



ams
SUSTAINABILITY

Update on Annual Sustainability Priorities

Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver

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Continuing Progress

Over the past few months, AMS Sustainability has been working hard on projects to maintain and improve the environmental, social, and economic sustainability landscape in our community.

From introducing net zero strategies to building the *Lending Library*, our team is excited to present updates on our annual priorities. To view the initial report of our goals for the 2022-2023 academic year, please refer to our [July 2022 Report on Annual Sustainability Priorities](#).



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1. FACILITIES OPERATIONS

1.1. NET ZERO 2025

ASAP Goal 1.4, 1.5, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.15, 2.13

Since July 2022, we've been working on several initiatives and projects to help us reach our AMS Net Zero 2025 goals. Our ongoing partnership with [Ostrom Climate](#) to conduct our annual greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory report allows the AMS to track emissions from the previous reporting year (May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022).

Employee Commuting

We collaborated with UBC Campus and Community Planning to incentivize carpooling by providing a \$2.00 CAD HONK parking credit per daily trip through Liftango. Liftango is a leader in on-demand shared mobility technology and provides commuters with a free easy to use carpool network made exclusively of students, staff and faculty of the UBC community. In addition, we continued to encourage our employees to attend [Go by Work Week](#) in October 2022 to give cycling a try and motivate those who already do to keep riding.



Waste Audit

Our team has collaborated with Common Energy to conduct a waste audit during Climate Emergency Week 2023. The waste audit provides an opportunity to connect and engage students towards action that will help reach the overarching waste reduction targets for the UBC community. The waste audit will also provide an opportunity to engage and educate students on proper waste sorting practices and encourage the use of reusables. The waste audit will be taking place on February 7 between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM on the plaza beside the Nest.

Internal Carbon Pricing

After several conversations with internal staff, we concluded that it would not be feasible to implement an internal carbon pricing policy or introduce a carbon tax to our AMS services at this time. To compensate for this reality, we are collaborating with the AMS Office of the VP Finance to integrate GHG considerations when proponents request funding for projects related to infrastructure changes. This will result in project proposals calculating their GHG emissions and choosing carbon efficient options wherever necessary.

Travel Policy

We are collaborating with the AMS Policy Advisor to develop a travel policy that will apply to all AMS employees. This travel policy will ensure that employees are travelling with the lowest emissions possible while meeting necessary professional goals. In doing so, the travel policy also educates our employees on the emissions associated with air travel. This travel policy is anticipated to be fully developed and to come into effect by February 2023.

1.2. NEST BUILDING APPLIANCES

Waste Scale

ASAP Goal 1.8, 1.9, 1.13, 1.15

The Waste Scale is currently undergoing a technical update so that our team can collect valuable data about the various streams of waste students produce and better quantify our overall volumes of waste in the Nest. To date, we have liaised with UBC Food Services and Building Operations to accommodate the construction of the new Recreation Centre North, and find a new location for the Waste Scale.

At the start of the academic year, a UBC electrical engineering undergraduate Work Learn student was hired to reprogram the current system's software, which was deemed outdated. Next steps include compatibility testing and reintroducing custodial staff to incorporate the Waste Scale into their disposal procedures. As data collection resumes, our focus will be shifted towards restarting the public dashboard (located in the Sustainability Corridor) to display waste stream data and conduct monthly evaluations to ensure data is displayed accurately and efficiently.

CityPod Composter

ASAP Goal 1.9, 1.12, 1.13, 1.14

After confirming the current state of the composter, we created and trained a group of student volunteers to continue the operation of the composter; besides guaranteeing its maintenance, this also provided an opportunity for students looking to be more engaged with food waste processing and sustainable action. Currently, we are working with a composter manufacturer to confirm which parts of the machinery need to be sourced, replaced, and fitted to ensure that safety standards are met before formally revitalizing the compost cycles. The necessary tools and equipment to run the composter have already been purchased, and our team anticipates being able to process the Nest's own food waste and generate it into compost that can be donated to community gardens and research in the coming months.

2. BUSINESS OPERATIONS

2.1. ADVANCING A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

ASAP Goal 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 2.10, 2.12, 2.15

Mosa (previously "Rescued Glass")

We've supported Mosa, a student-led business focused on building a circular economy platform, by implementing glass collection bins throughout the Nest. These glass collection bins will provide glass bottles that Mosa refurbishes into candles, cups and home decor. Through supporting Mosa, we're able to promote student-led businesses while helping UBC address the issue of reducing its glass waste.



Reusable Washing Station

With the introduction of the "Bring Your Own Cup or Container" discount at AMS-owned food outlets, there's ongoing work to establish a container washing station in the lower level of the Nest. We hope this dedicated space will encourage students to consistently bring their reusables without diminishing the need to bring unwashed reusables around campus.

Campus Action Plans

We continue to support UBC's [Zero Waste Action Plan](#) by ensuring a smooth transition of introducing single use item fees at food outlets on campus. We've also coordinated with AMS Food and Beverage to collect data and develop a food waste baseline that will allow both UBC and the AMS to track progress on waste reduction targets. In December 2022, a food business engagement event was hosted in the Nest to provide an opportunity for outlets on campus to connect and share key information on upcoming policy changes.

2.2. SOAPSTAND STATION

ASAP Goal 1.12, 1.13, 1.14, 1.15, 2.6, 2.10

In October 2022, the Soapstand was relocated from the lower-level to the first floor of the Nest and ongoing communication with the supplier allows for continuous service with minimal disruptions. When disruptions occur such as when a product is out of stock, we collaborate with the supplier to ensure our next order is fulfilled with additional pails in our inventory. Staff have been conducting routine bi-weekly performance checks and completing refills where necessary without any major problems identified.

3. STUDENT SERVICES

3.1. LENDING LIBRARY

ASAP Goal 1.14, 4.10, 4.11, 5.5

The Lending Library has the main deliverable of allowing more students to pursue passion projects and try new things, while empowering the community to reduce material waste through sharing. Since July 2022, we have created and released a survey to UBC students, inquiring about equipment needs, borrowing fees, and other technical aspects of operating a Lending Library. This survey garnered over 250 responses, with which we were able to finalize an inventory list based on items with the most demand.



Funding was recently released for construction and inventory costs, and a building permit proposal has also been approved. We remain on track to be open to the public by January 2023, and aim to achieve a usership rate of 20 unique individuals per week by the end of 2022W T2.

3.2. INTERACTIVE SUSTAINABILITY CENTRE

ASAP Goal 1.10, 3.6, 3.13, 3.14, 4.10, 4.11, 5.5

Besides a terrific space for meetings, small events, and workshops, the ISC also features alternative materials collection bins, a Little Library, and Find-a-Friend wall, all of which we have been working to increase engagement. After we streamlined the booking system for ease of access, we have seen an increase in the number of bookings by student groups, with generally at least 1 booking per day. We have also piloted a series of drop-in hours, where the room is open for any student to interact with, 3 days of the week, and have worked on promoting its presence over social media.

Next term, AMS Sustainability will coordinate events based on interests expressed by students, such as professional development and keynote speakers from relevant industries. Currently, we have already reached out to a few potential speakers, some of whom have expressed great interest in delivering workshops that align with professional development interests of UBC students.



4. CAMPUS COORDINATION

4.1. SEEDS SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP

ASAP Goal 5.2, 5.4, 5.6

Over the past few months, we've been working with a [SEEDS \(Social, Ecological, Economic Development Studies\)](#) Work Learn student and IRES student to assess the emissions associated with each ingredient used at the AMS food outlet, Flavour Lab. However, after receiving feedback on the Climate Friendly Food Systems (CFFS) labels initiative, we've decided to exclusively implement green CFFS labels on our menu in January 2023. By doing so, we hope to encourage students to make environmentally friendly decisions by fostering a healthy and positive community environment in the Nest.

Furthermore, we are working with a UBC Student Team to evaluate sorting behaviour based on signage implemented in the Nest through UBC's Behavioural Insights Advanced Professional Certificate Program. This project will increase awareness of waste sorting practices in the Nest and can help address the issue of contamination associated with waste. This project is intended to be completed by May 2023.

Collaboration opportunities that arise and are undertaken during UBC 2022W T2 will be presented in the annual sustainability report at the end of the academic year.

5. INDIGENOUS COORDINATION

5.1. INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

ASAP Goal 2.9, 3.1, 3.12, 5.6

At the beginning of the UBC 2022W T1 semester, meetings were conducted with the AMS Indigenous Committee to formulate a timeline to engage Indigenous students on campus and create an Indigenous Coordination section within the ASAP based on interdisciplinary collaboration.

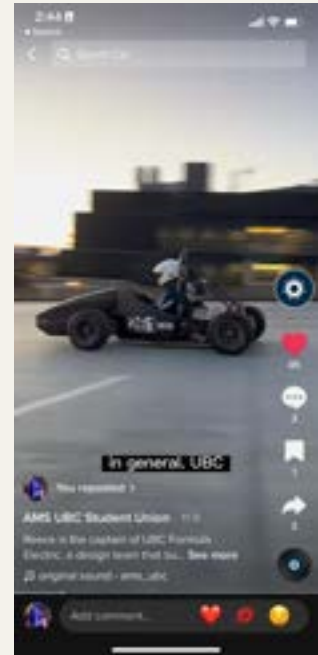
The plan was agreed to be set in motion after an election within the Indigenous Committee. Recently, after election results were finalized, we connected with the new Indigenous Committee Co-Chair, and plan on kickstarting the engagement campaign in the coming week.

6. ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP

6.1. SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNICATIONS

ASAP Goal 3.9, 3.12, 3.14, 3.18, 5.1, 5.5

Over the past six months, we've worked with the AMS Marketing team to bring awareness to projects and resources that our portfolio oversees. We've reached out to past recipients of the Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) to highlight how the SPF has supported their projects. These videos are posted on the AMS's TikTok page to increase awareness of the fund while inspiring students to think of innovative ways to advance climate and sustainable action. In addition, we created a video tour on the ISC to showcase the resources offered in the space. Our video series on student sustainability challenges will be created in term 2 to increase awareness of zero-waste resources offered at the Nest.

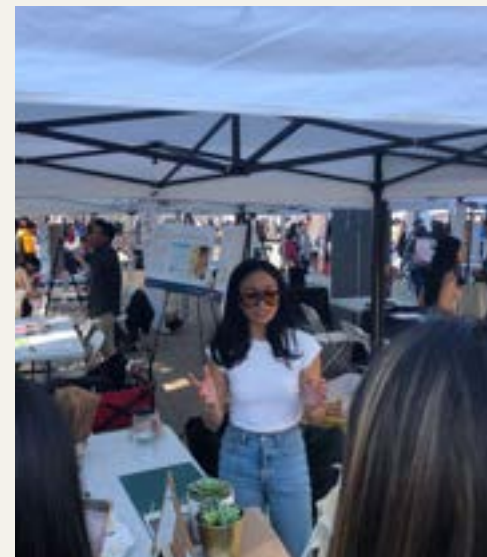


6.2. AMS SUSTAINABLE ACTION PLAN (ASAP) REVIEW

ASAP Goal 3.12, 3.14

During September and October 2022, we released a public engagement survey to understand the current and collective sustainability priorities of UBC students. We also hosted a booth during AMS Clubs Fair as an opportunity to engage with students and build a community of climate engagement. We were able to successfully generate 805 survey responses in addition to hosting three engagement workshops with the AMS Sustainability Subcommittee, AMS Executive Committee, and UBC Student Sustainability Council.

Our survey results suggest that the AMS should adopt a renewed focus on climate justice, food security, and education around environmental sustainability. Furthermore, we have been coordinating with the AMS Indigenous Committee to develop an engagement plan with Indigenous students on campus.



Despite the wonderful feedback we have currently collected, our engagement process doesn't stop here. Through a newly created ASAP Review Working Group, we're continuing to connect with campus stakeholders to create synergies across priority areas from various action plans on campus including CAP 2030 and the UBC Wellbeing Strategic Framework.

**For questions or feedback about anything
in this report, reach out to us.**

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