

### **The Sustainability Corridor: Term 2 (Spring 2021)**

The Sustainability Corridor is the hallway in the basement of the LIFE Building across from the ARC Recreation Center. We have imagined this as a series of spaces, dedicated to different facets of sustainability and services to students of UBC. Already, we have Sprouts, the Bike Kitchen, and Get Thrifty to these ends, and we want to implement more during Term 2. Close on the horizon is a trifecta of resources and data-building: the Interactive Sustainability Center, the Waste Scale, and the Dashboard. Further on, we will build The Thingery and implement art installations down the hallway.

### **The Interactive Sustainability Center (ISC), Waste Scale, and Dashboard**

#### *The ISC*

The Interactive Sustainability Center (ISC) is imagined as a “club resources center” that is focused on sustainability. Its physical area is small (about 400 sqf in the lower level of the Life Building), but its ideas and resources will be big - intended to include clubs and sustainability resources from all across campus and the larger community. We want to create a space where clubs can interface with each other to collaborate and reach larger audiences with shared ideas. We hope for the ISC to be a “one-stop-shop” for any member of the student body (club-affiliated or not) to stop by, learn about sustainability on campus and the related events and educational opportunities going on this year.

Our first conceptualizations of the ISC came from a report conducted by PLAN 522, titled “SOURCE”. The report utilized focus groups and case studies to theorize how the ISC might be designed, what programming might be included, and what gaps in UBC’s overall sustainability portfolio the ISC might fill. The authors of the report created this diagram to illustrate levels of engagement with the ISC:

#### *Programming Decisions*



In order to further explore how we, as the AMS Sustainability team, can work with clubs to empower student engagement on these levels, we hosted consultations with various club members. Through these consultations, we have a variety of objectives and plans for the ISC going forward:

Actionable Items: what the ISC can do

Initiative	Impetus (as garnered from club consultations)
Implement a pay structure for club members who contribute time to the advancement and maintenance of the ISC	We are hoping for the ISC to be regularly occupied by a member(s) of a sustainability-related club, so that they can answer questions of students stopping by about sustainability on campus, maintain the sustainability events calendar that we hope to create, and generally help upkeep the space. In recognition that this is labor and in pursuit of social sustainability, we at the AMS need to find a way to pay for this service.
Design elements that honor student contributions to sustainability and club efforts	One club was very active in the UBC Divestment initiative, and highlighted that this was a long, student-driven effort that was a huge victory for the student body. Having an art installation (or literature/other resource, but preferably art) that reflects that effort and other “student sustainability wins” that have occurred across campus over the years would speak to the inspiration of the ISC.
Provide an outlet for sustainability for students who are not in sustainability programs, clubs, etc.	This speaks to the “rungs” higher on the engagement ladder above. The idea is that there are students interested in gardening, for example, but who are not necessarily in a club or a horticulture program where they can exercise that interest. The ISC should provide a way for clubs to engage those who are not formally affiliated with such programs to participate in conversations, activities, etc. about topics of their interest. Ideally, the ISC will be a “one-stop-shop” for a whole host of ideas and programs for “newcomers” to try as they wish.
Build networks between clubs	Clubs’ programming and interests sometimes overlap, and when they do, it can make more sense to combine events and use the combined platform to amplify attendance and engagement.
Office hours	Some clubs are interested and willing to host office hours, where people can come to the ISC to talk to members of their club specifically
Hard-copies of literature, reports, and other resources	Clubs expressed that they can contribute their own literature (copies of divestment files, for example) and would appreciate if we can contribute copies of UBC’s and AMS’ sustainability plans. We expect the

	library to grow over the course of its life as clubs, faculties, and the AMS contribute literature.
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Non-actionable Items: what the ISC cannot (yet) do

Initiative	Impetus (as garnered from club consultations)
Large meeting space	Many clubs expressed the desire for a large meeting space, as these are limited at UBC and book up quickly. It would be particularly desirable to have this space specific to sustainability-related groups and be like an extension onto the ISC. They also expressed a desire for a resource directing them to bookable outdoor spaces. Unfortunately, at this time, a large meeting space is not within the scope of the ISC.
Digitization of ISC platform and materials	A club expressed that it does not make sense for the ISC to be built and implemented while classes are still online (a large portion of the student population will not be able to access the ISC during this period). Accordingly, the ISC and its resources should be made available online. While we agree with this idea, it is a significant undertaking and is not feasible on the current timeline of Term 2. Also, we want to construct the ISC while people are away to avoid as much construction inconveniences for students as possible.
Conference/networking space	Similarly to a large meeting space, clubs expressed a desire for a space to host conferences, networking events, etc. that are a part of their programming portfolio. Again, this is not within the current scope of the ISC, as we do not have the space allotted for such.

We plan to implement the actionable items above alongside our own ideas for design elements and more:

Initiative	Impetus
Furniture sourced from ChopValue	We want to source some pieces from ChopValue to showcase our partnership with them. We believe the furniture is not only aesthetically pleasing, but provides an educational tool to show how the used chopsticks we provide to ChopValue become beautiful finished products.
Little Free Library	While many of the resources provided by clubs will remain in the ISC, we want to implement a Little

Free Library for people to give and take books freely.



(Example pictured

here)

Sustainability Calendar

We want to try to maintain a UBC-wide calendar of events relating to sustainability, which includes events hosted by clubs, faculties, etc. This will be publicly available online, so that students can consult a single resource when they have some free time they'd like to fill with a sustainable event.

### *The Waste Scale and Dashboard*

The Waste Scale is a weight scale that is calibrated to measure the volume of waste as it is being taken out of the Nest by custodial staff. We are currently in the process of acquiring the funding to move it to its new location in the basement of the LIFE Building, where it can be reinstalled and the custodial staff can be retrained on using it in their everyday routines.

The Dashboard is a data center with a screen display that shows metrics on the energy, water, and waste consumption of the Nest. We are currently working with the software company that manages the Dashboard and working to get it back online for Term 2.

We are working to stitch together the data provided by the Waste Scale (data on waste) and the Dashboard (data on the Nest's footprint overall) with the physical space of the ISC. The idea is that when a student comes to the ISC, they can see how the Nest is performing on these various sustainability metrics. The Dashboard is slated to be hung directly across from the ISC, so students passing by can stop to take a quick glance, or they can find it compelling enough to want to learn more and come into the ISC right next door. For the clubs that frequent the ISC regularly, they can view the data from the Dashboard and Waste Scale over time. From doing so, they might identify potential areas for improvement and create club initiatives around those ideas. On the AMS side, we are excited to have these sources of data accessible for projects like our Zero Waste Plan (similar to our Zero Waste Food Ware Strategy, but further reaching in scope) and others.

### *Conclusions*

We are ready to implement the ISC, the Waste Scale, and the Dashboard in tandem in Term 2. These three projects work together by providing a space (the ISC) and data (the Waste Scale and Dashboard) to facilitate engagement and additionally inform students about the sustainability efforts on campus.

### **The Thingery**

The Thingery is a “lending library of things”, where items that are rarely used can be rented, rather than purchased, by students in order to reduce consumption and waste. Such items include hand tools, camping gear, etc. We are currently working with the organizer of Thingeries in Vancouver, of which there are two locations, to come up with a design and configure inventory for the AMS’ iteration. In conversation with him, the possibility of a “workshop” space has arisen, where we could offer repair workshops, etc. (for example, a garment repair workshop in partnership with Get Thrifty). We are also working with the Sustainability Ambassadors on a similar project they are working on, which aims to provide a lending library of furniture (not smaller items, as we seek to do), so we do not expect undesirable overlap. The Thingery space will be next to the ISC in the Sustainability Corridor.

### **Art Installations**

To connect the sustainability theme throughout the corridor, we are interested in art installations along the walls of the hallway. Currently, we are working on a Mural Competition for students to compete to do the art for the corridor. This format of art-commissioning has been done multiple times at UBC, including at CIRS for the bird-friendly window art installations on the side of the building. If the high number of students off-campus prevents this, we have another option of commissioning a local indigenous artist as well.