AMS Clubs Operations

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AMS is moving a number of clubs to the UBC Life Building - we want to assess the current sustainability of these clubs and see where there is room for improvement

Objectives

- Asses baseline operation of the two clubs
- Identify areas of improvement to promote environmental, social and economic sustainability
- There is an opportunity to identify where disposal bins could be located in the new UBC Life Building to service these clubs :



WHAT?

Stakeholders & Project Partners:

SEEDS - The Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society

AMS - The Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia (AMS clubs: pottery & photography)

Community: UBC Vancouver

Why this is important (purpose):

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We want to apply our technical skills and knowledge to tangible community problems

Conduct environmental scan of AMS clubs and improve sustainability at UBC

WHAT

What we did to collect data:

- Site visits (walk through of both pottery and photography studios with club representatives)
- Meetings with AMS, SEEDS and clubs to discuss current practices and future plans
- Took pictures and discussed improvements with club representatives

Course Connections:

Participatory Process: Functional Participation





Significance & Issues

- The judgment of how broadly or narrowly to define the AMS' sphere of influence is subjective, but asking the question 'is this where and how the AMS can most effectively reduce EF?' should give a good indication of where the AMS should devote its limited money and time.
- Ecological Footprint
- Majority of UBC's operational garbage is recyclable
- Over half of Canada's ecological footprint is greenhouse gas footprint
- Direct emission example is the carbon dioxide emitted by the petroleum gas burned in the UBC steam plant.
- Example of indirect emissions are the greenhouse gas emissions from transportation of reinforcing steel used for parkades.
- GHG pollution threatens to greatly decrease the productive capacity of Earth if not reduced.



Significance & Issues

Building Energy

- 2006 electricity consumption in the SUB was 4 million Kwh enough to power 400 average homes
- Transportation
- Accounts for Half of Canada's greenhouse gas footprint
- The AMS could both reduce its own long distance travel EF, and lobby the administration to do the same.



SO WHAT? Pottery Club

Water:

Filling up one tub and using it to clean tools, wiping down shelves, etc...

Energy:

Venting out kiln fumes Firing kilns during off-peak hours No dryer in Life Building

Waste:

Solid mass waste interceptor on sinks Recycling scraps and waste (charity)

Safety: Masks Ergonomics



POTTERY CLUB





SO WHAT? PHOTO SOC



Water:

Instead of continuously running water for 15 minutes to rinse the film, fill the sink for the first 10 minutes of the runsins process, then let the water recycle after

Energy:

Very little light is used - especially in the dark room Upgrade older machines to use newer machines that consume less electricity

Waste:

Paper films are recycled Chemical wastes are kept in labelled bins for UBC sustainability to pick up

Safety:

Implement warning signs not to pour chemical wastes down the sink



PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB





AN SOLUM B

Implications:

The recommendations presented fall within internal impacts of AMS (what AMS can act on without consulting external parties i.e AMS policies)

Future Tasks:

Finalize discussion waste disposal bin locations that are will be useful to each club in minimizing waste Get input from the cleaning staff

Future recommendations

Internal Impacts: Instead of focussing on major impacts such equipment production and facility improvements, we focussed on improving sustainability with regards to safety and waste management

Potential External Impacts: Broadening the scope, time and flexibility of this project would allow students to collaborate in solving external issues

Thanks for listening :)

Any questions?