows us to see many moving pieces all at once, and we can use different lenses to analyze what we are seeing. For example, taking the climate crisis through a lens of social justice allows us to see how when environmental disasters or degradation occurs, often environmental racism also occurs in that the people who are most likely to be marginalized will be last to receive any form of support. Systems thinking expands our normal everyday understanding of what is occurring by allowing us to see events through connection and different lenses, but it is important to note
that any change in function or purpose changes a system dramatically (Meadows, 2009) in that if the flow to one facet changes, then the output or affect to the others also changes.

These different lenses can also be broken up into a holistic view and a reductionist view. The holistic view sees a system as a whole, which may lead to missing smaller intricate details that can affect a system but also good for an overall analysis of a system. The reductionist view uses a system on a much smaller scale and only looks for a specific boundary, which may be useful if the scope is smaller, but may lead to missing out on a larger connection. We believe that it would be best to use a combination of both views when conducting a systems approach.

The Brundtland Commission of the United Nations (1987) defines sustainability in terms of sustainable development which, “...is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” The three-pillar model is this execution of sustainability which is used to understand our environment, both the built and environmental, as three individual but connected facets: environmental, social, and economical.

Environmental sustainability focuses primarily on our physical space and how we understand and operationalize climate, noise, air, water, land, and natural resources. Social sustainability addresses the mobility of people, equity, diversity, community connectedness, and the quality of life. Lastly, economic sustainability looks at how we can make better business investments, employment, and wealth distribution to positively impact our environment.

For the AMS, we will be moving forward through this strategy, and the AMS as a whole when discussing sustainability, with a systems approach that uses both a reductionist and holistic lens, that incorporates all three pillars of sustainability. Sustainability is about creating resilient communities, and the AMS exists to support UBC students in all aspects of sustainability.
Guidelines

REPORTING AND UPDATING

We worked with a PSYC 421 section to understand how students at UBC want the AMS to report on sustainability-related issues. From their research (Appendix 1), we discovered that students are more perceptive to reports that are easy to understand, and published through the use of social media. They’re also interested in a physical location where they can access this information.

To report to students, the AMS Sustainability team should consistently publish content that updates the community on the progress of the goals outlined in this document, as well as annual goals set each year by the Vice-President Administration. This content should be readily available on the AMS website, published on our social media channels, and posted physically in a centralized location that relates to sustainability.

Additionally, the Vice-President Administration and the Sustainability team should continually check in with UBC students on what their collective sustainability priorities are. This could be through various methods such as surveys, town halls, or consultation sessions.

The AMS Sustainable Action Plan should be reviewed and updated every three (3) years to ensure that the AMS is maintaining modern, up-to-date sustainability standards. The next review of ASAP should be conducted in 2023.
GOAL CREATION AND REPORTING TO AMS COUNCIL

The AMS Code of Procedure outlines specific timelines for the Vice-President Administration to report back to the Board regarding sustainability. Future teams should also adhere to the following timeline which represents a combination of organizational practice and timelines outlined in Code and other policies.

**ANNUAL GOAL SETTING**
The first 4 to 6 weeks of the new AMS fiscal year should be focused on creating annual goals based on the strategic goals outlined in this Action Plan. This coincides with the VP Administration’s own Executive goal-setting timeline, which will set the direction for this process.

**JUNE REPORT**
Mandated by the AMS Code of Procedure, the June Sustainability Report is presented to AMS Council at a meeting in June. This report outlines the Society’s annual plans and goals for sustainability, and must show what goals from this Action Plan are being worked on.

**OCTOBER REPORT**
Also mandated by the AMS Code of Procedure, the October Report to AMS Council serves to update the Board on the progress that is being made on the goals and plans outlined in the June Report.

**MARCH REPORT**
The March Report to AMS Council is the final update from the Vice-President Administration on the progress made on their annual sustainability goals, and how they have taken action on the strategic priorities outlined in this Action Plan. The Report should use both quantitative and qualitative measures to demonstrate success, and should also make recommendations for future work relating to this Action Plan.

**TRANSITION**
The month of April should have a focus of creating comprehensive transitional material that informs the incoming team on work completed, work in progress, and the overall progress of goals outlined in this Action Plan.

**END OF TERM**
PARTNERSHIPS AND AGREEMENTS

At the time of writing this Plan, the AMS has formalized partnerships with UBC’s SEEDS (Social Ecological Economic Development Studies) Program, as well as the UBC Sustainability Ambassadors. These are two campus organizations that we have had a strong relationship with in previous years, and our partnerships have yielded great benefits for all parties involved.

The AMS should continue to pursue partnerships with both on and off campus organizations who can strategically contribute to the joint execution of goals and targets outlined in this Action Plan.

SUSTAINABILITY RESOURCES AT UBC

There are many sustainability resources in many places, and it is critical that the AMS is working to ensure that students are able to easily access these supports. The AMS should continue to collaborate with the University Sustainability Initiative (USI), and UBC Campus & Community Planning (C+CP) to update and consolidate all of this information and resources into centralized locations that are easy to navigate and are accessible to all student groups regardless if they are sustainability-oriented.

The Society should also continue to expand its own projects that contribute to the accessibility of sustainability related information at UBC. This includes mechanisms such as physical materials, policy resources, and expanded support for the Society’s subsidiaries.

STUDENT GROUPS

As a student union, it’s important that the AMS continue to work closely with various on-campus student groups. Prominent among those in the sustainability realm are the Student Environment Centre, the Climate Hub, and the UBC
Sustainability Ambassadors. These groups offer the Society valuable opportunities for partnership and collaboration, and each organization brings its own unique perspective and skill-set that will help advance the goals outlined in this Action Plan. The AMS should continue to make efforts to partner with student groups whenever possible and work closely with student partners to advance joint priorities.

Additionally, the AMS must continue to expand resources and support for clubs and constituencies to ensure organization-wide compliance with the strategic priorities outlined in this Action Plan.

**ZERO WASTE AND FOODWARE INNOVATION**

As we move forward as an organization, it is important to think about our future impacts. One way to leave a positive impact is by transitioning to incorporate more Zero Waste initiatives. In September 2019, AMS Council passed the first in-house AMS Zero Waste initiative - the AMS Zero Waste Food Ware Strategy & Implementation Plan.

The Implementation Plan, which can be found [here](#), details the AMS’ steps for complying with the UBC’s own Zero Waste Food Ware Strategy. The Strategy is primarily focused on AMS Food & Beverage, which oversees our food outlets, but it would be advisable to amend the document in the near future to include AMS Conferences & Catering and AMS Events. Both departments have expressed interest in shifting to more sustainable practices, and future collaboration is required to find out what will work best in each department.

Additionally, we wanted to note that 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, we are enthused to announce that the amount of takeout cups charged for decreased to 18,498 and reusable cup usage increased to 1104. This change can potentially be attributed to the $0.25 fee introduced on take-out cups on January 27, 2020. We are excited to see how this will continue to change our customers purchasing habits.
QUANTITATIVE TRACKING

Data is key to the successful execution of any organization-wide strategy, and it is critical that the AMS continue to quantitatively measure progress in a variety of areas. A link to the tracking document created for this Action Plan can be found in the Resources section.

As the Society continues to expand its data collection and analytics programs, it is recommended that this section be regularly updated to better reflect relevant practices.

FOODWARE

Since implementing the first AMS Zero Waste Foodware Strategy, the AMS has seen a decrease in the utilization of single-use items. Future teams should continue to track these numbers, along with the impact of other foodware changes that are implemented. Other areas for potential data collection include overall reduction in environmental impact, consumer behavioural changes, and waste mitigation.

DASHBOARD

The Dashboard is a software tool that utilizes a display to present sustainability-relevant metrics that are collected from hundreds of sensors in the AMS Nest. The data the Dashboard system collects can be used to track our five main facility-related metrics: water, electricity, gas, district energy, and solar heat. The raw data is collected by the University, and then sent to a third-party who displays the data through specific software to make it easy to read and understand for the public.

The Dashboard previously existed when the AMS Nest initially opened, but due to changing space requirements and software updates, the Dashboard project has been on hiatus at the time of writing ASAP. Future work should
focus on the sustainable operation of the Dashboard to ensure the longevity of the important data it collects. Additionally, efforts should be made to make the displaying of the data accessible to the UBC community so that students and other stakeholders can easily engage with the Society’s progress on relevant metrics.

**WASTE**

Organics waste in the AMS Nest has become the second least contaminated building on campus at a rate of only 12%. In audits conducted in partnership with UBC Campus + Community Planning (C+CP), it was discovered that it is UBC Custodial staff, not users of the building, who are the leading cause of waste contamination. Although organics contamination is low, the Nest still has some of the highest rates of waste contamination in the other varieties of waste bins and should continued to monitored with C+CP.

In 2020, funding was allocated to re-install the Waste Scale to track and measure the volume of waste being disposed of in the Nest and the Life Building. Once this is re-installed, the Sustainability team will be able to track the output and collect valuable data.

Lastly, in 2019 the AMS introduced chopstick collection bins in partnership with Vancouver-based ChopValue. From September 2019 to March 2020, the AMS collected 6,767 chopsticks in total, which offsetted 9.3kg of CO2e. This number should continued to be monitored as promotion of the AMS x ChopValue partnership continues to grow.
ETHICAL AND SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING
Ethical and Sustainable Purchasing

The Society is committed to conducting business with suppliers, licensees, sponsors, and contractors that respect, promote and abide by fair labour and sustainable operating practices. The AMS is committed to informing suppliers, licensees, sponsors, and contractors on the importance of just labour and sustainable practices and working with them towards compliance with ASAP. The AMS intends to co-operate with students and other organizations in monitoring working conditions, collecting information, and collectively negotiating with suppliers, licensees, sponsors, and contractors to ensure the provisions of ASAP are enacted.

Companies providing products, services and sponsorship will require all their suppliers, licensees, and contractors involved in the manufacture or farming of products, provision of services, and sponsoring events or departments for and through the AMS to observe the standards listed below.

DEFINITIONS

The term ‘Product’ means any manufactured or farmed product that is supplied to the Society or any of its food or retail outlets and includes the provision of services and / or sponsorship arrangements with the Society.

The term ‘Supplier’ means any individual or company that supplies or sells the aforementioned Product or Service and those individuals or companies that assume the role of sponsor to the AMS, be it exclusive or non-exclusive in nature.
The term ‘Licensee’ means any individual or company that has entered into an agreement with the Society to manufacture items bearing the name and/or logo of the Society.

The term ‘Contractor’ means any contractor, subcontractor or vendor that produces a Product for a Supplier or provides a service to the supplier or the Society.

The term ‘Employer’ means any individual or company that employs one or more workers in the creation, assembly or packaging of a product or the provision of a service.

GUIDELINES

All suppliers must operate workplaces, and ensure that all Employers including contractors, subcontractors, vendors or manufacturers operate workplaces, that adhere to the following minimum guidelines and practices as established by the International Labour Organization, the United Nations (UN) Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the B.C. Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Employers shall comply, at a minimum, with all applicable legal requirements of the country in which products are manufactured or services are provided. Where ASAP and the applicable laws of the country of manufacture differ, the standard that provides the greater right, benefit or protection shall apply.

WAGES AND BENEFITS

Employers must provide wages and benefits which comply with all applicable laws and regulations and which match or exceed the local prevailing wages or
and benefits in the relevant industry or which constitute a living wage, whichever provides greater wages and benefits.

**WORKING HOURS**

Except in extraordinary circumstances, employees shall (i) not be required to work more than the lesser of (a) 48 hours per week and 12 hours overtime per week, or (b) the limits on regular and overtime hours allowed by the law of the country of manufacture; and (ii) be entitled to at least one day off in every 7-day period.

**OVERTIME COMPENSATION**

In addition to their compensation for regular hours of work, employees shall be compensated for overtime hours at such a premium rate as is legally required in that country, but not less than at a rate equal to their regular hourly compensation rate.

**CHILD LABOUR**

No person shall be employed at an age younger than 15 (or 14 where, consistent with International Labor Organization practices for developing countries, the law of the country of manufacture allows such exception). Where the age for completing compulsory education is higher than the standard for the minimum age of employment stated above, the higher age for completing compulsory education shall apply to this section. Employers agree to work with governmental, human rights, and non-governmental organizations, as determined by the AMS and licensee, to minimize the negative impact on any child released from employment as a result of the enforcement of this Plan, including the opportunity for adult family members to assume the child’s position in order to maintain family earnings.
FORCED LABOUR

There shall not be any use of forced labour, whether in the form of prison labour, indentured labour, bonded labour or otherwise.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Employers must provide workers with a safe and healthy work environment and must, at a minimum, comply with local and national health and safety laws. If residential facilities are provided to workers, they must be safe and healthy facilities.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

No employee shall be subject to any discrimination in employment, including hiring, salary, benefits, advancement, discipline, termination or retirement, on the basis of those provisions contained in the B.C Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, including gender, colour, race, ancestry, religion, age, physical or mental disability, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, place of origin, political belief or affiliation, caste, union membership, or a criminal or summary conviction offence that is unrelated to the employment or to the intended employment of that person, as well as those international guidelines as articulated in Guidelines above. The pregnancy of an employee shall not be used as a basis for disciplinary treatment or termination of employment. Employees will be permitted to take maternity leave without facing the threat of dismissal, loss of seniority or deduction in wages, and shall be able to return to their former employment at the same rate of pay and benefits. No employee or prospective employee shall be subjected to involuntary use of contraceptives or pregnancy testing.

HARASSMENT AND ABUSE

Every employee shall be treated with dignity and respect. No employee shall be subject to any physical, sexual, psychological or verbal harassment or abuse.
**FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION**

Employers shall recognize and respect the right of employees to freedom of association and collective bargaining with bargaining representatives of their own choice. No employee shall be subject to harassment, intimidation or retaliation as a result of his or her efforts to freely associate or bargain collectively.

**ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES**

In addition to abiding by fair labour practices, all suppliers to the AMS will be encouraged to adhere to the following sustainable operating guidelines:

- Suppliers will ensure that all plastic containers used for the purposes of storing and shipping food products are made of recyclable materials that are fully returnable.
- Suppliers will provide a written disclosure of their internal waste management policies and practices.
- Suppliers will comply with all applicable environmental laws.
- Suppliers will strive to provide products from locally owned and operated businesses when and where there is a choice between local and non-local distributors, and when the cost differential between the two does not significantly impact the price of supplying the products.
- At the discretion of senior management, the AMS will work towards implementing additional sustainable business practices including, but not limited to, purchasing locally grown and/or organic products, buying direct from farmers, favouring companies that minimize the use of pesticides, and purchasing humanely treated animal products.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

All new contracts with suppliers, licensees, sponsors, and contractors will include an explicit statement of endorsement of ASAP stating that the suppliers, licensees and contractors will comply with the principles outlined in ASAP.
All new contracts with suppliers, licensees, sponsors, and contractors will include an explicit statement that failure to comply with ASAP may result in the termination of a contract. The termination of a contract will occur following the failure of a supplier, licensee or contractor to take corrective action in the event of a violation of ASAP, and only following the due process measures observed in the remediation clauses.

The company names, owners, and/or offices, addresses, contact information and nature of the business association, including steps performed in the manufacturing process, of all suppliers, licensees, contractors, and manufacturing plants which are involved in the manufacturing process of products for the Society or of products produced by a sponsor even if those products are not purchased by the Society, shall be made publicly available when permissible.

Suppliers with existing contracts with the Society will be encouraged to comply with the requirements of ASAP and implementation of ASAP will be required upon renewal of a contract. Compliance with ASAP will be effective immediately on all new contracts.

**VERIFICATION**

It will be the responsibility of each relevant AMS manager to monitor its suppliers, licensees, sponsors, and contractors’ compliance with ASAP.

Employees and interested third parties shall be provided with a confidential means to report failure to observe ASAP guidelines and shall be otherwise protected in this respect.

The Society reserves the right to examine the practices, activities, and work sites of their suppliers, licensees, sponsors, and contractors when such examination is previously announced. The Society shall also undertake efforts to further determine and clearly define additional monitoring and verification methods.
REMEDIATION

In the event that a supplier, licensee, sponsor, or contractor violates one or more requirements of ASAP, the Society will actively consult with the supplier, licensee, sponsor, or contractor to examine the issues and determine the appropriate measures to be taken.

Remedial actions for labour violations will include, at minimum, requiring the supplier, licensee, sponsor, or contractor to correct any violations including, but not limited to, reinstating any worker whose employment was terminated in violation of ASAP.

If consultation and agreed upon measures fail to adequately resolve the violations within a specified time period, the Society and the supplier, licensee, sponsor, or contractor will implement a corrective action plan on terms acceptable to the Society.

The Society reserves the right to terminate its relationship with any supplier, licensee, sponsor, or contractor which continues to conduct its business in violation of the corrective action plan, in accordance with the terms set forth in ASAP. However, termination of any relationship will only occur when serious breaches of ASAP persist and when the supplier, licensee, sponsor, or contractor is unwilling to remedy any discovered violations after all parties have negotiated and agreed upon a corrective action plan.
In conclusion, we hope that this new sustainability strategy, the AMS Sustainability Action Plan (ASAP), will be able to guide the Society into the next decade and beyond as we continue to be a national leader in sustainability. Overall, this strategy aims to set up the AMS, and the UBC community for a better and more sustainable future, and creates added structure for sustainability operations at the AMS.

Although very thorough, the AMS would benefit from continued consultation with Indigenous and marginalized students as they are often the most affected by new strategies and policies implemented by the Society.