



Sustainability By-Laws

Revision History:
September 2020



BACKGROUND

The AUS Sustainability By-laws describe the Sustainability Policy of the Society. Specifically, these By-laws describe the responsibilities, regulations and powers of AUS Internal Entities, affiliates, funding recipients and Executive Portfolios under the organization's sustainability policy.

ARTICLE 1 – PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 Purpose and Scope

1.1.1 The Arts Undergraduate Society (hereafter “AUS”) is committed to achieving the highest possible standards of sustainability.

1.1.2 In AUS's operations, it will meet or exceed governmental standards of sustainability for educational institutions and the norms of sustainability achieved by our other student associations. AUS's goal is to become an institutional model of sustainability.

1.1.3 These By-laws apply to all activities of the Arts Undergraduate Society.

ARTICLE 2 –POLICY STATEMENT, ACTION PLANNING & REPORTING

2.1 Policy Statement

2.1.1 The objectives of these By-laws are as follows:

a) Ensure AUS undertake its activities and operations in a manner that reduces emissions and waste as much as possible;

b) Ensure AUS foster a community where sustainability is paramount and collaborate with community organizations advancing the causes of global climate justice;

c) Encourage economic efficiencies in the AUS's operations that are consistent with social equity and respect for the environment;

d) Advance individual and collective efforts and accountabilities throughout the McGill community to make sustainability a priority in the life of the University;

e) Minimize the use and consumption of energy, water and material resources in recognition of the finite capacity of the biosphere to accommodate human activities, and;

f) Consider the economic, environmental and social impacts of the activities carried out by or on behalf of the University in order to guide decision-making.

2.2 Action Planning: In order to advance the above goals the AUS will undertake the following actions:

2.2.1 Sustainable Funding of Transportation: The AUS will encourage the use of their funds for non-fossil modes of transport, including public transit and bicycle rentals, as preferable to any other transportation vehicles. This encouragement will be facilitated through promotion in advertising campaigns, educational materials, and more favourable consideration in funding applications

2.2.2 Sustainable Events: All events hosting over 60 people and funded by the AUS must meet the standards of a bronze event certifications, as stipulated by the McGill Office of Sustainability:

2.2.2.1 All events hosting over 180 people and funded by the AUS must obtain at minimum a bronze event certification as defined by the McGill Office of Sustainability.

2.2.2.2 Proof of the implementation of policies 2.2.2. may be demanded from an AUS Departmental Association or AUS Executive by the Financial Management Committee (FMC). Failure to implement these By-laws will result, at the discretion of FMC (but not limited to) in: the retroactive reduction of budget in order to comply with these By-laws, mandatory retraining, non-reimbursement of non-compliant expenses.

2.2.2.3 Should an event be certified to have gone above and beyond the stipulations of these articles, meeting silver or gold certifications, its organizing agency will receive priority during FMC funding deliberations.

2.2.2.4 It is expected that AUS Departmental Associations and Executives will include the additional costs for implementing these By-laws in their budget planning process.



- 2.2.3 Sustainable Printing: All printing companies used by the AUS must be certified by the Forest Stewardship Council of Canada (FSC).
- 2.2.4 Sustainable Cutlery: The AUS will not issue payments for plastic or paper plates, cups, and cutlery.
 - 2.2.4.1 AUS will encourage clubs to utilize on campus cutlery services such as the Plate Club.
 - 2.2.4.2 Should the Plate Club be unable to accommodate a departmental association's needs, AUS will approve payments for compostable plates cups, and cutlery.
- 2.2.5 Offsets: The AUS will purchase carbon offsets to neutralize organizational carbon output.
 - 2.2.5.1 All offsets will be purchased from providers with Gold Standard certification.
 - 2.2.5.2 Amount paid towards carbon offsets will reflect the Gold Standard requirement of \$24 CAD per tonne.
 - 2.2.5.2.1 This amount will shift annually should the Gold Standard alter their requirements.
 - 2.2.5.3 The AUS will purchase all carbon offsets at the end of each academic year, calculating the entirety required for the calendar year.
- 2.2.6 Offsetting Private Cars: The AUS will purchase carbon offsets for all gas paid for by the organization throughout the calendar year.
 - 2.2.6.1 Purchased carbon offsets must be equal to the total carbon output produced by gas that year, as estimated by Article 2.2.5.3.
 - 2.2.6.2 The amount paid towards gas offsets will be calculated to equal: = $[(\text{Annual cost of gas} / \text{Average cost of gas}) * 0.00982] * 24$
- 2.2.7 Offsetting online rideshare applications including Uber and Lyft: The AUS will purchase carbon offsets for all rideshare trips paid for by the department throughout the calendar year.



- 2.2.7.1 Purchased carbon offsets must be equal to the total carbon output produced by these rideshares that year, as estimated by 2.2.7.2
- 2.2.7.2 The amount paid towards rideshare offsets will be calculated to equal:
$$= 650 * \{[\text{total costs of Uber} - (2.5 * \text{total rides})] / 0.85\} * 0.000024$$
- 2.2.8 Offsetting Taxis: The AUS will purchase carbon offsets for all rideshare trips paid for by the department throughout the calendar year.
 - 2.2.8.1 Purchased carbon offsets must be equal to the total carbon output produced by these taxi trips that year, as estimated by article 2.2.8.2
 - 2.2.8.2 The amount paid towards taxi offsets will be calculated to equal: =
$$650 * \{[\text{Annual cost of Taxis} - (3.45 * \text{total rides})] / 1.70\} * 0.000024$$
- 2.2.9 Offsetting Busses: The AUS will purchase carbon offsets for all private bus rides paid for by the department throughout the calendar year.
 - 2.2.9.1 Purchased carbon offsets must be equal to the total carbon output produced by these bus rides that year, as estimated by article 2.2.9.2
 - 2.2.9.2 The amount paid towards bus offsets will be calculated to equal: =
$$[(\text{Annual cost of diesel} / \text{Average cost of diesel}) * 0.01119] * 24$$
- 2.2.10 Offsetting Plastic Waste: The AUS will purchase plastic offsets for all plastic disposed of by its members throughout the calendar year.
 - 2.2.10.1 An equation will be calculated by the 2020-2021 Ethical Business Practices Committee to accurately measure the required plastic offsets in Canadian dollars (CAD). This will be implemented in September 2021.
- 2.2.11 The AUS Vice-President Finance shall report quarterly to the Legislative Council on progress toward achieving the goals of these By-laws.

ARTICLE 3 – AUTHORITY TO APPROVE IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

- 3.1 The AUS Vice-President Finance shall be given authority to establish, approve, amend and repeal procedures which are secondary to and comply with these By-laws.