



# Campus Sustainability Fund Final Report

## 1.0 - Project Report

### 1.1 - Project Title:

**Supplier Sustainability Assessment Tool**

### 1.2 - Report Prepared by:

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### 1.3 - Key Accomplishments

UVic is the first Canadian university to partner with EcoVadis, the world's largest provider of business sustainability rankings. EcoVadis is providing supplier sustainability assessments of UVic suppliers, based on their performance in four areas: environmental, ethics, labour and human rights, and sustainable procurement. The long term goal is to systematically incorporate sustainability criteria to supplier selection and performance management

Achieved to date:

- The EcoVadis supplier sustainability ratings initiative supports the UVic 2020 - 2021 Sustainability Action Plan. Our collaboration with EcoVadis has contributed to UVic work to advance the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the university being rated 2nd for SDG 13: Climate action by the 2022 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.
- Supplier assessments – 35 suppliers of UVic have been rated, 11 assessments are in progress. UVic suppliers are more aware of the concept and willing to participate in a sustainability assessment with EcoVadis.
- Chandos Construction, the Construction Management contractor selected for the National Centre for Indigenous Laws building, participated in the assessment and returned results in the 88<sup>th</sup> percentile (Silver), demonstrating the benefits of high performers.
- 74% of rated UVic suppliers are above average performers, with 15 in the median percentile or above, and 11 among top performers.
- Proactive management approach – Corrective action plans will be established in collaboration with select suppliers where relevant areas for improvement have been identified.
- Risk management – UVic is gaining a better understanding of our suppliers’ performance, their strengths and potential improvement areas. This perspective will help become more active in preventing and mitigating supply chain sustainability risks.
- Supplier engagement – UVic is engaging suppliers, encouraging them to consider their sustainability performance and participate in the EcoVadis assessment.

- UVic stakeholders, including faculty and staff, as well as suppliers and service providers, are becoming more aware of social and environmental impact factors in procurement decision-making.
- Purchasing Services team members are becoming more active towards sustainable procurement, as they are encouraged to promote and support sustainable practices that aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

### 1.4 - Student Learning:

- Co-op students are learning about supply chain sustainability and risk management.
- Co-op students are gaining experience with EcoVadis, a helpful tool in sustainability assessment and industry research.

### 1.5 - Goal Acquisition:

The key goals of the pilot project have been achieved:

- Supplier assessment - We have started to engage existing suppliers to obtain sustainability assessment and gain visibility on their performance
- Stakeholder engagement – Client units and leaders across campus have an increased awareness of the Supplier Sustainability Assessment Tool and are beginning to engage their major suppliers
- Proof of concept – The pilot has demonstrated the potential benefits of the EcoVadis Supplier Sustainability Assessment Tool.

The EcoVadis initiative has been funded by VPFO for 2022. We are working towards establishing a continuing program that will support sustainable procurement at UVic.

### 1.6 - Long Term Consequences:

The long-term goal is to use the sustainability performance ratings to select suppliers and help manage their performance. We anticipate the program will require three to five years to reach the maturity level necessary to achieve that goal.

In that period, we will continue to gain a better understanding of supplier sustainability, collaborate towards improved performance, and mitigate supply chain sustainability risks.

As the world continues to get socially and environmentally conscious, prospective students will be looking for leadership that aligns to their values and will want to attend schools that take these issues seriously. The supplier sustainability ratings program contributes to UVic' sustainable procurement practices. The program will make a long term direct contribution to the university impact rankings, in particular on **SDG 13: Climate action**, and, concurrently, reputation.

## 1.7 - Lesson's learned:

- Sustainability is becoming a fundamental success factor for business. We are learning that UVic suppliers are willing to dialogue and consider participating in the sustainability performance assessment.
- Internal decision drivers are important considerations that require stakeholder engagement, consultation, and buy-in.
- Timelines for completion of the pilot were stretched due to limited resources for implementation
- Increased supplier engagement and participation is a critical success factor for program success. We aim to further collaborate with our key suppliers, to obtain assessments, monitor their sustainability performance, and achieve improvements.
- Networking, finding the right contact information and closely following up is extremely important to establish a constructive dialogue with suppliers towards enhanced sustainability performance.
- Profit and cost avoidance continue to be key drivers of business decisions. It is important to make the business case for the EcoVadis ratings as investment, rather than cost: the assessments give suppliers a competitive advantage, visibility of improvement opportunities, and access to excellent business sustainability expertise at low cost.

## 1.8 - Timeline:

Please provide the *actual* project start and end dates

Start Date	End Date
November 2020	Pilot: November 2021 - Program ongoing

## 1.9 - Feedback

The Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability has been very supportive. I would encourage continuing to provide a high level of support for novel sustainability initiatives.

## 2.0 - Project Financials

### 2.1 – Budget

Budget Spend:

\$25,000 + Taxes (\$2,075) were paid to EcoVadis for a one-year license to the end of November 2021.

Purchasing Services covered expenses above the \$20,000 provided by the Campus Sustainability Fund.