Encourage faculty to incorporate environmental and/or climate change case studies and literature into existing courses where relevant.

Minimize printing of teaching resources in the Asian Centre by charging department members to pay for copying papers in the building, with exceptions for certain course materials. The use of digital course materials such as PDFs are encouraged instead.

ASIA 570B (042) – Indigenous Environmentalism in Asia [3.0 credits] (Taught in W2023-2024)
Instructor: Dr. Pasang Sherpa

Founded the Asian Studies Sustainability Initiative Committee in 2020

Utilized a workplace sustainability fund to host a month of eco-challenges about waste, energy, connecting with nature, reducing water consumption, education, etc.

Created a webpage about our committee on the Asian Studies department’s website

Hired a Sustainability Assistant Work Learn student to assist with department sustainability projects

Provided occasional sustainability updates and resources in department newsletters

Provided a series of sustainable resources on our committee webpage targeted towards departmental community members

Hosted a circular economy workshop for staff and faculty

Planning a three-part eco-skills workshop series for the late summer and fall of 2024 utilizing workplace sustainability funding

Conducted a waste audit of public waste bins in the Asian Centre

Created a department waste audit toolkit to share our waste audit methodology with other UBC units

Expanded alternative waste recycling to include soft plastics, Styrofoam, and writing utensils.

Organized an electronics recycling collection period, and currently are developing an Electronics Repair and Recycling Policy

Office staff manage a free book table accessible to all department members and are expanding the table to office stationery donation and exchange

Implemented a Furniture Policy incentivizing the purchase of second-hand furniture from UBC Reuse-it! and disposal into second-hand streams

Offer reusable cups, plates, utensils, and dish washer services for smaller scale events organized by department staff

Provide compostable containers instead of plastic or paper for larger events requiring disposable food containers

Integrating sustainability into the events information available on our department AIR site

Exploring ways to enhance social and environmental procurement processes by partnering with the UBC VP Finance & Operations Procurement Programs team to review current spending