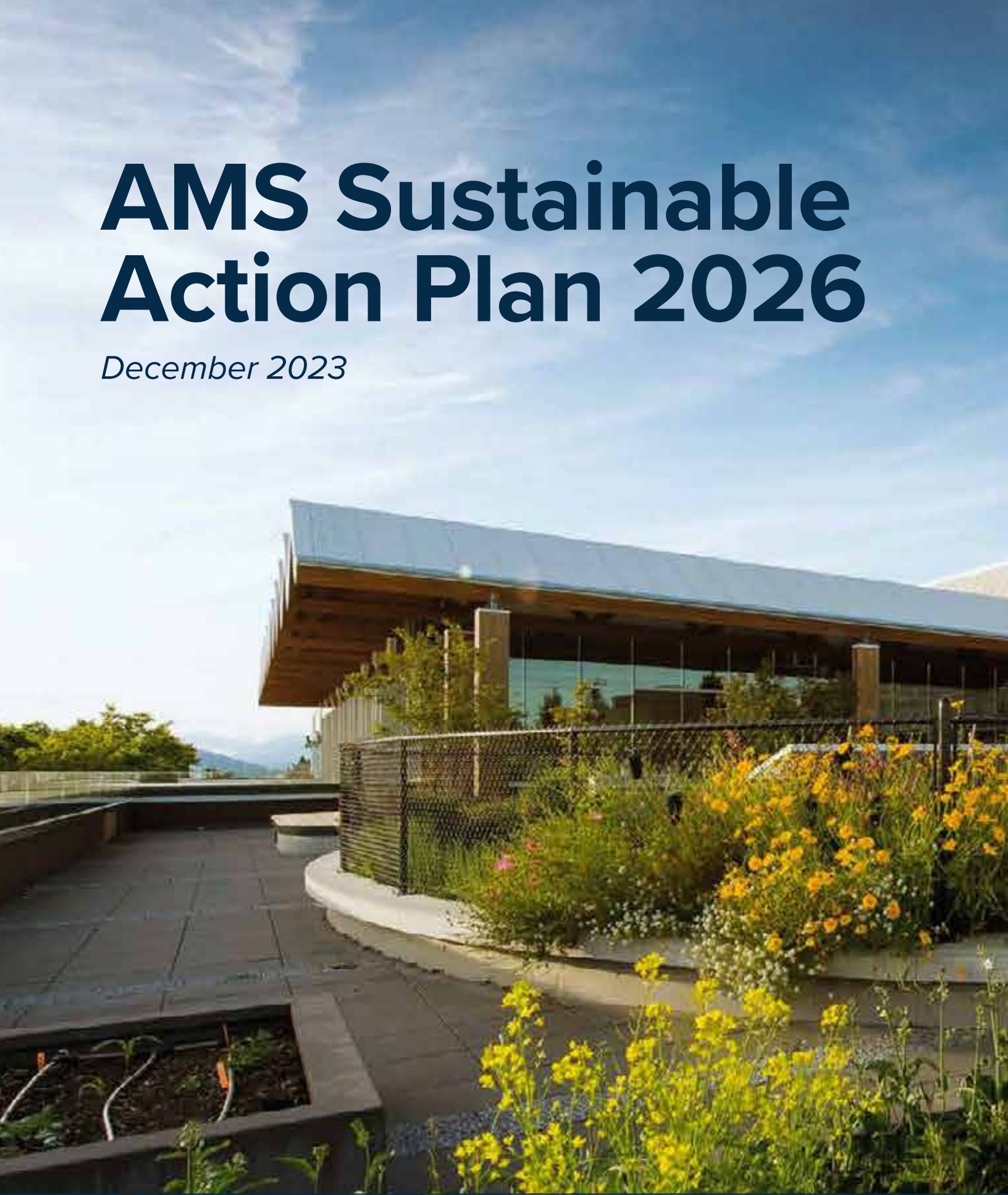
AMS Sustainable Action Plan 2026

December 2023



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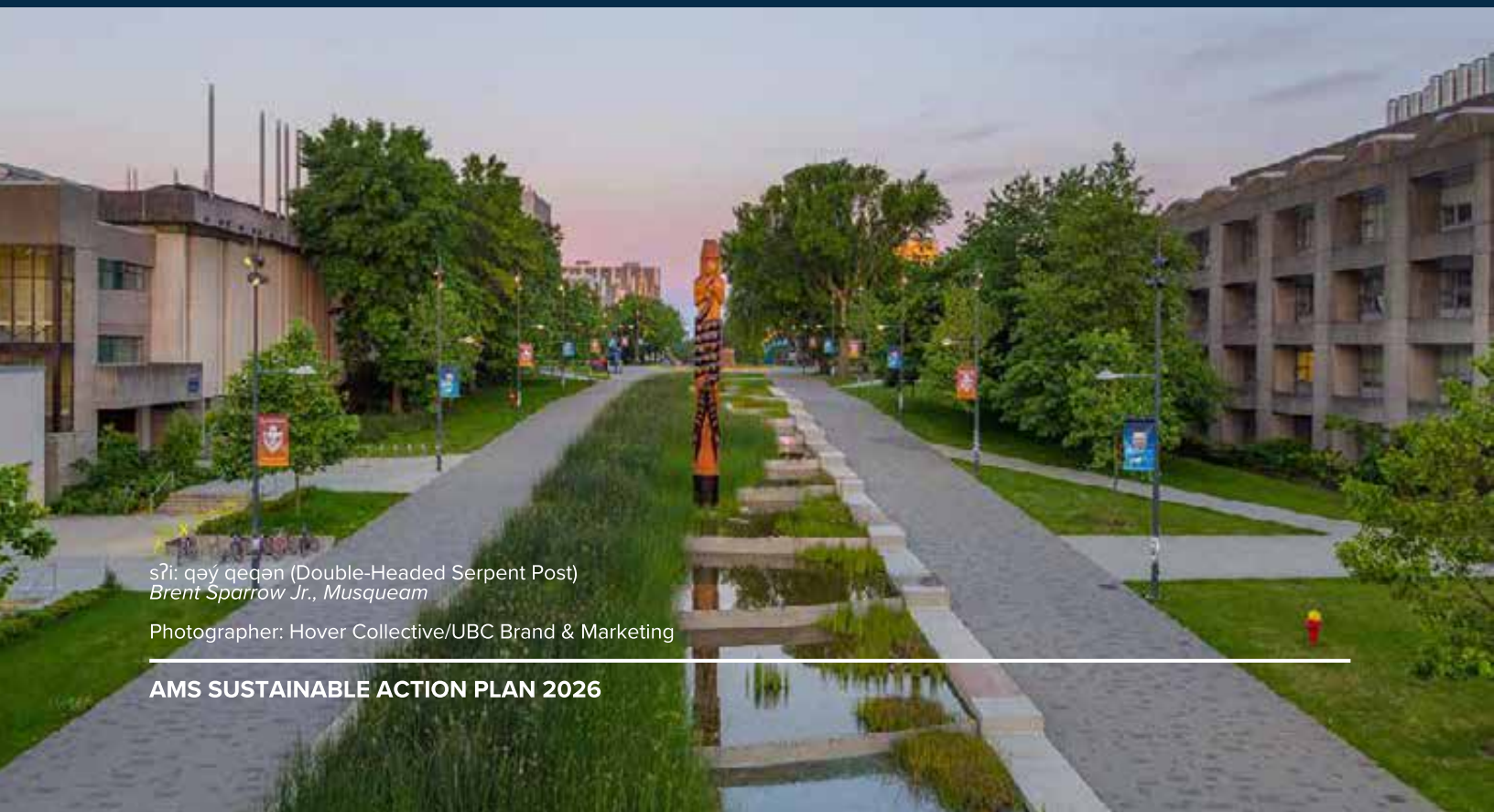
ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF UBC VANCOUVER

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The creation of this Action Plan and a significant part of the consultations took place on the traditional, ancestral, and stolen lands of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓-speaking Coast Salish host nation of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam). Furthermore, the AMS and its subsidiaries operate and convene on these same stolen lands, as well as the occupied lands of many other First Nations across North America. We recognize the colonial history of the land on which we operate and aim to respect, honor, and communicate with its traditional caretakers.

As a student union representing a diverse community of over 60,000 students at UBC, we recognize that the University undeniably plays an active role as a colonial institution in creating barriers for Indigenous peoples and that the AMS has been complicit in this process, both actively and by affiliation. In addition to disrupting nature and life on their ancestral land, Indigenous communities face ongoing marginalization from health and environmental issues, discrimination, and destruction of traditional sites. As student leaders, it is vital that we take on personal and organizational efforts of learning and unlearning as an ongoing process. Many status quo actions and processes perpetuate and replicate the effects of settler colonization, so our efforts to decolonize must go beyond land acknowledgments and aim to be anti-oppressive. We must work to identify narratives that perpetuate colonial violence, and how we can work to create new narratives that are inclusive and equitable for all. With this Plan, AMS Sustainability hopes to spearhead the process of unlearning, decolonization, and indigenization for the Society. The frameworks that come out of this Action Plan aim to help AMS leadership recognize their role and responsibility in this context and engrain actionable, collaborative action on Indigenous coordination into the Society's priorities.



sʔi: qəý qeqən (Double-Headed Serpent Post)
Brent Sparrow Jr., Musqueam

Photographer: Hover Collective/UBC Brand & Marketing

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BACKGROUND

As one of the largest student unions in Canada, we have the responsibility to establish meaningful, sustainable change in our leadership, advocacy, and operational efforts that embrace a multifaceted approach. As a value, sustainability has taken many forms at the AMS, but ASAP continues to be the most intersectional and just approach to climate action. Sustainability efforts at the Society began in 1999 with the Impacts Committee, which made several changes to our operations, eventually introducing the Society's first sustainability strategy, the Lighter Footprint Strategy, in 2008. At this point, sustainability efforts began to resemble modern operations with the creation of a Sustainability Coordinator position and the Sustainability Fund (now known as the Sustainability Projects Fund). Sustainability continued to gain prominence in the Society's operations with the opening of the LEED-Platinum certified Nest building in 2016 and the creation of an Associate Vice President, Sustainability position in 2017. These efforts led to the creation of the first AMS Sustainable Action Plan in 2020, in response to mass climate strikes on- and off- campus. These strikes called for a just transition and the declaration of a climate emergency.

ASAP combined the previous AMS Student Driven Sustainability Strategy, the Environmental Sustainability Strategy, and the AMS Ethical and Sustainable Purchasing Policy. Based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Plan redefined sustainability's presence in the AMS, introducing the intersectional approach of environmental, social, and economic sustainability. The SDGs helped support this integrated approach to sustainability and their influence is seen in the Plan's six target areas: facilities operations, business operations, advocacy and leadership, student services, campus coordination and Indigenous coordination.

Soon after the approval of ASAP, UBC declared a climate emergency in 2021, allowing for an overall greater capacity for climate action on campus with the creation of the Climate Emergency Task Force and Centre for Climate Justice amongst many other student and staff-led efforts. These climate emergency efforts enabled us to create this Plan in consultation with students and staff, ensuring that the Plan is curated to account for the diverse lived experiences and personal knowledge sets of our student community and remains actionable in outlining the sustainability of the Society's future endeavors.

VISION

With the first-ever review of this Plan, we intend to address the shortcomings of the previous iteration. This includes implementing tracking and accountability measures for the Goals, integrating more prominent Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) principles, strengthening collaborations and partnerships, and introducing Indigenous reconciliation and coordination actions. Moreover, it should be the responsibility of all AMS portfolios, subsidiaries, and constituents to see through the Goals outlined in this Action Plan. In its creation, this iteration of the Plan is intended to be an ambitious pursuit of climate action.

The AMS recognizes UBC's declaration of a climate emergency and is committed to taking urgent action and agency on this matter whether through the prioritization of marginalized communities or the pursuit of innovation to lower our emissions. With ASAP 2026, the AMS will remain as a leader in climate action on and beyond the UBC community.

WHAT DOES SUSTAINABILITY MEAN?

Sustainability addresses economic, social, and environmental factors, focusing on human interactions with the environment to ensure our planet remains viable for future generations. It reflects the ongoing process of awareness in fulfilling current needs without compromising the state of the earth for future generations. We aim to emphasize the interconnectedness of humans and nature rather than seeing them as separate entities. This will encourage taking climate action and understanding the connectivity of all aspects of sustainability. Sustainability can be seen as three pillars, each of which addresses the impact that our operations have on people and the natural world. Below are the working definitions for the AMS outlining the three pillars of sustainability we aim to incorporate into all aspects of this plan.

Economic Sustainability: Refers to ensuring economic aspects of the organization remain equitable and account for environmental impacts in new iterations and developments.

Social Sustainability: Adopts a people-first mentality. Through promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion this term encompasses social inclusion and empowerment.

Environmental Sustainability: Refers to conserving natural resources and protecting ecosystems ensuring the environment sustains for generations to come.

Sustainability is not a new concept. As traditional stewards of this land, conservation and respect towards life and land have been embodied by Indigenous peoples for centuries. Traditional ecological knowledge of local systems and biodiversity have been used to ensure that resources from the environment would sustain their communities, and many Indigenous stories emphasize the unity of humans and natural life.

DEVELOPMENT AND CONSULTATION

After the approval of the first version of the AMS Sustainable Action Plan in May 2020, AMS Sustainability has continuously been developing and accomplishing the goals and priorities that have been set out on the current plan. Along with the completion of these goals, AMS Sustainability has also continued to strengthen its collaborations and partnerships with various campus partners, some of which are named as members of the ASAP Working Group, Focus Groups and the Sustainability Subcommittee.

The work on the review of ASAP was started last year by the AMS Sustainability 2022-23 team which was composed of Ben Du (then Vice President Administration), Bern de Vera (then Associate Vice President Sustainability), and Annabelle Liao (then Sustainability Projects Coordinator). From September to November 2022, the team collected feedback from UBC students and subcommittee members and released a survey which received more than 800 responses. The feedback and responses showed that the top priorities for students were food services, climate action, zero-waste and education.

In July 2023, the current AMS Sustainability conducted initial research and review, which included the UBC Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2030, UBC Indigenous Strategic Plan (ISP), UBC Zero Waste Action Plan 2030 and the UBC 20-Year Sustainability Strategy. This expanded into conducting an environmental scan of other student unions across Canada and their sustainability strategies and initiatives. Our inquiry showed the need for the following to be included on the new version of the Plan: a land acknowledgement, synchronization with UBC plans, methods of implementation and communication, and most importantly, Indigenous-related goals and actions.

In October 2023, AMS Sustainability received the initial set of information from the AMS GHG Inventory Report. This report showed that purchased goods and services and employee commuting are the biggest sources of emission in the AMS. After the receipt of the report, AMS Sustainability launched its first set of consultations. This set of consultation showed that it is more effective to view the Priority Areas as sets of related overarching goals, rather than separate departments within the AMS. With this structural change, the Working Group identified the need for a set of guiding values to inform each of the priorities, along with the ‘Strategic Priorities’ laid out on the AMS Strategic Plan.

The addition of overarching goals is also a Society-wide recognition that advancing sustainability is not only the responsibility of the AMS Sustainability Department; rather, it is work that must be completed by our community of students, managers, advocates and researchers. The Goals and Actions in this Plan have been formed in agreement and consultation with involved AMS departments and units on campus, and we hope to continue the practice of support, collaboration, and learning towards making meaningful and sustainable impact within the Society and on campus for the next three years.

The dates of consultation and feedback meetings that were held during the development process of this Plan are as follows:

- **Sustainability Subcommittee** (October 16th & November 20th);
- **ASAP Working Group** (weekly from October 19th to November 2nd, with written feedback provided for the following weeks until November 25th);
- **Advocacy and Leadership Focus Group** (October 24th & November 7th);
- **Business Operations Focus Group** (October 27th & November 10th);
- **Facilities Operations Focus Group** (October 26th & November 9th);
- **Student Services Focus Group** (October 20th & November 10th);
- **Campus Relations Focus Group** (October 26th & November 9th);
- **AMS Indigenous Engagement Facilitator & Indigenous Constituency** (Summer 2022, September 2022, November 2022, and November 2023);
- **Indigenous Coordination Focus Group** (November 17th, with written feedback welcomed from November 19th to 25th);
- **Musqueam Band** (feedback welcomed from November 19th to 29th); and
- **Council Consultation** (October 25th) & **ASAP Open Forum** (November 1st).

ASAP WORKING GROUP

Emily Wong-Abdul *AMS AVP Sustainability*	**Ryan Chiu** *AMS Sustainability Projects Coord.*
Ian Caguiat *AMS VP Administration*	**Esme Decker** *AMS President*
Minnie Ng *AMS Equity & Inclusion Specialist*	**Bandhul Vikas Khanna** *AMS AVP External*
Juan D. Martinez & Josh Travers *SEEDS Sustainability Program*	**Jasper Lorien & Vedin Schimmack** *Sustainability Subcom. & CJUBC*

GUIDING VALUES

Equity

Equity in the context of this Action Plan refers to the ethical and practical principles of ensuring fairness and impartiality in all aspects of our work. It encompasses the objective of providing equal access to a sustainable quality of life for all individuals and communities, irrespective of socio-economic status, geography or other factors while addressing historical injustices and preventing new disparities in the distribution of environmental advantages and adverse impacts. This value emphasizes the importance of creating a just and inclusive society where environmental and social well-being are equitably shared for generations to come which underpin the foundation of a sustainable and resilient future.

Intersectionality

In this Action Plan, Intersectionality poses a guiding value that represents the recognition that environmental and social issues are interconnected and that the impact of these challenges is not homogeneous across individuals and communities. It reflects the understanding of the unique lived experience that shapes an individual or community's vulnerabilities and opportunities within the broader sustainability framework. In addressing underlying systems of inequality, we recognize that sustainable decisions cannot be made unless individuals have adequate access to food, shelter, financial means, and security. Furthermore, we aim to ensure sustainability efforts are both effective and equitable where solutions acknowledge and consider the diverse and disproportionate impacts of environmental degradation and climate change amongst diverse groups.

Accessibility

Accessibility in the context of this Plan pertains to the principle of ensuring that the benefits of sustainable practices and resources are readily available, usable, and affordable to all individuals and communities, particularly to those facing barriers. In recognizing that sustainability goes far beyond the preservation of natural ecosystems but rather involves building a community where environmental and social advantages are equally accessible to all diverse groups by the means of incorporating principles pertaining to economic and social sustainability. In embarking on an inclusive approach advocating and planning for initiatives and infrastructure, we aim to foster an inclusive and resilient Society contributing to a more equitable and environmentally sound future for all.

Accountability

Accountability refers to the responsibility and need for transparency from all individuals and organizations in acknowledging and addressing our outlined Goals, as well as in creating actionable Plans for achieving the desired outcomes and measuring success.. Through conducting a comprehensive evaluation of our current goals and articulating the goals we aim to accomplish with this iteration of the Action Plan, our primary focus is to uphold accountability by ensuring transparency throughout the fulfillment of all objectives. This Plan integrates the processes of monitoring, reporting, and corrective action, aligning with our commitment to achieve specified targets while upholding ethical standards. It emphasizes inclusive and fair-decision making practices. Holding entities within and outside the Society accountable for their sustainability efforts will encourage a culture of responsibility with a focus on long-term ecological growth and social well-being. Refer to the 'Implementation' section on strategies for transparency and communications.

Experiential Learning

Taking on an approach that emphasizes active, hands-on engagement and practical experiences to foster a deep understanding of environmental and social issues is crucial for enhancing the learning aspects of this Plan. It involves learning by doing, often through real-world projects providing students opportunities to personally contribute to the completion of these Goals, as well direct interactions with the natural environment and communities. Experiential learning in sustainability encourages individuals to personally engage with sustainability challenges including conservation, climate change, and social equity. Through immersing students in real challenges and sustainability opportunities this approach aims to not only enhance their knowledge but also empower them to be active participants in creating positive, sustainable changes in the world beyond their time here at UBC.

Community

Community refers to a group of individuals who share common geographic, social, and/or cultural ties and who are interconnected by their collective efforts to achieve environmental and social well-being within their shared locality or context. More specifically, this Plan aims to create opportunities for passionate individuals on campus to educate themselves on the sustainability work in progress and broaden the scope of their understanding of the impacts they can make in contributing to collective goals and efforts. Sustainable communities are characterized by a collaborative approach to addressing environmental challenges, fostering resilience, and promoting equitable access to resources and opportunities. An interconnected and empowered group of local individuals plays a vital role in achieving long-term sustainability goals.



Goals and Actions

Campaigns and Advocacy





CAMPAIGNS AND ADVOCACY

The Society's student leaders represent over 60,000 students, advocating to the University and all levels of government to better the educational, social, and personal lives of the students of UBC Vancouver. To ensure that we meet this mandate, the Society's executive and their staff work to ensure that students have a voice in the University's decisions, and that the government's budgets meet students' needs. The Goals outlined in this Priority Area ensure that our advocacy efforts address inequalities with an integrated approach that recognizes the systemic interconnectedness of environmental, social and economic inequality.

ams STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Delivering Results
Cultivating a Sense of Belonging
Collaborative Leadership

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Goal 1: Be a leader in advocating for sustainable, equitable, and accessible education

Relevant Partners and Departments: AMS Office of the VP Academic and University Affairs, AMS Equity and Inclusion, UBC Sustainability Hub, UBC Climate Hub, UBC Centre for Climate Justice, Student Senate Caucus and Disabilities United Collective

Short Term Actions: 2024

- Collaborate with UBC faculties and departments such as the Climate Hub and Centre for Climate Justice to design workshops and toolkits that can support instructors from all faculties in embedding sustainability into their curricula.
- Create an information database on initiatives, advocacy efforts and trauma-informed services on campus that are specific to supporting marginalized communities such as QTGNC, disabled, and IBPOC students.

Long Term Actions

- Provide support for the Student Senate Caucus in terms of research, communications and advocacy to help achieve goals for Senate 2026 which includes further development of hybrid education, creating criteria for the University's international partnerships, and the inclusion of the Indigenous Strategic Plan in Senate proceedings.
- Continue to support the Disabilities United Collective resource group in their Access4All advocacy efforts in and outside the UBC Vancouver Campus.
- Through our membership on search committees, advocate for the hiring of University management, staff and professionals that have a background or knowledge in trauma-informed engagement and anti-oppression work.
- Continue to advocate for free, sustainable, and low-barrier access to education, including lower tuition fees, open educational resources, and research support from the University.
- Advocate for more academic, interdisciplinary, and co-curricular programs focusing on sustainability through a justice lens with an emphasis on decolonial literature, intersectionality, and anti-oppression.
- In alignment with the 20-Year Sustainability Strategy, continue to hold the University accountable on their 2035 target to provide each student regardless of their degree program with access to sustainability education.





Goal 2: Reduce emissions by making sustainable transportation methods more accessible

Relevant Partners and Departments: AMS Office of the VP External, AMS Marketing and Communications and Bike Kitchen

Short Term Actions: 2024

- Host a campus-wide communication campaign on sustainable methods of transportation including improved cycling environments, and create a map of relevant resources available to UBC students.

Long Term Actions

- Collaborate and identify ways to support the Bike Kitchen which aims to provide students with an accessible environment where they can learn to fix bicycles, share resources, and work together.
- Continue to advocate for the expansion of Skytrain to UBC as an accessible and sustainable method of transportation. In a survey conducted by TransLink, 92% of respondents indicated support for extending SkyTrain to the UBC.
- Advocate to the University Neighbourhood Association, and work with Campus and Community Planning for an increase in charging stations for e-vehicles and reserved parking spots for car-sharing services on campus.
- In accordance with Climate Action Plan 2030: Commuting, help improve the cycling experience to support increased cycling trips to and from campus by advocating for secure bike storage to the University, advocating to government partners to provide dedicated bike lanes to/from campus and an integrated e-bike/bike share program with the City of Vancouver.

Goal 3: Continue to advocate for student priorities on housing, food, and sustainability

Relevant Partners and Departments: AMS Office of the VP Academic and University Affairs, AMS Office of the VP External, AMS Student Services, UBC Sustainability Hub, UBC SEEDS Sustainability Program, UBC Student Housing and Community Services and Subsidiary Organizations

Short Term Actions: 2024

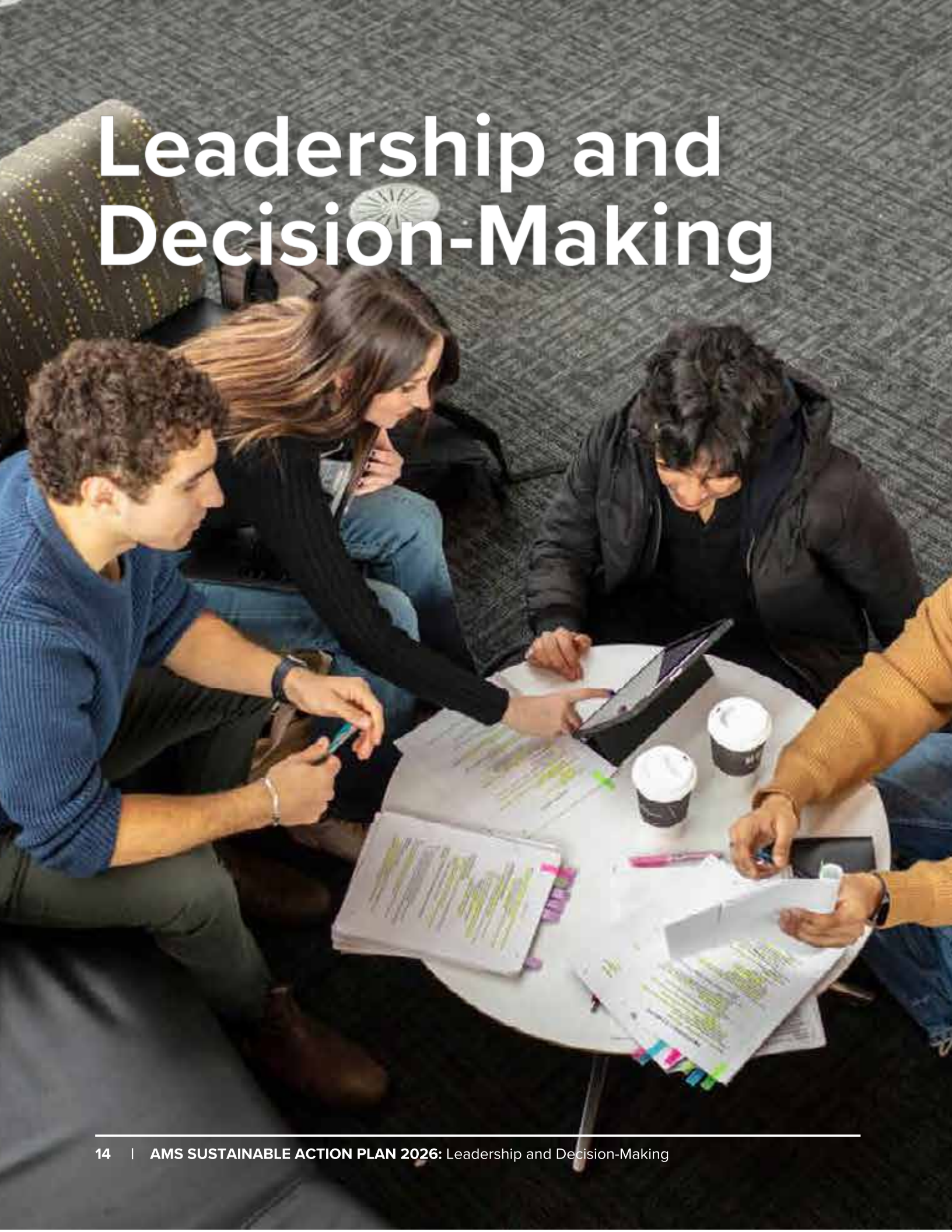
- Collaborate with the SEEDS Sustainability Program in evaluating and reviewing the efficacy of existing food security initiatives on campus to ensure sustainable operations and support advocacy for food security.
- Conduct a data assessment on the removal of nighttime front-desk services at student residences with the prioritization of student safety and wellbeing.



Long Term Actions

- Continue to advocate for long-term funding for food security initiatives on campus with the prioritization of the AMS Food Bank, Sprouts, and other student-led initiatives in funding allocations.
- Promote student financial sustainability by continuing to advocate for the implementation of the Student Affordability Task Force Report recommendations which includes addressing cost of living challenges in terms of housing, food insecurity, and child care.
- Continue to advocate for affordable and accessible student housing and ensure that we are holding the University accountable on their plans to provide housing to at least 25% of the full-time student population as outlined in Campus Vision 2050 and the UBC Housing Action Plan.
- Organize an annual meeting with the BC Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and other relevant governmental agencies to discuss new and existing priorities on climate action and sustainability, and advocate for additional support for non-profit organizations in their sustainability initiatives.
- Continue to hold the University accountable with their strategic goals under ‘UBC Community’ on the 20-Year Sustainability Strategy which includes the creation of innovative engagement programs that generate a sense of place and support the creation of a vibrant, animated, and sustainable live-work-learn community.

Leadership and Decision-Making





LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING

The values and actions outlined in this Plan should be echoed in all levels of leadership at the AMS. This Priority Area ensures that environmental sustainability, equity, and inclusion are considered in the Society's operations, ranging from Human Resources practices to policies and strategies. These actions will make sustainability resources more accessible to staff, in turn holding staff accountable to the Goals laid out in this Action Plan.

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STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Cultivating a Sense of Belonging
Operational Excellence
Collaborative Leadership

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





Goal 4: Improve social and financial sustainability within the AMS through policies and strategies

Relevant Partners and Departments: AMS Office of the President, AMS Office of the VP Finance, AMS Managing Director, AMS Events, AMS Food and Beverage, AMS Marketing and Communications, and Subsidiary Organizations

Short Term Actions: 2024

- Develop mechanisms for AMS departments and subsidiaries to consult with AMS Sustainability on engagements and initiatives.
- Ensure the enforcement of the Indigenous Finance Guidelines by converting it into a policy and integrating it into the staff training and orientation practices.
- Work with the VP Finance, Managing Director, and the Finance Committee in conducting a review of the FN1: Investments Policy which was last reviewed in August 2018.

Long Term Actions

- Adopt the AMS Engagement Principles when consulting on sustainability initiatives, and advocate for the creation of an internal policy on how the Society conducts ethical and meaningful consultation with students and stakeholders.
- Create a policy to ensure that new partnerships, sponsorships, agreements, and contracts with external parties comply with environmental, social and governance principles as outlined in AMS FN1 Policy.
- Ensure the timely review of relevant financial policies in the AMS such as FN2: Credit Cards Policy and the FN3: Executives Expenditures Policy to ensure that overall financial activities are conducted in a reliable and sustainable manner.
- Fully adopt annual implementation and tracking efforts for the AMS Sustainable Action Plan as outlined in this Plan and create a standardized process for AMS services, offices and departments to track and report out on ASAP progress.

Goal 5: Incorporate sustainability in hiring practices, onboarding and employee support

Relevant Partners and Departments: AMS Office of the President, AMS Human Resources, AMS Food and Beverage, AMS Catering and Conferences, AMS Managing Director, AMS Student Services, and AMS Equity and Inclusion

Short Term Actions: 2024

- Develop a zero-waste avenue for staff discounts at AMS Food & Beverage outlets to help reduce paper usage in the AMS.
- Develop a training program on proper waste sorting, food waste reduction procedures, and waste mitigation for the Society's food and beverage operations, and engage with AMS staff in the implementation of procedures.
- Work with the AMS Equity and Inclusion Specialist in integrating the ISP Self-Assessment Tool in staff development to help guide departments on how they can help advance Indigenous human rights and meaningful reconciliation.

Long Term Actions

- Conduct an annual worker experience survey with the AMS Human Resources Department, and uphold social sustainability by taking steps to improve current working conditions such as by providing resources for burnout and climate anxiety.
- In alignment with CAP 2030: Engagement and Outreach, develop ways to ensure that sustainability is an important aspect of every employee's work, where relevant – such as integration within performance metrics, job descriptions, etc.
- Integrate Indigenous history into AMS onboarding, including awareness of traumatic events and national holidays relevant to the AMS.
- Develop training and resources for staff to ensure all departments, programming and initiatives are conducted using trauma-informed approaches and are contributing towards Indigenous reconciliation.





Goal 6: Increase transparency and accountability on commuting and overall carbon emissions

Relevant Partners and Departments: AMS Council, AMS Executives, AMS Human Resources, AMS Student Services, AMS Food and Beverage, and AMS Catering and Conferences

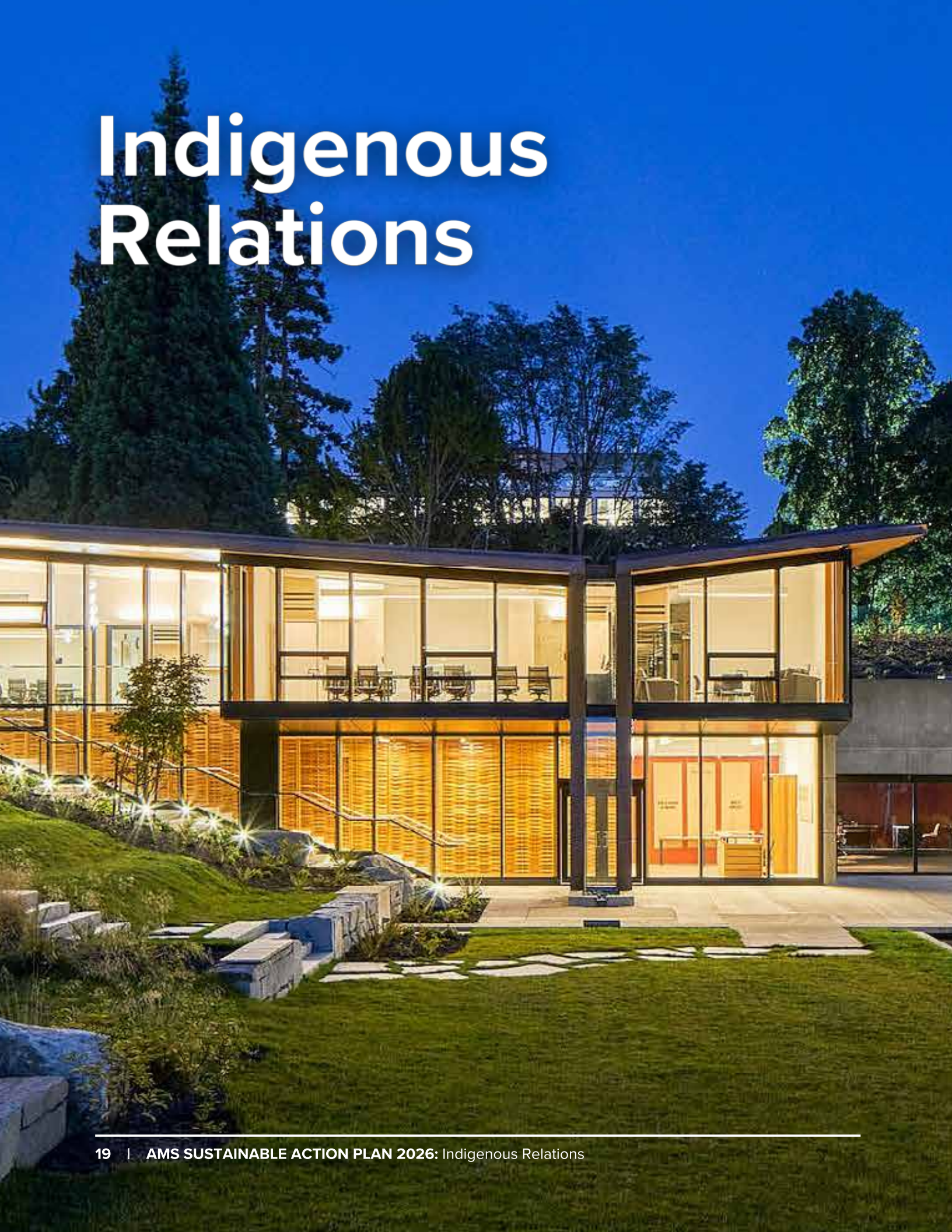
Short Term Actions: 2024

- Explore the feasibility of developing an internal carbon pricing system across AMS departments and integrate the requirement of GHG considerations on project proposals during the stage of funding approval.
- Hold a discussion in Council regarding the AMS's plan to achieve Net Zero by 2025 and conduct a presentation of the AMS GHG Emissions Report.

Long Term Actions

- Collect accurate data from the Society's employees regarding commute levels and transit use to create the baseline for reducing emissions from commuting.
- Monitor and track the use of vehicles for delivering and operating services to ensure that gasoline emissions continue to remain at low levels, and explore establishing a decarbonization strategy of all AMS-owned vehicles.
- Explore and identify innovative ways to support staff who choose sustainable methods of transportation such as transit subsidies and carpooling programs.
- Ensure the timely review of PC7 - AMS Air Travel and Expenditures Policy which is due for review every three years by the Operations Committee, VP Administration, AVP Sustainability, and the Managing Director.

Indigenous Relations



INDIGENOUS RELATIONS

Although there are many Goals throughout this Action Plan that advance the Society's efforts of decolonization, indigenization, and reconciliation, the Indigenous Relations Priority Area is separated to establish a firm commitment to our Indigenous students. We recognize that reconciliation requires an understanding of the colonial systemic barriers that Indigenous students may face, and we must create space for both representational and resource equity. This Priority Area is not intended to be an extensive roadmap for reconciliation for the Society, but a recognition that the Society can be more proactive in growing our relationships with Indigenous communities on campus. We will continue to engage with Indigenous students in identifying where the AMS can meet their needs and support their endeavors.

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STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Delivering Results
Cultivating a Sense of Belonging
Collaborative Leadership

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Goal 7: Foster and grow our relationship with Indigenous communities and students

Relevant Partners and Departments: AMS Executives, AMS Equity and Inclusion, AMS Marketing and Communications, AMS Catering and Conferences, Indigenous Student Society, and Host Nation and Indigenous Communities on Campus

Short Term Actions: 2024

- Create a public database of opportunities and initiatives that allow students to engage with Indigenous communities on and off campus.
- Develop a mandatory Indigenous engagement training program for all AMS subsidiary executives and volunteers, and collaborate with the First Nations House of Learning and the Indigenous Research Support Initiative in compiling relevant research and resources for project planning.

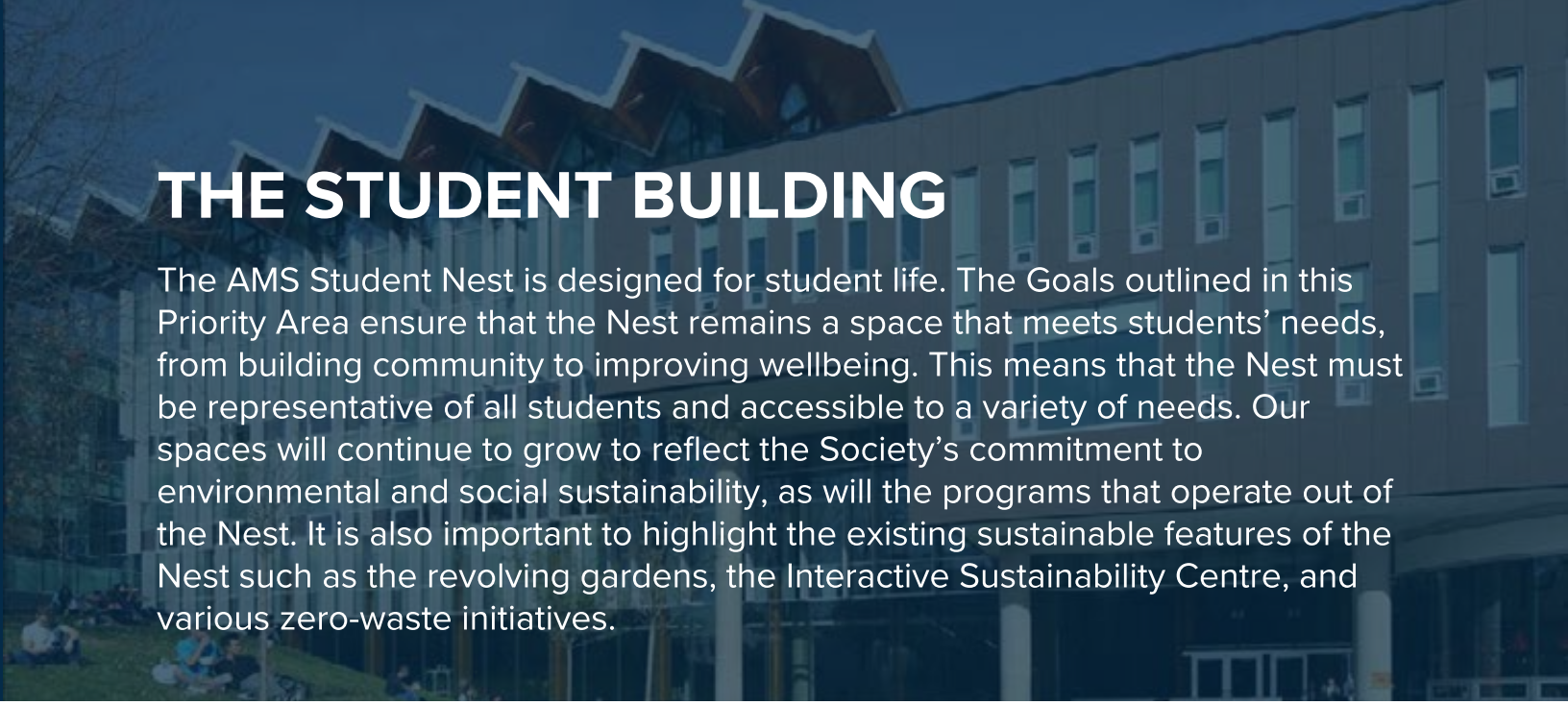
Long Term Actions

- Continue to support the structuring and establishment of the newly created Indigenous Constituency, and offer operational and advocacy support.
- Prioritize Indigenous student groups on campus for logistics and operational requests made through the AMS such as room bookings, equipment rentals, and grants.
- Identify ways to recognize excellence and research in incorporating Indigenous knowledge systems in the realms of sustainability and campus inclusivity.
- Ensure that new and existing Indigenous-related projects from the Grad Class Gift Fund are completed in a timely manner and in consultation with Indigenous communities.
- Ensure the timely review of CM4 - Policy on Communication with the Musqueam Indian Band which is expected to be reviewed every three years.
- Conduct at least 2 check-in meetings every year with representatives from Host Nation and Indigenous communities on campus to provide them with updates and receive feedback on the progress of ASAP and other sustainability initiatives. Additionally, send a written submission to Council for each instance.
- Advocate for the University to create accessible structures and mechanisms for Indigenous communities and students to partner with the University on initiatives that advance their goals and interests.



The Student Building





THE STUDENT BUILDING

The AMS Student Nest is designed for student life. The Goals outlined in this Priority Area ensure that the Nest remains a space that meets students' needs, from building community to improving wellbeing. This means that the Nest must be representative of all students and accessible to a variety of needs. Our spaces will continue to grow to reflect the Society's commitment to environmental and social sustainability, as will the programs that operate out of the Nest. It is also important to highlight the existing sustainable features of the Nest such as the revolving gardens, the Interactive Sustainability Centre, and various zero-waste initiatives.

ams STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Delivering Results
Cultivating a Sense of Belonging
Operational Excellence

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





Goal 8: Build a safe, accessible and equitable space for all community members

Relevant Partners and Departments: AMS Design Services, AMS Building Operations, AMS Equity and Inclusion, UBC Campus and Community Planning, UBC Facilities, UBC Campus Security, UBC Equity and Inclusion Office, Host Nation and Indigenous Communities on Campus, and Subsidiary Organizations

Short Term Actions: 2024

- Review emergency response plans and create a safety support plan to enhance resiliency efforts and be proactive about student wellbeing and safety in the Nest.
- Continue to advance the existing prayer room and sensory rooms in the Nest to increase accessibility and accommodations for students who might need such spaces.

Long Term Actions

- In accordance with the UBC Green Building Action Plan, continue to foster social connection and cohesion through design and use of exterior and interior spaces.
- Conduct a review of the washrooms in the Nest with a priority to identify opportunities for converting existing washrooms into universal washrooms.
- Dedicate both temporary and formal spaces for people to gather in recognition of large traumatic events such as hate crimes, protests, and international conflicts.
- Create space for teaching, working and collaborations with the leadership of Elders, cultural experts, and Indigenous knowledge holders.
- Develop informal and formal spaces for students to learn and deepen their understanding of the ongoing effects of colonialism on Indigenous peoples and the land on which we live.
- Continue to offer support and resources to the Indigenous Student Society as they further improve and enhance the Indigenous Lounge as a dedicated space for Indigenous students in the Nest.

Goal 9: Further incorporate sustainability on new and existing Nest projects

Relevant Partners and Departments: AMS Design Services, AMS Building Operations, AMS Hatch Art Gallery, AMS Marketing and Communications, UBC SEEDS Sustainability Program, and Host Nation and Indigenous Communities on Campus

Short Term Actions: 2024

- Create formal guidelines to incorporate sustainable and wellbeing principles into new infrastructural designs and capital projects.
- Ensure that the Nest Safety and Inclusive Spaces Review is conducted annually, with a focus on the topics of accessibility and sustainability such as waste signages, food affordability, and personal energy and water usage.

Long Term Actions

- Identify opportunities for current infrastructure to feature Indigenous art and culture to ensure that we continue to center students and Indigenous ways of knowing in the Nest.
- Conduct an assessment of how the Nest Rooftop Garden can support biodiversity efforts on campus, and help continue to build sustainable and just food systems.
- Promote social sustainability by identifying new naming opportunities in the Nest and incorporating Indigenous language and writing on signages and public info displays.
- Honour Indigenous artists by providing opportunities to showcase and sell their crafts and artwork, and collaborate with the Hatch Art Gallery to ensure Indigenous business representation during the annual Makers' Market.
- Continue to develop the Sustainability Corridor and the Interactive Sustainability Centre (ISC) in accordance with the SEEDS Marketing Plan for ISC Report.

Goal 10: Prioritize the incorporation of sustainability into support services and wellbeing initiatives

Relevant Partners and Departments: AMS Executives, AMS Student Services, AMS Building Operations, UBC Facilities, UBC Wellbeing, and Subsidiary Organizations

Short Term Actions: 2024

- Increase the numbers of sharps disposal containers in the Nest to help reduce the human and environmental risk of sharps that are not disposed of properly.
- Host a data-driven, annual campaign on the intersectionalities of natural environments, physical activity, and wellbeing on campus in collaboration with the Physical Activity Committee of UBC Wellbeing.

Long Term Actions

- Continue to distribute free menstrual products and safer sex products in relevant spaces such as universal washrooms.
- Develop support programs and workshops such as eco-grief circles for students to recognize their experiences and emotions around climate change.
- Develop a Harm Reduction Strategy within the AMS as a long-term, sustainable, collaborative framework for the ongoing work and advocacy between Student Services, Events, Executives, and our subsidiary organizations.

Business Operations





BUSINESS OPERATIONS

The AMS owns and operates numerous food and beverage outlets, including beloved spots such as Blue Chip Cafe, The Gallery, and The Pit in addition to Nest Catering and Conferences. Our business operations ensure that the Society has reliable revenue to continue supporting students, while striving to maintain affordability, sustainability, and ethical operations. AMS Sustainability and other AMS management collaborate with a variety of stakeholders to contribute towards building climate-friendly food systems on campus, including SEEDS and Campus + Community Planning. With our research partners, the Society has identified ways to continue to develop the sustainability of our operations without compromising student accessibility.

ams STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Delivering Results
Cultivating a Sense of Belonging
Operational Excellence

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Goal 11: Reduce food waste and increase overall accessibility of food services

Relevant Partners and Departments: AMS Food and Beverage, AMS Catering and Conferences, AMS Equity and Inclusion, and UBC SEEDS Sustainability Program

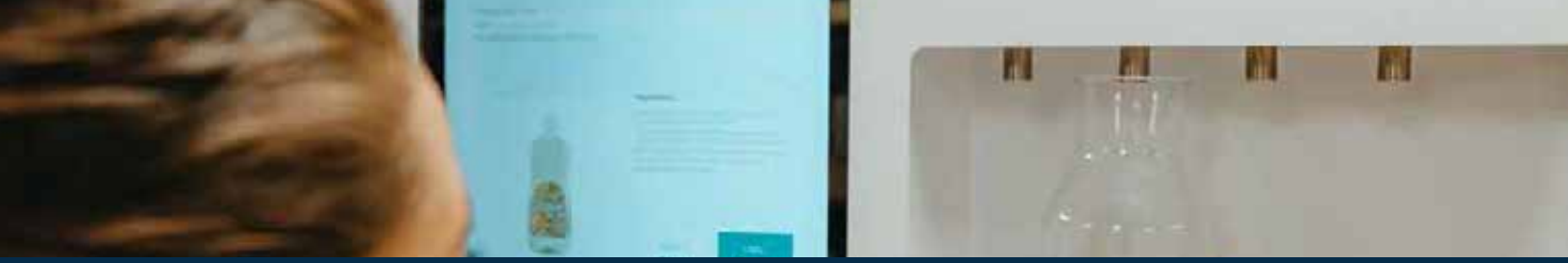
Short Term Actions: 2024

- Formalize the process of changing our food outlets' and catering menus to offer a chance for students to participate and provide feedback on our offerings in terms of quality, affordability, and climate-friendliness.
- In alignment with CAP 2030: Food Systems, continue collaboration with the Climate-Friendly Food System (CFFS) Action Team to ensure campus coordination and advise on the creation of the CFFS Toolkit to help promote climate-friendly dietary choices and habits among students.
- Ensure all menus at AMS food outlets and catering events have standardized labeling for allergens, dietary restrictions, and dietary preferences, and conduct a climate-friendliness analysis in collaboration with the UBC CFFS Action Team.

Long Term Actions

- Develop a Food Waste Prevention, Reduction, and Recovery Plan for the AMS Catering and Conferences Department in collaboration with SEEDS Sustainability Program, and in consultation with the AMS Food and Beverage Department.
- Continue to innovate and expand our menus to be inclusive of different cultures and dietary needs, and allow cultural and religious clubs to bring their own approved, catered food for their events inside the Nest.
- Continue to promote student-friendly, healthy dietary choices in our outlets through the AMS Affordable Meal Program.
- Ensure that all new menus for our food outlets and catering must consist of at least 30% plant-based options, and continue to encourage climate-friendly dietary habits.





Goal 12: Follow sustainable practices when purchasing ingredients, supplies, and other products

Relevant Partners and Departments: AMS Operations Committee, AMS Food and Beverage, AMS Catering and Conferences, AMS Equity and Inclusion, UBC SEEDS Sustainability Program, and UBC Farm

Short Term Actions: 2024

- In alignment with CAP 2030: Food Systems, develop the AMS Supplier Code of Conduct to reflect the Society's ethical and sustainable performance expectations for suppliers of goods, services and equipment.
- Establish an AMS Ethical and Sustainable Procurement Policy that prioritizes procurement from businesses, suppliers and organizations that promote sustainability.
- Conduct a review of the Society's current partnership with Gordon Food Services to create a post-COVID-19 baseline of the Society's carbon emissions in food procurement.

Long Term Actions

- Investigate the feasibility of procuring ingredients from the UBC Farm, and conduct a cost-benefit analysis of such a partnership, focusing on student affordability.
- Conduct a tri-annual Nest Supply Chain Audit to create strategies in reducing carbon emissions caused by product sourcing, transportation and customer consumption.
- Review current and new tenancy agreements in the Nest and develop methods to support sustainability efforts within their operations which are aligned with AMS priorities.

Goal 13: Reduce the overall consumption of single-use items in the Nest

Relevant Partners and Departments: AMS Food and Beverage, UBC Food Services, C+CP Sustainability and Engineering, and SEEDS Sustainability Program

Short Term Actions: 2024

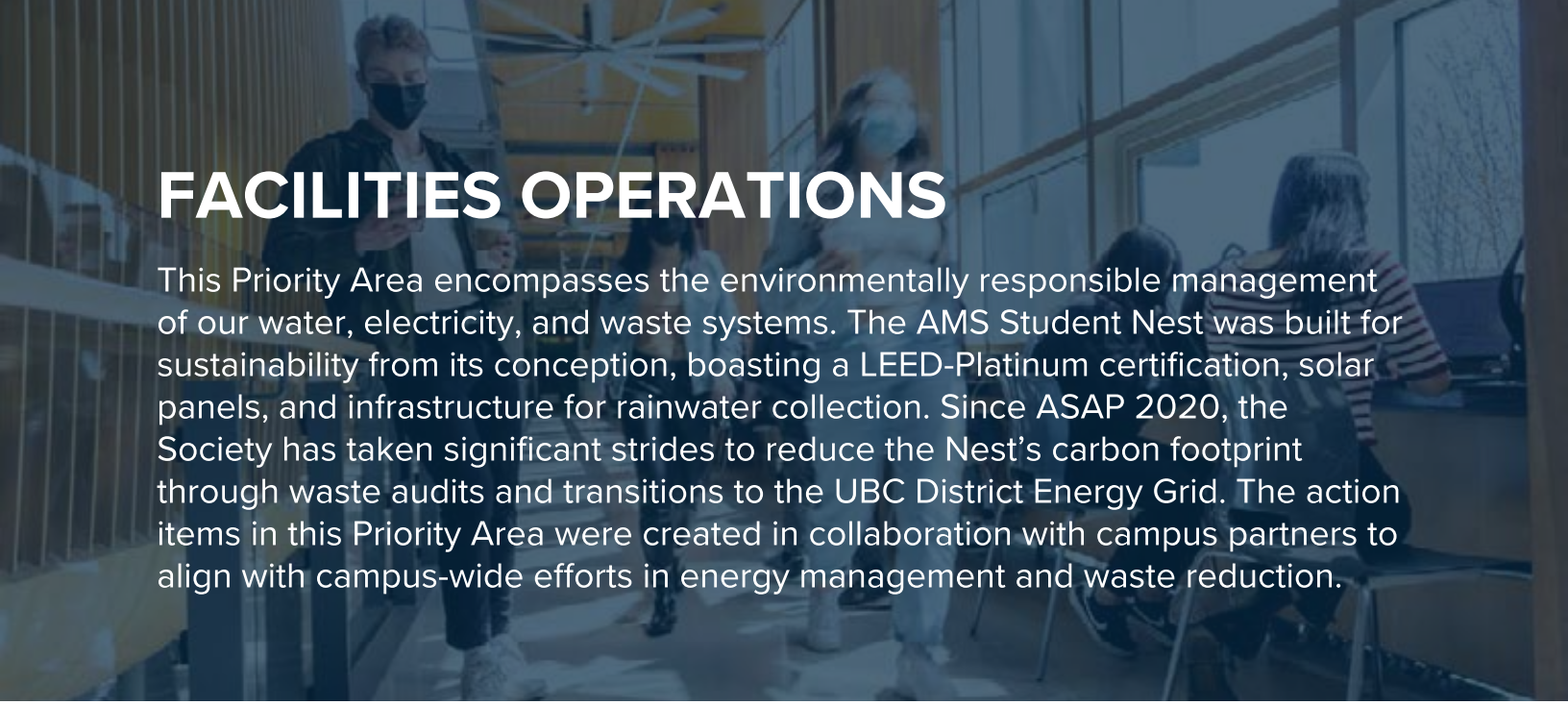
- Implement programs and marketing campaigns that can support the existing Bring Your Own Container & Cup programs, and expand such programs to cutlery.
- Analyze the efficacy of existing zero-waste initiatives such as the soap refill and drink refill stations, and provide recommendations for other students buildings and residences.

Long Term Actions

- Reduce or fully eliminate single-use containers being purchased and sold at outlets by implementing a reusable container program and recommending it to current tenants.
- Explore a renewed agreement with our vending machine operators to replace plastic bottles in vending machines with similar aluminum, or glass.
- Explore the feasibility of implementing a reusable cutlery program employed at the food outlets in the Nest by collaborating with SEEDS and the AMS Food and Beverage.

Facilities Operations





FACILITIES OPERATIONS

This Priority Area encompasses the environmentally responsible management of our water, electricity, and waste systems. The AMS Student Nest was built for sustainability from its conception, boasting a LEED-Platinum certification, solar panels, and infrastructure for rainwater collection. Since ASAP 2020, the Society has taken significant strides to reduce the Nest's carbon footprint through waste audits and transitions to the UBC District Energy Grid. The action items in this Priority Area were created in collaboration with campus partners to align with campus-wide efforts in energy management and waste reduction.

ams STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Exceptional Programming
Operational Excellence
Collaborative Leadership

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





Goal 14: Tackle waste management, waste contamination, and waste reduction in the Nest

Relevant Partners and Departments: AMS Building Operations, UBC SEEDS Sustainability Program, UBC Facilities, C+CP Sustainability and Engineering, and Common Energy UBC

Short Term Actions: 2024

- Ensure the promotion of alternative waste management options in the Nest such as, used chopstick containers, alternative recycling bins and e-waste/battery bins.
- Develop a program to track and monitor the waste generated at events and initiatives hosted by our subsidiary organizations to inform the implementation of solutions in reducing or eliminating waste.

Long Term Actions

- Collaborate with SEEDS Sustainability Program in conducting research on monitoring the amount of waste generated by each service, office and department in the AMS to determine areas of improvement.
- In accordance with UBC Zero Waste Action Plan 2030, assess the impact and feasibility of aligning bin and signage colors with regional standards, in order to improve user waste sorting throughout the campus.
- Assess the various types of chemicals that are introduced to the building (i.e. cleaning chemicals, ice melter/rock salt, etc.) and find ways to ensure that our products are aligned with the UBC's Green Cleaning Program.
- Conduct at least two waste audits in the Nest every year in collaboration with relevant groups (i.e. Common Energy UBC and SEEDS Sustainability Program) and develop strategies on improving waste sorting, assessing the efficacy of post-consumer waste sorting approaches.

Goal 15: Ensure availability, sustainable management, and responsible consumption of water resources for all

Relevant Partners and Departments: AMS Catering and Conferences, and UBC Facilities

Long Term Actions

- In accordance with the UBC Water Action Plan, encourage tap water consumption over bottled water consumption by promoting and increasing access to clean tap water through signage and other methods, such as an up-to-date map of locations for all students to access.
- Explore the feasibility of purchasing or leasing a mobile water filling station to support our subsidiaries' events in the Nest.



Goal 16: Use technology and equipment in reducing personal and operational energy usage

Relevant Partners and Departments: AMS Catering and Conferences, AMS Information Technology, and AMS Human Resources

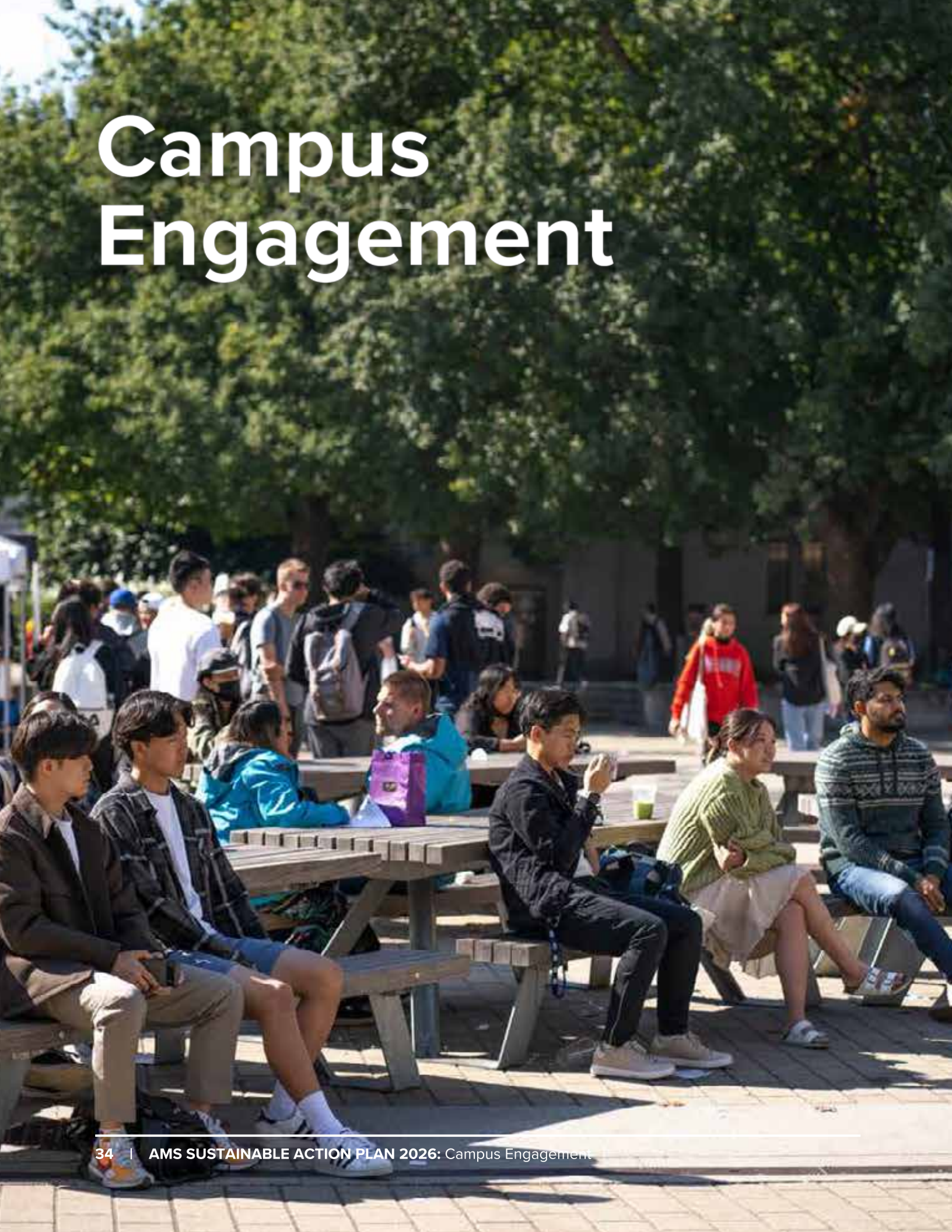
Short Term Actions: 2024

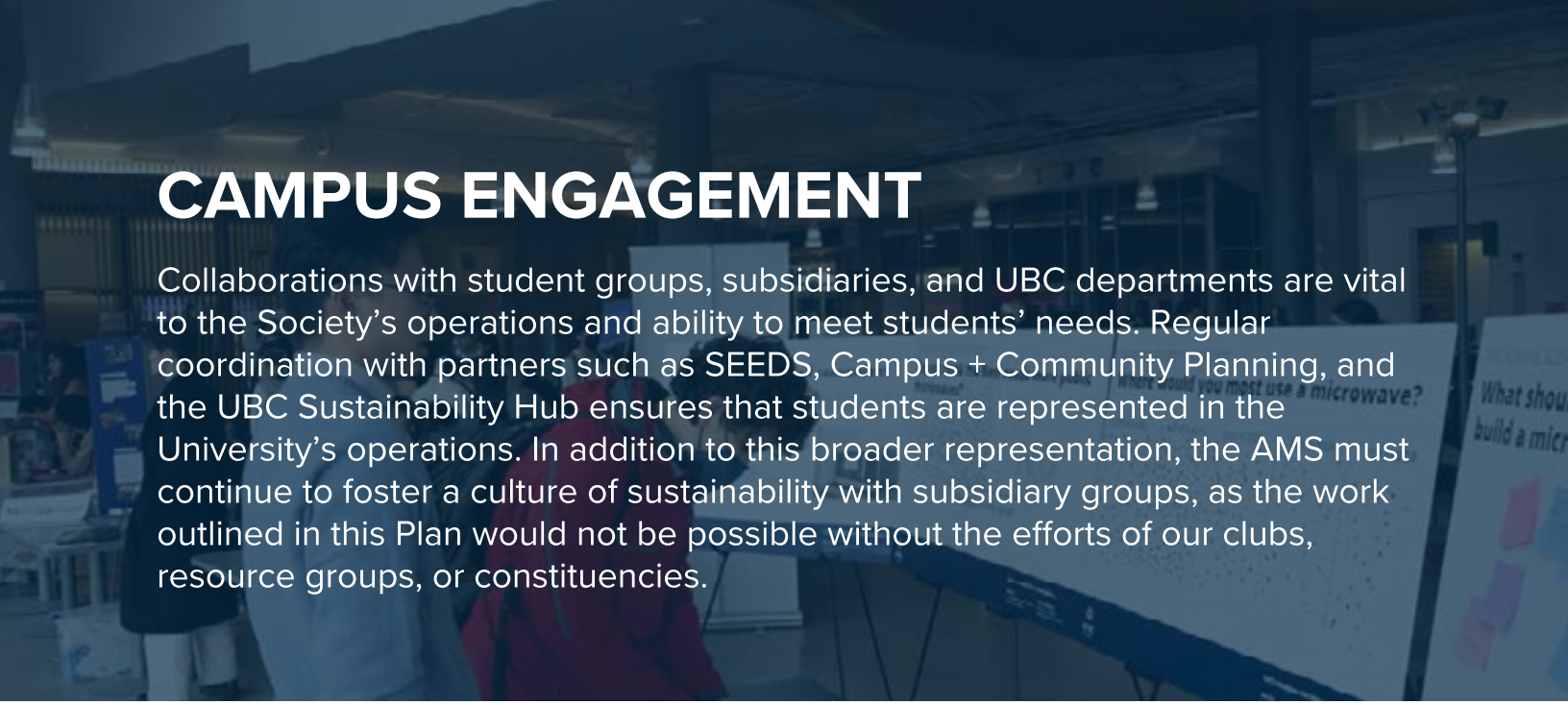
- Conduct an equipment energy audit as a key first step to help us understand our equipment and machinery energy use which will help the AMS improve on equipment efficiency, and reduce energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

Long Term Actions

- Ensure the efficient and sustainable use of Society's IT resources by continuing to redistribute computing resources from time to time between departments, and based on the operational life cycle of the equipment.
- Continue to encourage subsidiary organizations to use teleconferencing options whenever possible by providing IT support and funding sources which helps reduce emissions from transportation and overall energy use.
- In accordance with CAP 2030: Campus Operations, research and track building space utilization and changes due to remote activity, and explore opportunities for energy reductions through space utilizations.

Campus Engagement





CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

Collaborations with student groups, subsidiaries, and UBC departments are vital to the Society's operations and ability to meet students' needs. Regular coordination with partners such as SEEDS, Campus + Community Planning, and the UBC Sustainability Hub ensures that students are represented in the University's operations. In addition to this broader representation, the AMS must continue to foster a culture of sustainability with subsidiary groups, as the work outlined in this Plan would not be possible without the efforts of our clubs, resource groups, or constituencies.

ams STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Exceptional Programming
Cultivating a Sense of Belonging
Collaborative Leadership

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Goal 17: Continue to support our subsidiary organizations and other student groups

Relevant Partners and Departments: AMS Executives, AMS Equity and Inclusion, UBC Sustainability Hub, and Subsidiary Organizations

Short Term Actions: 2024

- Create a public database of consenting climate justice-centered student organizations to act as a resource for all students. Furthermore, meet with each organization in the summer of each school year to discuss operational and advocacy support, funding opportunities and collaborations.
- Launch a mandatory sustainability training program for all AMS subsidiary executives and volunteers, and collaborate with the Sustainability Hub and the Sustainable Clubs Program in compiling relevant research and resources for event planning, marketing, team management, and other topics.
- Establish a direct and formal communication channel with Indigenous subsidiary organizations in the AMS such as the Indigenous Business Association and the Indigenous Student Society and create opportunities for collaboration for knowledge sharing and sustainable ways of being.

Long Term Actions

- Annually renew the Memorandum of Understanding between the AMS and UBC Sustainability Ambassadors for continued support, communications and collaborations.
- Continue to hold the annual AMS Sustainability Week in alignment with the UBC Climate Emergency Week, and continue to foster collaborations with other student groups such as the Sustainability Ambassadors, Common Energy UBC, and members of the Sustainability Subcommittee.
- Provide annual ASAP progress updates and opportunities for collaboration to the Sustainability Student Council and AMS constituency organizations's Council or Executive meetings to ensure campus-wide distribution of information.





Goal 18: Create opportunities for students to learn and engage with sustainability

Relevant Partners and Departments: AMS Office of the VP Finance, AMS Marketing and Communications, UBC SEEDS Sustainability Program, and Host Nation and Indigenous Communities on Campus

Short Term Actions: 2024

- Continue to champion student sustainability research and initiatives by promoting previously approved applications from the AMS Sustainable Projects Fund.
- Create a toolkit of support programs and opportunities available on campus to support students interested in conducting sustainability-focused research.
- In accordance with CAP 2030: Engagement and Outreach, identify and promote existing and new funding opportunities to support innovative sustainability initiatives driven by students and staff (i.e. AMS Sustainable Projects Fund, UBC Sustainability Revolving Fund, UBC Green Labs Fund, and UBC Student Environment Centre Fund, etc.)

Long Term Actions

- Create new innovative methods to educate students on social economy businesses, Indigenous businesses, and circular economies.
- Launch a new student sustainability competition and bring students and recent graduates together to form teams and submit proposals for projects that enhance sustainability within the Nest, on campus, and in the City of Vancouver.
- In collaboration with the Indigenous Research Support Initiative, develop resources and co-host workshops for students to learn about the importance of building relationships with Indigenous communities and normalizing knowledge exchange to ensure that relationship building is a proactive and ongoing process.
- Collaborate with the UBC Indigenous Collegium in developing sustainability-related events and workshops tailored for first-year Indigenous students.



Goal 19: Collaborate with campus partners in advancing sustainability

Relevant Partners and Departments: UBC SEEDS Sustainability Program, UBC Sustainability Hub, and UBC Student Housing and Community Services

Short Term Actions: 2024

- Ensure student representation on committees and working groups relevant to sustainability, especially on campus and neighborhood development such as the Zero Waste Committee, Food Systems Committee, Climate-Friendly Food System Action Team, and Circular Economy Action Team, among others.
- Collaborate with the UBC Sustainability Hub to promote the Catalyst program, a free certification program for student sustainability engagement and leadership.
- Ensure that at least one AMS Sustainability staff is a member of the Sustainability Hub's Advisory Committee and the SEEDS Sustainability Advisory Committee along with the VP Administration.

Long Term Actions

- In accordance with UBC Zero Waste Action Plan 2023, assist in the expansion of residential reuse processes and programming to all applicable residences to create a circular economy for move in/out cycles and reduce waste generation.
- In accordance with UBC Zero Waste Action Plan 2023, continue to collaborate with SEEDS Sustainability on applied student-led research (curricular and co-curricular), interdisciplinary collaborations (food systems, circularity/zero waste), and knowledge exchange to inform AMS and UBC's commitments to sustainability and well-being.
- Collaborate with the UBC Sustainability Hub to raise awareness about UBC's Climate Emergency commitments and help develop indicators, monitor and track progress on these commitments.



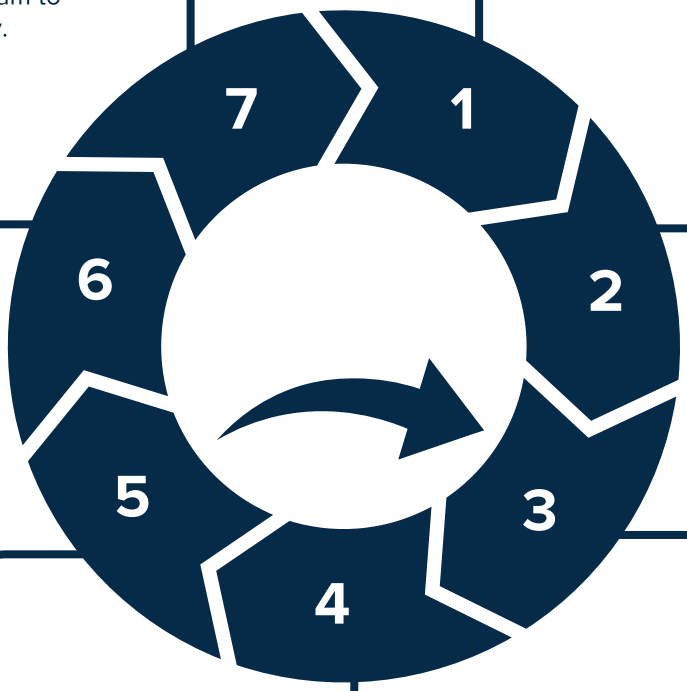
Strategies

Implementation Strategy



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

This section ensures that there are established mechanisms for the implementation and communication of the Plan. Through this section, we aim to maintain our guiding values ‘community’ and ‘accountability.’ The main duties of the AMS Sustainability Department, aside from completing the goals that are within their capacity and jurisdiction, is to ensure that the Actions laid out on this section are completed in a timely and effective manner.



TRANSITION

Create transitional materials that outline work completed, carryover projects, progress on ASAP goals, and recommendations for next year. Inform the next Exec and team to ensure continuity.

ASAP 2026

ASAP informs Executive campaigns and priorities and acts as the guiding document for all sustainability efforts in the AMS.

YEAR END REPORT

Submit annual final report to AMS Council with progress on both annual priorities and ASAP goals.

EXEC GOALS AND PRIORITIES CREATION

Create additional goals based on ASAP goals and priorities.

SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE

Consult with the subcommittee and key partners on relevance and feasibility of drafted goals.

IMPLEMENTATION SESSIONS AND EXECUTION

Hold required sessions and execute on annual goals and priorities. Report to the Sustainability Subcommittee on monthly meetings.

EXEC GOALS AND PRIORITIES APPROVAL

Finalize annual sustainability goals and submit in June Report to AMS Council with corresponding goals and priorities from ASAP.

EXECUTIVE GOALS AND PRIORITIES

The VP Administration shall ensure the inclusion of ASAP Goals and Actions on their Executive Goals. It is these sets of Goals that would inform the Annual Sustainability Priorities that are presented to Council by the AMS Sustainability Department.

During the creation of their Executive Goals and Priorities, the VP Administration and AMS Sustainability shall consult with various AMS Departments and external groups such as SEEDS Sustainability Program and Sustainability Hub. This consultation is in addition to the consultation that would be conducted with the AMS Sustainability Subcommittee regarding the Annual Sustainability Priorities.

The VP Administration shall also ensure that collaborative goals with other Executives and the Managing Director are included on their sustainability-related Executive Goals. This practice ensures the further advancement of sustainability within all services, departments and offices of the Society.

As stated in Code, the VP Administration and AMS Sustainability shall also ensure the timely reporting of the Annual Sustainability Priorities to Council for the months of October and March.

SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE

The Sustainability Subcommittee is charged with ensuring the AMS achieves the Goals outlined in the AMS Sustainable Action Plan.

At the start of their term, AMS Sustainability shall consult the Subcommittee on the creation of their Annual Sustainability Priorities before being presented to Council in June of the same year. During the academic year, the AMS Sustainability shall provide updates of the general progress and status of their Sustainability Priorities every quarter.

Furthermore, the Sustainability Subcommittee shall also be used as a way to further engage with other student groups on campus that contribute towards advancing climate action and sustainability. The Subcommittee shall also be used as a collaborative platform for planning the AMS Sustainability Week. The Subcommittee shall ensure that events and initiatives planned for the AMS Sustainability Week incorporate at least one goal from the 19 that are set out above.

IMPLEMENTATION SESSIONS

On the path to ensuring that the Goals set out on this Plan can be accomplished within the next three years, it is important that AMS Sustainability takes the lead on bringing student groups, campus partners and AMS departments together to ensure that laid out Actions are being implemented.

Throughout the next three years, AMS Sustainability shall host various Implementation Sessions which can serve as touch points between different relevant partners and departments. These Sessions shall be hosted at least thrice a year, with the first one of the year being joined in by the previous AMS Sustainability Department.

The Implementation Sessions shall be divided into three categories of updates: Completed Actions; Ongoing Actions; and Actions Not Started. These actions shall also be organized into their Priority Areas and overarching Goals, and shall state the relevant departments for each Goal. After the 'Updates' section of the Session, the group in attendance shall divide themselves into the seven Priority Areas to discuss on strategies and procedures for the Ongoing Actions and Actions Not Started within the Area. There shall be three rounds of Priority Area discussions to ensure that participants are able to provide their input on all the Priority Areas they are involved with.

The Implementation Sessions shall involve the following partners and departments, in addition to any other groups that the AMS Sustainability team plans to include:

- AMS Executives
- AMS Food and Beverage (including AMS Building Operations)
- AMS Catering and Conferences
- AMS Design Services
- AMS Student Services
- AMS Human Resources
- AMS Equity & Inclusion
- UBC Campus and Community Planning (including SEEDS Sustainability Program and Sustainability and Engineering)
- UBC Sustainability Hub (including UBC Climate Hub)
- UBC Facilities
- Indigenous Student Society
- Representatives from the AMS Sustainability Subcommittee

REVIEW CYCLE

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 shall be held in 2026. For info on how the next review of ASAP should be conducted, refer to the Development and Consultation section of this Plan.



Communication Strategy



COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

AMS Sustainability shall work closely with the AMS Marketing and Communications to ensure that progress and updates on ASAP are communicated effectively to the wider student community and partners. Aside from the Annual Sustainability Priorities Updates (October) and Final Report (March), here are the various actions to be completed by AMS Sustainability during their term:

ASAP TRACKER

The ASAP Tracker shall be developed on the AMS website as a way for students and other community members to view real-time updates and progress reports on all the ASAP Goals and Actions.

ASAP DASHBOARD

The ASAP Dashboard shall be created as a way for students visiting the Nest to read and look into quick updates regarding ASAP. The Nest hosts various monitors that can be used to display such info and the monitor along the Sustainability Corridor shall be used as the main ASAP Dashboard.

QUARTERLY ASAP UPDATES

These set of updates shall be made on social media as an accessible way for students to engage with the work that is being completed within AMS Sustainability. These can also include current projects and initiatives that the department is working on.

STUDENT AND STAFF NEWSLETTERS

AMS Sustainability shall provide important updates through the student newsletters and staff newsletters. It is the duty of the Sr. Manager of Marketing and Communications to inform AMS Sustainability of the dates for newsletter releases.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights shall be made on the social media channels of the AMS as a way to feature specific projects and initiatives that the AMS Sustainability Department is working on.

ASAP OPEN FORUMS

In November 2023, the AMS Sustainability hosted an ASAP Open Forum for the first time as a way to consult the general student population on the current ASAP. For the next three years, the VP Administration and AMS Sustainability shall continually check in with students on what their collective sustainability priorities are. The ASAP Open Forums will act as a town hall and a consultation session where AMS Sustainability can provide progress updates on the Goals laid out on this plan. These Open Forums shall be hosted at least once a year.

CONCLUSION

With the implementation of the AMS Sustainable Action Plan 2026, the Society will continue to lead in creating a campus community reflective of all students, and grow to be able to support our diverse student community wherever necessary. In our mission to improve the quality of the educational, social and personal lives of the students of UBC Vancouver, we must continue to create avenues for learning, collaboration, and communication. We have already taken great strides to advance conversations around climate action in our student communities and on campus, but we still have room to grow.

The climate crisis is not an isolated issue; it is caused by many of the same power systems that produce inequalities that many of our members face. As a student society, we have the responsibility to care for all of our members, acknowledging that our own operations may not reflect or support the experiences of our marginalized members. The Society, therefore, will continue to meaningfully engage with different communities on campus and create spaces for dialogue. The six guiding values of this action plan—equity, intersectionality, intersectionality, accessibility, accountability, community, and experiential learning—and the adoption of this Action Plan in all areas of the Society lay a promising groundwork for a climate just and sustainable future for all students.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The creation of the AMS Sustainable Action Plan would not have been possible without the diligence and dedication of key partners. The AMS Sustainability Department has worked to ensure that this Plan and the sustainability solutions within it are accessible to the student community, which requires valuable expertise from a variety of personal and professional backgrounds. We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the following individuals for their contributions within their focus groups and beyond:

- **Minnie Ng,** *AMS Equity & Inclusion Specialist;*
- **Vishwa Mohan,** *Senior Manager, AMS Food & Beverage;*
- **Christine Halonen,** *Senior Manager, Nest Catering & Conferences;*
- **Kathleen Simpson,** *Senior Manager, AMS Student Services;*
- **Jenalee Kluttz,** *Project Developer, SEEDS Sustainability Program;*
- **Juan D. Martinez,** *Climate Action & Food Systems Applied Research Coordinator, SEEDS Sustainability Program;*
- **Josh Travers,** *Circular Economy Applied Research Coordinator, SEEDS Sustainability Program;*
- **Liska Richer,** *Manager, SEEDS Sustainability Program;* and
- **Bud Fraser,** *Senior Planning and Sustainability Engineer, UBC Campus + Community Planning.*

The discourse between this unique and profound blend of experiences was monumental in AMS Sustainability's development of this Action Plan, and helped to discover what was possible for the future of the AMS. Collaboration between AMS departments, subsidiaries, and UBC units will be key to the implementation of these Actions, so we look forward to our continued partnerships in making UBC a more inclusive, just, and sustainable place for students and community members alike.

Sincerely,
AMS Sustainability 2023-2024



Emily Wong-Abdul
Associate Vice President, Sustainability



Ryan Chiu
Sustainability Projects Coordinator



Ian Dominique Caguiat
Vice President, Administration

We would also like to recognize the following individuals' contributions in their areas of expertise for their knowledge, enthusiasm, and guidance in advancing the Society's commitments to sustainability.

Advocacy and Leadership

Ashley J. Moore
UBC Equity & Inclusion Office
Audrey Chow
AMS AVP University Affairs
Isha Gill
Graduate Student Society
Linda Nowlan
UBC Sustainability Hub
Matt Dolf
UBC Wellbeing

Campus Relations

Amy Liao
AMS Clubs Administrator
Christian Kyle
AMS Constituency Relations Lead
Gavin Fung-Quon
AMS AVP Funds
Kshamta Hunter
*UBC Sustainability Hub**
Caroline Sinclair
*Student Environment Centre**

Facilities Operations

Vince Markarian
AMS Building Operations
Francisc Rivera
AMS Building Operations
Justin Lieu
AMS Managing Director
Michael Kingsmill
AMS Design Services
Sean Lynch
UBC Custodial Services
Siu Tse
UBC Energy & Water Services

Student Services

Amir Hassanpour
AMS Safewalk
Anshul Kulnarni
AMS Tutoring
Anjali Bauri
AMS Peer Support
Kevin Nan
AMS Advocacy
Savannah Sutherland
AMS Sexual Assault Support Centre
Sophie Co
AMS Food Bank

Business Operations

Jerome Vasquez
AMS Food & Beverage
Monika Kodnani
Nest Catering & Conferences
Nadeem Kajani
AMS Events
Justin Lieu
AMS Managing Director

Others

Hong Lok Li
AMS Information Technology
Celia Chung
AMS Human Resources
Eric Lowe
AMS Marketing & Comms
Previous Year's Work
AMS Sustainability

Departments, units and groups that are marked with an asterisk (*) from the previous page and this page are also included as voting and non-voting members of the Sustainability Subcommittee.

Indigenous Coordination

Andrea Barragan Rivero & Claire Sarson
UBC Office of Indigenous Strategic Initiatives
Bailey Hill
Indigenous Business Association
Dr. Joely Viveiros
UBC First Nations House of Learning
Koda Tootoosis
*Indigenous Constituency (IC)**
Trinity Stephens
Arts Indigenous Student Advising

Sustainability Subcommittee

Arts Undergraduate Society
Commerce Undergraduate Society
Engineering Undergraduate Society
Land and Food Systems Undergraduate Society
Kinesiology Undergraduate Society
Forestry Undergraduate Society
Science Undergraduate Society
Environmental Policy Association
Roots on the Roof Club
Climate Justice UBC

Yuki Ichikawa & Julia Do
Operations Committee Representatives

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— EST. 1915 —

This Action Plan was prepared by:



Emily Wong-Abdul
Associate Vice President, Sustainability



Ryan Chiu
Sustainability Projects Coordinator



Ian Dominique Caguiat
Vice President, Administration

Thank you for reading! If you have any questions or concerns, send us an email at sustainability@ams.ubc.ca.

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— EST. 1915 —

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Sustainability Milestones since 2020

MAY 2020
Council approves the AMS Sustainable Action Plan.

2021
The AMS Sustainability Subcommittee expands to include constituencies, the SEC, and the UBC Climate Hub.

APRIL 2021
AMS Sustainability publishes the Preliminary AMS Nest 2019 GHG Inventory Results.

FEB 2022
The Interactive Sustainability Centre opens and the soap refill station launches.

MAY 2022
AMS releases a survey for students to voice their opinions on Translink developments.

FEB 2023
AMS Sustainability conducts the Waste Audit in collaboration with Common Energy.

APRIL 2023
Council approves PC7 - Air Travel and Expenditures Policy to limit all business air travel in the Society.

JULY 2023
The Finance Committee re-establishes the SPF Subcommittee.

AUG 2023
The drink refill station launches in the Nest.

AUG 2023
The Phase 1 of the AMS Food Bank Expansion gets completed.

OCT 2023
AMS publishes the EDI and Sustainability Guidelines for clubs.

NOV 2023
AMS Sustainability holds its very first Open Forum for student consultation on the AMS Sustainable Action Plan, in addition to a survey for scope in 2022.

Return-It Bins get officially installed in the Nest.

ADDITIONAL INFO

- AMS Food & Beverage, and AMS Catering & Conferences are consistently working with the AMS Sustainability and campus partners on creating a Climate-Friendly Food System.
- AMS food outlets and catering exclusively use OceanWise-certified seafood on their menus.
- We have consistently renewed our annual Memorandums of Understandings with SEEDS and the UBC Sustainability Hub.
- Continued collaborations and communications with clubs, constituencies, and campus groups through the Sustainability Subcommittee.
- The next important items coming up are the official launch of the Lending Library and AMS Sustainability Week in February 2024.

Appendix B: Get Involved in Sustainability

This set of information provides interested students with opportunities to engage, learn and take steps towards advancing sustainability on campus. If you have any questions, send an email to sustainability@ams.ubc.ca and we can refer you to the proper contact or information.

Attend the AMS Sustainability Subcommittee
Looking to get involved in sustainability with your student union? AMS Sustainability is here to help! Our monthly subcommittee meetings provide a forum for students to discuss and engage with sustainability initiatives on campus. If you are interested in attending the next meeting, please contact the AVP Sustainability at sustainability@ams.ubc.ca.

The Interactive Sustainability Centre
The ISC - Life 0017 is a space managed by AMS Sustainability that offers various literature and initiatives connected to sustainability. This includes free books for your reading, alternative recycling bins, and the Lending Library! You can also use the ISC as a space for your sustainability-related event or meeting. For booking the ISC, click here.

Catalyst Program
Acknowledging that the climate emergency requires bold, systemic and collective action, the Catalyst program seeks to advance climate leadership and sustainability engagement. For more info, click here.

Sustainability Ambassadors Program
The Sustainability Ambassadors Program is a leadership experience hosted by the UBC Sustainability Hub for students interested in personal, collaborative, and community engaged learning. For more info, click here.

Sustainability Coordinator Program
Program provides UBC employees and researchers including graduate students with opportunities and resources to promote and implement sustainable practices in their departments. For more info, click here

You can also apply for the **Workplace Sustainability Fund** if you are a Sustainability Coordinator!

Green Labs Program
The Green Labs Program supports researchers to reduce the environmental impact of laboratory-based activities by implementing sustainable practices and technologies. We provide UBC faculty, staff and students with the opportunity to learn about wise environmental practices, exchange ideas, and access recycling and energy conservation programs. For more info, click here.

Sustainability Scholars Program
The Sustainability Scholars Program is an innovative paid internship program. We match UBC graduate students with on- and off-campus sustainability partners to work on applied research projects that advance sustainability across the region. For more info, click here.

Join a Student Group
Here are some of the clubs or groups that you can join as a UBC student if you want to get involved in sustainability. This list is non-exhaustive.

- Join your Constituency's **Sustainability Committee/Department**.
- **AMS Get Thrifty** is a UBC Vancouver campus thrift store, primarily selling clothes, accessories, and books. This is mainly donation-based, with a newly implemented consignment system for premium merchandise.
- The **Bike Kitchen** is UBC's non-profit, student-owned, full-service bike shop. This is where you can purchase a fully refurbished and guaranteed used bicycle, donate your old bike and parts, fix your bike with our tools, and learn to fix your bike if you don't already know how.
- The **Botany Enthusiasts Club** is the first and only Botany Club at UBC Join them for a variety of plant-related activities and events that promote building a community of plant admirers and lovers at UBC.
- **Climate Justice UBC,** formerly called UBCC350, is a group of student advocates who organize to tackle climate change and its root causes.
- **Common Energy UBC** is a student-run organization working to incorporate sustainability into all aspects of the UBC community. They aim to affect real change by building strong networks and working proactively with the University.
- The **UBC Environmental Policy Association** is dedicated to analyzing economic and political responses to climate change through discussion-based events that encourage public engagement in environmental policy.
- **Roots on the Roof** is a student-run club that manages the rooftop garden space on the roof of the AMS Student Nest and other community garden plots on campus.

- **Sprouts** is a community-driven organization located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people. Sprouts strives to cultivate a community that supports sustainable food systems and is welcoming of everyone.
- The **Student Environment Centre** is an AMS Resource Group for individuals within the UBC community who are environmental and sustainability-focused. They provide resources and organize events, and monitor the UBC Free Store.
- **UBC Sustaingineering** is a one-of-a-kind multidisciplinary team with the goal of accelerating the adoption of sustainable energy across the globe.
- **Vegans of UBC** aims to educate the UBC community about veganism through activism, outreach, and working with different organizations on campus.
- **WasteNauts** is UBC's only Engineering Design Team dedicated towards achieving a truly regenerative and circular economy. They combine technical and social approaches to reveal value in materials once considered waste.

How to Practice Sustainability
As a student, you also have the agency to practice sustainability in your own way. Here are some tips for you on how to take your own simple steps towards sustainability, as prepared by UBC Sustainability Hub and endorsed by AMS Sustainability:

- Take action and engage others;
- Reduce waste and purchase sustainably;
- Choose sustainable transportation;
- Support climate-friendly food systems;
- Save energy and conserve water; and
- Green your events!

For more information on each of these tips, please click here. We also encourage you to practice **mindful consumption** which refers to being conscious about your choices as a consumer. According to UBC, “applying mindful consumption to your life choices allows you to reduce issues like waste, pollution, GHG emissions, and unfair labour practices.’ For more information, click here.

If you are in the Nest, you also have the opportunity to utilize some of our zero-waste initiatives such as the Soap Stand (soap refill station), the Pillar (drink refill station), Mugshare (reusable cup program at Blue Chip), and the Bring Your Own Container program which is available for any of our food outlets! We are also in the process of launching our Return-It Bins, Lending Library and the Little Free Libraries.

As a student, you can also apply for the **Sustainable Projects Fund!**

Appendix C: The 17 UN SDGs

The SDGs are built on work by countries and the United Nations outlining the 17 Sustainable Development Goals which are urgent calls for action. In correspondence with the UN SDGs, this Action Plan was made in accordance with these goals to ensure our Plan covers a wide range of sustainability topics, contributing to global action against climate change. In addressing these goals we can ensure this Plan addresses more than environmental perseverance, but rather working to enhance the Planet as a whole.

Recognizing that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, the 17 SDGs are integrated into this Plan to ensure balancing social, economic, and environmental sustainability is prioritized. The SDGs can only be achieved if everyone is on board to reach these ambitious goals. The creativity, knowledge, technology, financial resources, and passion of all of Society are necessary to achieve the SDGs in every context.



RESOURCES

Many of the following resources were used to ensure that the actions in this Plan align with campus-wide efforts, and would be beneficial for anyone seeking to learn about sustainability at UBC. Some of the other documents were referenced in this Plan for various reasons—student engagement, reviews, etc. Additionally, while these resources are great to learn about what's happening in the community, we encourage anyone interested in learning more about climate action to seek out resources that tell the stories of those already affected by the ongoing climate crisis.

UBC Strategic Plan
This plan sets out UBC's collective vision, purpose, goals and strategies for the years ahead. It guides the University's decisions and actions–inspiring the very best in our students, faculty, staff, alumni and partners.

UBC Climate Action Plan 2030
The UBC Climate Action Plan 2030 is a comprehensive plan with ambitious goals to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions at UBC Vancouver and Okanagan. This framework aims to position UBC as a leader in climate action and sustainability.

UBC Indigenous Strategic Plan
The UBC Indigenous Strategic Plan is a framework with 8 goals and 43 actions, guided by a mission of engagement with Indigenous peoples and commitment to reconciliation as directed by the Truth and Reconciliation Commision of Canada's 94 Calls to Action.

UBC 20-Year Sustainability Strategy
The UBC 20-Year Sustainability Strategy envisions regenerative sustainability on campus by 2035, emphasizing improvements in human and environmental well-being. The strategy guides UBC towards a more sustainable future.

UBC Zero Waste Action Plan
The UBC Zero Waste Action Plan advances zero waste goals by prioritizing emissions reductions, circular economy principles, and alignment with UBC's CAP 2030.

UBC Water Action Plan
The UBC Water Action Plan addresses water scarcity challenges despite abundant rainfall. The plan aims to responsibly manage water use by advancing conservation, efficiency, and innovative water system solutions emphasizing resiliency.

UBC Green Cleaning Program
The UBC Green Cleaning Program is a set of initiatives established by UBC Building Operations to promote environmentally friendly housekeeping practices. The program involves the use of high-quality, non-toxic EcoLogo certified cleaning products or approved alternatives throughout UBC spaces.

SEEDS Sustainability Library
The SEEDS Sustainability Library is a comprehensive repository of applied student research and knowledge conducted by the SEEDS Sustainability Program, featuring a diverse range of interdisciplinary, student-led research projects.

UBC Wellbeing Strategic Framework
The Wellbeing Strategic Framework positions UBC as a health-and-wellbeing-promoting university where all people, places and communities can flourish.

UBC Inclusion Action Plan
The Inclusion Action Plan (IAP) is a guiding document that identifies priority goals for inclusion at UBC and strategic-level actions needed to achieve the goals.

UBC Strategic Equity and Anti-Racism (StEAR) Framework
The Strategic Equity and Anti-Racism Framework guides the University's approach to implementation of equity and anti-racism priorities and evaluation of progress.

Student Affordability Task Force Report (Student Affordability Plan)
Led by a task force of students, staff, and faculty from both campuses in 2019, and drawing on the expertise of the UBC community, this Report builds on existing efforts identifying gaps, and focuses on collective initiatives on enhancing campus affordability.

Senate 2026 (page 32)
The Senate 2026 document outlines key issues and themes laid out by the Student Senate Caucus outlines key issues and themes in terms of academic governance at the UBC Vancouver campus.

AMS Strategic Plan
The Strategic Plan reflects on the persistent and enduring challenges on the rise, sets out the Society's vision and purpose, and importantly, outlines the values the AMS will operate on across five crucial strategic priorities to fulfill until 2028.

AMS Indigenous Finance Guidelines
The AMS Indigenous Finance Guidelines are a set of financial protocols modeled after UBC's Indigenous Finance Guidelines. The guidelines aim to establish a plan for Indigenous students and contractors, lowering barriers to financial support.

AMS Engagement Principles
The AMS Engagement Principles are a set of strategies and concrete practices designed to guide the AMS in student consultation and engagement with historically, persistently, and systemically (HPS) marginalized groups.

AMS FN1 - Investments Policy
FN1 outlines the general investment goals and objectives of the Society. The policy provides a framework for the AMS, detailing the strategies that should be employed to fulfill the specified investment objectives.

AMS FN2 - Credit Card Policy
FN2 is a set of policies and procedures designed to govern the use of credit cards within the Society, ensuring proper utilization of credit cards in establishing adequate control for day-to-day activities. The policy focuses on maintaining security and accountability.

AMS FN3 - Executives Expenditure Policy
FN3 establishes appropriate limits on spending by executive members. This policy ensures transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility in executive spending.

AMS CM4 - Communications with Musqueam Indian Band Policy
CM4 ensures that the Society is well-informed about all communications made with the Musqueam band on its behalf. The policy ensures adherence to proper protocols when engaging with the Musqueam Indian Band.

AMS PC7 - Air Travel and Expenditures Policy
PC7 addresses the environmental impact of air travel. This policy focuses on ensuring AMS employees travel with the lowest possible emissions while meeting their professional goals.

Photographs
- Dialogdesign.ca
- Hover Collective / UBC Brand & Marketing
- Martin Dee / UBC Brand & Marketing
- Paul H. Joseph / UBC Brand & Marketing
- UBC Campus + Community Planning
- Macleans.ca
- Soapstand.ca
- Student Services: Snacks of UBC
- UBC Sustainability: SEEDS Sustainability Program
- AMS Marketing and Communications