



ams
SUSTAINABILITY

AMS Sustainability: Final Report

Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver

April 2023

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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. The GHG Inventory Report 2022 audited by Ostrom Climate should be delivered during the summer.

Waste Audit

Our team, in collaboration with Common Energy, conducted a comprehensive waste audit during Climate Emergency Week 2023 on February 7th. The audit was conducted at the Nest, and it involved collecting a sample of all four waste streams, namely garbage, paper, compost, and recyclables, generated over a 24-hour period. The waste was then sorted into its respective streams, and the differences between unsorted and sorted waste were measured to gather data on waste sorting habits of UBC students and the overall waste produced. We conducted the audit in an open and public space, with the objective of reducing the stigma surrounding waste at UBC. The 2023 audit aimed to engage passing students in discussions on waste sorting by creating a warm and inviting environment with music, coffee, and snacks.

By conducting this audit, we collected useful data on waste sorting habits, established metrics on the overall waste generated, and promoted environmentally conscious behavior among the UBC student community. We believe that this effort will contribute to our collective efforts to reduce waste and minimize our carbon footprint, thereby helping to combat the global climate emergency. For more details, please see the [Waste Audit 2023 Report](#).

Employee Commuting

Our team partnered with UBC Campus and Community Planning to promote sustainable transportation by incentivizing carpooling among the UBC community. To achieve this, we provided a \$2.00 CAD HONK parking credit per daily trip through Liftango, a leading on-demand shared mobility technology provider. Liftango's easy-to-use carpool network is exclusively available to UBC students, staff, and faculty. Through this initiative, we aimed to encourage the UBC community to adopt sustainable commuting practices and reduce carbon emissions from individual transportation. Furthermore, we continued our efforts to promote cycling as a sustainable mode of transportation by encouraging our employees to participate in [Go by Work](#)

[Week](#) in October 2022. This event aimed to motivate individuals to cycle to work and encourage those who already do to continue doing so.

We believe that these efforts will contribute to the larger goal of reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable transportation practices. By encouraging carpooling and cycling, we can help build a more sustainable future for the UBC community and beyond.

Travel Policy

Aviation is a significant contributor to the global greenhouse gas emissions, and its impact on the environment is rapidly increasing. To mitigate this impact, our team has developed the "PC7 - AMS Air Travel and Expenditure Policy." This policy aims to ensure that all AMS staff who travel by air for work purposes do so in the most environmentally friendly way possible while still achieving their professional objectives.

The policy is inclusive and applicable to all AMS employees who intend to travel by air for business purposes. It incorporates a decision-making tree and an emissions calculator, which provide support to employees to make low-carbon travel choices. By implementing this policy, we strive to achieve our net-zero targets and significantly reduce our overall carbon footprint. Our commitment to this policy reflects our responsibility to protect the environment while fulfilling our professional obligations.

Next Steps

The incoming AMS Sustainability team will be tasked with the crucial responsibility of maintaining the organization's annual GHG Inventory report to track emissions. By monitoring emissions, we can effectively identify areas for improvement and continue our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint. It is imperative that the AMS Sustainability team continues to introduce new initiatives and projects that help minimize our carbon emissions while also supporting other clubs on campus in their efforts to reduce emissions. Through collaboration and shared knowledge, we can work towards a more sustainable future for the UBC community and beyond.

In addition to tracking emissions, the AMS Sustainability team should also strive to promote awareness and education about sustainability and climate change. By engaging the UBC community through various events, campaigns, and initiatives, we can inspire a culture of sustainability and encourage individuals to make sustainable choices in their daily lives. We recognize the significant role that the AMS Sustainability team plays in leading the charge towards a more sustainable future, and we are confident that the incoming team will continue to build upon the progress made by their predecessors.

1.2. NEST BUILDING APPLIANCES

CityPod Composter

ASAP Goal 1.9, 1.12, 1.13, 1.14

After assessing the current state of the composter, we trained a group of student volunteers to operate and maintain it. This provided an opportunity for students interested in sustainable action and food waste processing to become more engaged. We also collaborated with a composter manufacturer to identify parts of the machinery that required servicing, replacement, or updating to ensure compliance with safety standards. However, we encountered difficulties communicating with the company, which unfortunately impacted our progress.

Next Steps

The incoming team should prioritize confirming which specific parts of the machinery require servicing, replacement, or updating to ensure safety and maintenance concerns are addressed. Our most recent information indicates that the latch needs to be replaced to prevent sudden movement when opening and closing the hatch. By addressing these concerns, we can move forward with revitalizing the compost cycles.

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.

Campus Action Plans

We supported the 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 we are pleased to report that this transition was a success. Thanks to ongoing communication with the supplier, we have been able to maintain continuous service with minimal disruptions, providing an efficient area for students to refill their bottles. Our staff conducts routine bi-weekly performance checks, ensuring that any necessary refills are completed promptly and efficiently.

In addition, we have recently replaced the old machine with a new Soapstand that features improved software capabilities. This upgrade will further enhance our ability to provide high-quality service to students and contribute to our commitment to sustainability.

Next Steps

The incoming team should continue to maintain the Soapstand machine and work with the company to ensure seamless service support.

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. These items were purchased in 2022W T1 and are ready to be stocked upon construction completion.

The unit has undergone construction and all that remains regarding construction is the installation of shelving units and office furniture such as a desk. The finance department has been reached out to in order to set up a purchasing system. We remain on track to be open to the public by September 2023, and aim to achieve a usership rate of 20 unique individuals per week by the end of 2023W T1.

In order to achieve many new and repeat customers, the AMS Sustainability team partnered with a Commerce 468 class to produce a marketing strategy to implement during the opening of the Lending Library. This project was completed in April 2023 and contributed several strategies including student groups to target, advertising campaigns, and promotional materials. This collaboration also produced a viable Lending Library logo and designs that will be used in the coming year.

When the Lending Library opens, the 2023-2024 AMS Sustainability team has an actionable strategy for a marketing and advertising campaign, as well as a constructed location and a completed inventory of loanable items.

3.2. INTERACTIVE SUSTAINABILITY CENTRE

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

AMS Sustainability has striven to create a welcoming and inviting atmosphere in the ISC this year and have seen a large uptick in room bookings. After we streamlined the booking system for ease of access, there have been more users of the space than in previous years and growth is trending up. Users typically consist of student clubs to hold meetings, workshops, and speaker events, however, we hope to expand the breadth and depth of the user base in the coming year. 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.

AMS Sustainability has begun to develop a workshop series for implementation next year focusing on the pillars of sustainability. Speakers and topics have been identified, however, higher priority projects prevented the workshops from occurring this year. These workshops will target sustainability issues voiced by students and present opportunities for professional development, educational speakers, and sustainable lifestyle concepts.

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.

Research Project	Description
Climate-Friendly Food Label Data Assessment	We partnered with SEEDS to evaluate the “climate-friendliness” of food items on the Flavour Labs menu. This approach encouraged students to consider their dietary choices more carefully. Jenny Lee, a SEEDS Work Learn student, led this research, continuing the CFFS Food Labelling Project from 2020. Due to differences in data provided by AMS and UBC Food Services, a different workflow was needed. The results of the research found that 73.01% of analyzed items were classified as green, successfully meeting the CAP2030 target of reducing GHG emissions associated with food production.
Evaluation of waste sorting behavior and contamination rate in relation to the signage implemented at the Nest.	Led by a team from UBC Sauder's Behavioural Insights Certificate Program, this project aimed to evaluate the impact of signage in promoting proper waste sorting behavior among students in the Nest Building. The project is currently in its final stages, with the final report expected to be delivered by mid-May.
Food Waste Reduction and Recovery Plan (SEEDS)	A SEEDS partnership was formed with the AMS Food Bank and an LFS450 class to design a Food Waste Reduction and Recovery Plan (FWRRP) for the Nest's food outlets. Several focus groups were held with the food outlet managers (and an AMS Sustainability representative), to look for ways to divert

	usable food waste to the food bank. This culminated in the FWRRP report that will be included in the Sustainability transition report for implementation next year.
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5. INDIGENOUS COORDINATION

5.1. INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

ASAP Goal 2.9, 3.1, 3.12, 5.6

As a part of the ASAP update, our team recognized the importance of engaging Indigenous students on campus. In order to ensure that our engagement with Indigenous students is rooted in reconciliation and mutual understanding, our team has decided to move away from the idea of creating a separate section on ‘Indigenous Coordination’ within the ASAP. Instead, we have drafted several ASAP goals related to Indigenous reconciliation that will be integrated into every section of the document. However, we recognize that this work is not final and requires ongoing consideration and feedback from Indigenous community members. Furthermore, we understand that Indigenous Engagement requires a thoughtful and respectful approach that prioritizes building relationships and avoiding extractive practices.

Next Steps

Moving forward, we recommend that the incoming AMS Sustainability team prioritize building relationships with Indigenous community members at UBC through personal research and seeking feedback in a respectful and collaborative manner. We encourage the use of the Indigenous Strategic Plan as a valuable resource to support engagement efforts.

Rather than co-creating ASAP goals with Indigenous people, it's important to recognize that they have their own priorities and goals for the year. The AMS Sustainability team should respect these priorities and avoid compromising them for the sake of completing the ASAP update. True reconciliation is a long-term process that requires ongoing effort and commitment.

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 year, we have collaborated closely with the AMS Marketing team to raise awareness of the projects and resources that our portfolio oversees. To highlight the effectiveness of the Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF), we reached out to previous recipients and created videos showcasing how the SPF has supported their projects. These videos were posted on the AMS's social media platforms, including Instagram and TikTok, to increase awareness of the fund and inspire students to think of innovative ways to advance climate and sustainable action. Furthermore, we produced a video tour of the Integrated Sustainability Centre (ISC) to showcase the wealth of resources offered in this space. This tour serves as a valuable tool to increase awareness and encourage students to take advantage of the many opportunities available. Overall, our collaboration with the AMS Marketing team has been instrumental in raising awareness of our portfolio's work and inspiring students to take action on sustainability.

Next Steps

The incoming team should continue working with the AMS Marketing to share sustainability opportunities, events, and campaigns on the campus. Furthermore, they should continue to explore new and innovative ways to promote sustainability and engage students in this important cause.

6.2. AMS SUSTAINABLE ACTION PLAN (ASAP) REVIEW

ASAP Goal 3.12, 3.14

To gain insight into the sustainability priorities of UBC students, we launched a public engagement survey and hosted a booth during the AMS Clubs Fair, resulting in 805 responses that identified climate justice, food security, and environmental education as the top sustainability priorities for the AMS. We also facilitated workshops with a range of stakeholders including AMS committees, staff, and UBC subject matter experts to ensure our action plan reflects current sustainability standards and identifies opportunities for synergy with other priorities on campus. Although we have drafted several ASAP goals, further engagement is necessary to ensure a robust strategy that addresses the needs of both UBC students and AMS staff.

Next Steps

The upcoming AMS Sustainability team should consider re-establishing an ASAP Focus group to ensure thorough oversight of the document. Additionally, they should prioritize engaging with Indigenous communities before releasing the next iteration.

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

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