Council June Report

Introduction

AMS Sustainability is excited to be able to present to you our initial vision for AMS Sustainability for the 2020/21 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.

For the 2021-22 year, AMS Sustainability plans on focusing on six key target areas which are identified and defined within the newly implemented AMS Sustainable Action Plan (ASAP). Each target area is supported with several action items for each to ensure AMS provides the greatest potential for meaningful and sustainable impact.

1. Facilities Operation
   a. SEEDS Sustainability Projects
   b. AMS Net Zero 2025

2. Business Operations
   a. Soapstand: Zero-Waste Refill Station
   b. AMS Waste Hub

3. Advocacy & Leadership
   a. Reimagined Sustainability Subcommittee

4. Student Services
   a. AMS Interactive Sustainability Center (ISC)
   b. AMS Thingery

5. Campus Coordination
   a. Food Security Projects
   b. AMS Sustainability Communications

6. Indigenous Coordination
   a. AMS Indigenous Strategic Plan (ISP)
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Facilities Operations

SEEDS Sustainability Projects
ASAP Goal #1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.12, 1.13, 1.14, 1.15, 2.4, 2.11, 5.2

Overseen by the AMS Sustainability Projects Coordinator, AMS Sustainability has a memorandum of understanding with the UBC SEEDS (Social Ecological Economic Development Studies) Program where we collaborate on a variety of AMS Sustainability Projects. They are first proposed as ideas and then brought to life through the AMS Sustainability Projects Fund.

A list of projects we are hoping to work on this year are follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Supply Chain Audit</td>
<td>Having a class to help us audit our supply-chains would be helpful. Our goal is to have the opportunity to learn who we are working with (in terms of suppliers) and decide if we need to pressure them to change their practices/production or seek alternatives to that supplier entirely.</td>
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<td>A concurrent or subsequent project to this could be researching higher quality, available, economically-feasible alternatives to those suppliers that do not align with our sustainability goals.</td>
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<td>Promoting Food Sustainability on Campus</td>
<td>With collaboration with the LFS-core series classes, we want to conduct an in-depth review of current food recovery policies in Canada and in other countries to provide a framework for the implementation of food recovery language into UBC policies. While we have discussed applicable UBC policies to implement food recovery language in and the sections they could be placed in, there is still room to expand as we did not focus on policy in great detail. The expansion of this research can allow student perspectives to shape the formation of food policies at UBC.</td>
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In addition, we hope to research opportunities for food recovery within the UBC and Vancouver community with the aim of using more recovered food to supply the AMS Food Bank. After discovering opportunities, determine what kind of system would work to direct recovered food to the AMS Food Bank.

| Equity-based Grants | To investigate the inequities that exist within post-secondary education in British Columbia. More specifically, this project seeks to highlight the inequities that exist for marginalized populations (BIPOC, LGBTQIA2+, folks who experience intersectional marginalization, etc.).

The research purpose, therefore, is to bridge the gap between these inequities, the post-secondary education in BC and marginalized communities. As a result, the AMS is investigating whether equity-based grants (grants designed to support low-to-middle income marginalized students) would result in a higher rate of educational attainment for marginalized populations in British Columbia. |

| Perception and impacts of grants on marginalized communities in which it affects | Under this research goal, we would like to explore how these grants could potentially help marginalized students and to what degree they would provide support in understanding the historic and systemic inequities that they face. Additionally, this goal would also look at the current state of financial aid for students in BC and ways in which the provincial government could improve financial aid options for marginalized students. |

| Framing and Socialization Strategy | Under this research goal, we would explore the definition of marginalization and what a possible criterion of an equity-based grant could look like. In understanding that many individuals face barriers related to marginalization, this would provide us with better insights into how to, from a technical aspect, lobby the provincial government on establishing these grants. |

| FBIC (Food & Beverage Innovation Center) | With construction underway with the AMS Food & Beverage Innovation Center, we hope to investigate |
opportunities to maximize sustainability features within the fermentation lab space which will be used to produce beer and allow test kitchens for entrepreneurs to test their food products.

Through collaboration with a Mechanical Engineering class, we hope to investigate possible ways to capture heat from steam produced by fermentation tanks and redirect it to become a passive energy source for FBIC. Other sub-projects would include building a greywater collection system from the building, dust control throughout the building, and utilizing unwanted mash tun for other initiatives.

| Outdoor Study/Teaching Spaces | The 2021 AMS Grad Class asked for part of their graduation funds to be allocated for outdoor study spaces throughout campus. Many classes throughout the year have requested outdoor learning spaces for hands-on outdoor labs and group projects.

We hope to partner with the UBC School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture to design ways for self-sustaining outdoor study/teaching spaces on campus where it's energy would be off-grid and is able to generate its own electricity. |

| Waste Scale | One of the biggest challenges at the AMS is behavioural change and increasing our waste diversion efforts throughout the AMS Nest. The Waste Scale is a program that allows our building workers to track daily waste output and transfer waste diversion data to the AMS Dashboard. Through collaboration with SEEDS, we hope to find a computer science student to help us rewrite the program to operate a 64-bit software through a capstone project. |
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AMS Net Zero 2025
ASAP Goal #1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 2.13

As the AMS works towards ambitious environmental and climate goals, one of these is our Net Zero 2025 target. Net Zero's definition is given to a zero-energy building, where the facility has zero net energy consumption, meaning the total amount of energy used by the building on an annual basis is equal to the amount of renewable energy created on-site. Although AMS Nest is already LEED Platinum Certified, AMS Sustainability believes in further reducing the Nest’s environmental impact by pushing the boundaries of innovation at UBC. AMS Sustainability currently sits on the UBC Climate Action Plan 2030 committee. Our AMS Net Zero strategic guideline would path specific AMS action items within ASAP to ensure that AMS reaches the 1.5° UN Paris Climate Agreement and net zero emissions by 2025.

AMS Net Zero objectives include:

1. Define additional targets and actions for GHG reductions from 2020-2025
   a. Invest in large-scale renewable energy capital projects
   b. Conduct annual reports on AMS carbon emissions
   c. Collaborate with SEEDs on further student-led research projects
      i. These may include projects researching and/or addressing the carbon in AMS' supply chain, decision-making processes (environmental costing analysis), waste sources, energy and water usage, etc.

2. Widen AMS Sustainability's scope to include areas of influence extending beyond AMS operations, such as commuting, food, waste, material, and paper

3. Map out a process and pathway to achieve 20+ goals and targets
   a. AMS processes and pathways can follow the larger UBC Climate Action Plan 2030 mechanisms, wherein we consider our operational, extended, and community impacts, and our external collective influence as an organization
   b. Categories of addressment could include: behavior change, supply chain management, energy, water, waste systems, heating/cooling

Of these objectives, we have made significant strides towards researching and measuring the GHG emissions for which the AMS is responsible. By establishing such a baseline, we can better target reduction initiatives in the future. The AMS have partnered with Offsetters Data collection is currently underway and a report is expected at the end of August.
Soapstand: Zero Waste Refill Station
ASAP Goal #1.12, 1.13, 1.14, 1.15, 2.6, 2.7, 2.10

Soapstand started as a way to reduce everyday plastic consumption through a convenient and sustainable way to buy shampoo, detergent, and more. The product is a zero waste refill station where its touchscreen interface allows a seamless experience for students to refill soap easily and conveniently.

We hope to implement a pilot Soapstand within the AMS Next for the 2021/22 Winter Session and hope students would be encouraged to limit their plastic consumption by bringing their own containers for soap products.

AMS Waste Hub
ASAP Goal #1.12, 1.13, 1.14, 2.8, 2.10, 2.11, 5.2,

A Waste Hub within the Nest has been a strongly desired project by the UBC community. The Hub allows the public to recycle hard-to-dispose materials such as e-waste, batteries, styrofoam, soft plastics, and more. We are currently in discussion with Michael Kingsmill to design a unique Waste Hub for the AMS which would be located near the Interactive Sustainability Centre.

*picture for reference only*
Advocacy & Leadership

AMS Sustainability Subcommittee
ASAP Goal #2.9, 3.1, 3.6, 3.8, 3.14, 5.3

With the absence of the Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) Administrator and Subcommittee, we have decided to merge the roles and responsibilities of the SPF within the AMS Sustainability Subcommittee.

The Sustainability Subcommittee shall:

a) Provide oversight over the AMS’s progress in reaching operational targets and goals laid out in the Student Driven Sustainability Strategy;

b) Recommend updates and improvements to the AMS Student Driven Sustainability Strategy;

c) Determine the operational actions and measurements necessary to reach the targets outlined in the AMS Student Driven Sustainability Strategy;

d) Recommend to certain departments of the AMS, with the approval of the Operations Committee, to take on certain actions items pertaining to sustainability;

e) Disseminate information and content from the Sustainability Subcommittee’s meetings to representative bodies and other organizations relevant to the topics discussed;

f) Assist the Finance Committee in providing funding to Active Members of the AMS for environmental, social, and economic sustainability projects;

 g) Recommend updates and improvements to the relevant documents related to the administering of the Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF);

h) Administer the Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) based on the provisions written in the AMS Code of Procedures Section IX B, Article 6, Section 5(k);

i) Perform other duties as required.

Through an updated Terms of Reference, we would also like to include Sustainability Representatives from key undergraduate societies throughout the university. Apart from our regular members such as representatives from AMS, SEEDS, University Sustainability Initiative (USI), Campus and Community Planning (C+CP), Student Environment Centre (SEC), UBC Climate Hub, appointed council members, and our student-at-large, we hope to include the AUS Sustainability Director, CUS Sustainability Director, SUS Sustainability Chair, and the LFSUS Sustainability Coordinator who shall be non-voting members of the subcommittee.
The ISC is a hub for students to foster sustainability. The ISC provides a place for sustainability-orientated clubs and groups to host meetings, workshops, and office hours. The space brings together the Sustainability Corridor in the Life Building by offering students a “one-stop-shop” to learn more about sustainability broadly and specifically at UBC. Most importantly, the ISC promotes collaboration among sustainability clubs.

Programing Ideas for the Interactive Sustainability Center includes:

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<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
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<td>Find-a-friend-wall</td>
<td>To promote a sense of community within the ISC, one wall can be dedicated for people to post a find-a-friend tag. These tags would include the following information: name, pronouns, program, year, knowledge they can offer to someone, knowledge they are seeking, and their email.</td>
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<td>Sustainability Workshops</td>
<td>We are looking to partner with CityHive to offer workshops in small groups focused on how advocacy is turned into action.</td>
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<td>Workshops will also offer an outlet for sustainability for students who are not in sustainability programs, clubs, etc. The ISC will 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 variety of ideas and programs for “newcomers” to try as they wish.</td>
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<td>Networking Sessions</td>
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<td>If a full back-to-normal return to campus happens, a networking session will look like using the ISC as the place for attendees to check-in and receive a name tag, while the main event is held in the Sustainability Corridor. The main activity would be “speed-networking”. This would look like two parallel lines down the Sustainability Corridor creating pairs by standing across from someone. Pairs would have 3-5 minutes to talk. Once the time is up, the lines will rotate for there to be new pairs. In the second semester, we will host or collaborate with any of the groups affiliated (Sustainability Ambassadors, Undergraduate Societies e.g. the LFS</td>
<td>US Sustainability Subcommittee, Climate Hub, etc.) with ISC to deliver a similar event with the addition of working</td>
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<td>Consultations</td>
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<td>Coordinate with USI as part of the Sustainability Ambassadors program offers consultation. Consultations will be open to other clubs and organizations on campus looking for ways to become more sustainable. For example, when a club wants to host an event, they can book a consultation for guidance on how to plan a zero-waste event.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Club Office Hours</td>
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<td>Clubs can book times to host meetings. Possible clubs we intend to invite to utilize the ISC include: Environmental Sciences Students' Association, UBC Social Enterprise Club, UBC Meal Exchange, The University of British Columbia Food Society, UBC Environmental Policy Association, The Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice Undergrad Association, and more.</td>
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| Physical Resources | The ISC will have hard copies of literature and reports for users to reference at their discretion. Clubs expressed that they can contribute their own literature (copies of divestment files, for example) and would appreciate it if we can contribute copies of UBC’s and AMS’s sustainability plans. We expect the library to grow over the course of its life as clubs, faculties, and the AMS contribute literature. In addition, there will be a Little Free Library for people to give and take books freely. |

AMS Thingery

ASAP Goal #2.9, 3.6, 3.8, 3.9, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5

Proposed to open beside the AMS Interactive Sustainability Center, AMS Thingery is a community-owned lending library of things. Acting similar to a library, the Thingery is a self-service resource where students can check things in and out at their convenience. Possible inventory can include: recreation equipment, woodworking tools, event & entertainment decor, household appliances, and musical instruments.

Over the past several months, we have worked with the Vancouver coordinator of Thingeries to create and deploy a survey for students and staff on UBC Vancouver’s campus to gauge their interest and potential usership of a Thingery in the Nest. We received an impressive number of responses and determined that there is indeed a demand for a Thingery at the Nest and discovered what types of items people are most interested in borrowing from it.
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Campus Coordination

Food Security Projects
ASAP Goal #2.9, 3.6, 3.9, 3.18, 5.1, 5.5

The AMS Sustainability portfolio is looking to collaborate with the AMS Food Bank, UBC Food and Nutrition Committee, the Food Security Initiative, and local foods waste prevention apps to implement two interfaculty case competition projects: Taste Not Waste and Vancouver Vegetable Vernacular. Both projects aim to reduce campus food waste and provide “viable food options with dignity”.

**Taste Not Waste**

The idea is to create a food hub to connect the UBC community with ready-to-eat meals from UBC food outlets that are about to enter the waste stream. There is potential to partner with the AMS Food Bank to host the food hub. Ready-to-eat meals would be brought to the food hub by using the Vancouver Food Runners app. This app manages volunteers with Vancouver Food Runners to rescue potential food waste and deliver it to a location for utilization. By using the AMS Food Bank as the food hub, these meals would become much more accessible to those in need, especially with limited kitchen resources.

**Vancouver Vegetable Vernacular**

This project has a similar concept to Taste Not Waste. However, its focus is on rescuing produce that is soon to enter the waste stream. Produce would be collected using a service such as Vancouver Food Runners to bring produce to the AMS Food Bank. The collected produce can then be incorporated into the AMS Food Bank produce baskets.
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AMS Sustainability Communications
ASAP Goal #2.9, 3.6, 3.9, 3.18, 5.1, 5.5

Last year, AMS Sustainability expanded our methods of communication with sustainability clubs and students through revamping the AMS Sustainability website.

The website now includes new additions such as recent projects, and involvement opportunities. This year, we hope to utilize social media through monthly posts on the @ams_ubc Facebook and Instagram account to actively engage with students.

Indigenous Coordination

AMS Indigenous Strategic Plan (ISP)
ASAP Goal #2.5, 2.9, 4.9, 5.6

Due to the irregularities of this past year, last year’s AMS Sustainability team was unable to initiate a successful consultation process with the input of members of our Indigenous student population via focus groups, surveys and other primary research methods. Additionally, the Indigenous Committee, the primary stakeholders of this policy, expressed capacity limitations that extended throughout the academic year.

This year, we hope to establish new connections with our Indigenous community in bolstering the spirit of collaboration necessary for the creation of a policy such as this. We believe UBC’s Indigenous Strategic Plan (ISP) is a potential reference upon which the AMS can situate itself and address the respective goals that align with the institution and its existing gaps. We have established a working relationship with the UBC’s Indigenous Strategic Planning Manager as well as the Assistant Director, First Nations House of Learning, both who have expressed their openness in assisting our organization in properly aligning this new plan with the ISP. It is important to note that this requires the input and collaboration of all staff, executive portfolios, departments, student groups, and councillors within the AMS and not just the AMS Sustainability team in creating an adequate Indigenous-focused policy.