APPLIED STUDENT RESEARCH (ASR):

Using McGill as a Living Lab
IN TODAY’S POWERPOINT:

• WHY do we do Applied Student Research (ASR)?
• WHAT is ASR? What is the Living Lab?
• HOW do you do applied student research?
WHY DID YOU COME TO UNIVERSITY?
Lots of students come to McGill with a VISION to CREATE CHANGE and ENGAGE in SOMETHING BIGGER
Chances are, you are more trained to write papers than to gain real-world experience.
WHAT IS
APPLIED STUDENT RESEARCH?
ASR is research done by students that SEEKS SOLUTIONS to a CHALLENGE faced by members of the community.

Basically, ASR is research that DOESN’T SIT ON THE SHELF.

ASR is at the CORE of a LIVING LAB.
LIVING LAB: a place to explore ideas and live out your research

VISION 2020’s definition of ASR centres on research that primarily impacts McGill and is focused on SUSTAINABILITY
# EXAMPLE - Sustainable Seafood Certification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO?</th>
<th>CHALLENGE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td></td>
<td>Students analyzed and suggested optimal sustainable seafood certifications and criteria</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENVR 401</td>
<td>-&gt; Marine Stewardship Certification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>Having sustainable seafood at McGill</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Prof. George McCourt (MSE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Client</td>
<td>McGill Food and Dining Services (MFDF)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Oliver de Volpi (Head Chef)</td>
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## IMPLEMENTATION

<table>
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<tr>
<th>STEP 1</th>
<th>STEP 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MFDS only purchased seafood with recommended criteria</td>
<td>With funding from the Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF), Oliver applied to the Marine Stewardship Council</td>
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## OUTCOME

McGill became the first university in Canada to receive certification from the Marine Stewardship Council!
THREE PRIMARY ACTORS in ASR / LIVING LAB:

STUDENTS

SUPERVISORS (Faculty and Staff)

COMMUNITY (Clients and Partners)
Sustainability Related ASR

Within this living lab, solutions:

1) Are **DURABLE**
2) **BRIDGE SILOS**
HOW TO DO ASR
FIND YOUR QUESTION

WHAT CHALLENGE DO YOU WANT TO TACKLE?
FIND YOUR COMMUNITY

CLIENTS

PARTNERS
FIND THE COMMUNITY

- Office for Social Equity and Diversity Education
- Food & Dining Services
- First Peoples’ House
- Off-Campus Housing
- Waste Management
- McGill Athletics
- Procurement Services
- Academic units
- Utilities and Energy Management
- Residences
- Libraries
- PGSS
- SSMU
- Alumni Relations
- IT services
- McGill Bookstore
- First-Year Office
- Printing Services
- Career Planning Services
FIND YOUR SUPERVISOR

• Professors with whom you have already built a relationship
• Professors already working in your specific field
• Professors with an interest in ASR

• Full list of profs who have done ASR can be found on the Living Lab Wiki!
• Living Lab Wiki: MOOS Website -> Resources
GET CREDIT

• Look for these ASR opportunities when searching for courses in any faculty:
  • Independent studies
  • Thesis research
  • Research projects
  • Design projects
  • Honours theses
  • Internship projects
• Full course list on ASR Living Lab Wiki
DESIGN PROJECT & CONDUCT RESEARCH
CREATE RECOMMENDATIONS

• INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY is critical to fostering sustainability!

• Have your sustainability-related ASR report published on the LIVING LAB DATABASE

• Database: MOOS Website -> Resources
IMPLEMENT YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS

• Coordinate with your community on how to put your research into action
  • Policy
  • Behaviors / norms
  • New systems

• Apply to the Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) to get seed funding
CONNECT WITH THE LIVING LAB AT MCGILL

- ECOLE
- M(x)P’s
  - McGill Energy Project
  - McGill Food Systems Project
  - McGill Waste Project
  - McGill Spaces Project
Keep in mind:
There is **NO PRESCRIBED METHOD** to do ASR!
Applied Student Research uses the university’s research mandate to give real-world experiences and build connections across communities.

ASR and the LIVING LAB DRIVE and BUILD the CULTURE of SUSTAINABILITY at McGill
Currently, there are over 50 ASR projects completed to date.

ASR and the LIVING LAB DRIVE and BUILD the CULTURE of SUSTAINABILITY at McGill
RESOURCES

• mcgill.ca/sustainability (ASR)
  - Living Lab Wiki
  - Living Lab Database
  - ASR Technical Toolkit

• McGill Office of Sustainability (MOOS)
  - Research & Education Intern: asr@mcgill.ca
  - Kim McGrath – SPF Steward: kim.mcgrath@mcgill.ca
QUESTIONS?
THOUGHTS?
IDEAS?

asr@mcgill.ca