

McGill Office of Sustainability Annual Report 2016

This annual report gives an overview of the main activities and key accomplishments of the McGill Office of Sustainability (MOOS) for the calendar year 2016.

About MOOS

The Office of Sustainability supports McGill's goal to become an institutional model of sustainability for society. Our mission is to create a culture of sustainability at McGill - to encourage and unite the efforts of students, faculty, staff and administrators to incorporate principles of sustainability in university operations, campus living and learning and in its relations with the broader community. We develop partnerships within the McGill community that encourage and facilitate the application of principles of sustainability.

Here are the people who contributed to MOOS in 2016, making these accomplishments possible:

The Staff

- Amelia Brinkerhoff, Vision 2020 Coordinator
- Toby Davine, Communications Officer
- Krista Houser, Sustainability Officer, SPF Administrator
- Kim McGrath, Sustainability Officer, SPF Steward
- Francois Miller, Sustainability Director
- Kathleen Ng, Sustainability Officer
- Julia Solomon, Communications Officer (completed her mandate in June)
- Shona Watt, Sustainability Programs Coordinator

The Amazing Interns

- Mandakini Chandra, Communications Intern
- Brayden Culligan, Multimedia Intern
- Lesley Johnson, Sustainability Monitoring and Reporting Intern (completed her mandate in August)
- Nick Milum, Vision 2020 Action Teams Intern
- Haejoo Oh, Education Intern
- Nandini Srivastava, SPF Outreach Intern (completed her mandate in March 2016)
- Ian Tattersfield, Web Communications Intern

In 2016, the McGill Office of Sustainability...

- Initiated the process to craft the *Vision 2020 Climate and Sustainability Action Plan*. This included 12 events gathering close to 370 members of the McGill community, including a launch at the Faculty Club.
- Stewarded the creation of the Advisory Council on Sustainability that regroups both internal and external partners with the goal of positioning McGill as a leading institution in North America on sustainability. The first meeting was held November 7th.
- Released McGill's sustainability Gold rating using AASHE STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System).
- Received a "Highly Commended" recognition for the Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) from the Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability Awards.
- Actively participated in 5 Orientation Week activities, reaching approximately 475 students.



McGill Office of Sustainability Staff and Interns

In 2016, the McGill Office of Sustainability...

- Included an SPF case study in the Global University Leaders Forum / International Sustainable Campus Network annual Sustainability in Higher Education 2016 report.



Sustainability Projects Showcase in February

- Hosted two Sustainability Project Showcases, featuring some of the most interesting SPF projects. The first took place February 9th in the SSMU ballroom with over 100 community members attending. The second was part of the annual Joint Board-Senate meeting on November 10th.
- Presented MOOS' sustainability programs at 2 international conferences: the Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium in April and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education in October.
- Extended the SPF Ambassadors Program to increase awareness about the SPF throughout the campuses. The 7 ambassadors promoted the fund to new audiences reaching nearly 800 people.
- Implemented a "fast-track" application process for SPF projects under \$5000, in order to make it easier for smaller scale projects to submit their project ideas.
- Published the SPF Annual Report, which indicated that the project allocations since 2010 (\$5.1 M) are on track with the SPF total value (\$5.4 M).
- Participated in the Advisory Committee of the *Open Forum on the recommendations of the 2016 CAMSR Report on Divestment*. The forums took place in September.
- Created a Sustainability Programs Coordinator position to develop a series of programs to help students and staff promote and practice sustainability.
- Promoted sustainability-related news, events and initiatives at McGill through various communication channels (website, Facebook, Twitter), regularly reaching more than 1,300 people.
- Launched a Sustainability Applied Student Research (ASR) Grant to address and help overcome McGill sustainability challenges while empowering undergraduates' research skills.
- Produced a Sustainable Events Guide to create more equitable, efficient, and accessible events at McGill. The guide has been used in the preparation of the ACFAS conference that will take place in 2017.
- Included sustainability-related questions in the undergraduate and graduate admission surveys. The first results show that there is a genuine interest from incoming students on the topic.
- Engaged with the external campus community for ongoing exchange on best practices, including participating in the implementation of Montreal's Sustainability Plan.
- Hosted the Catalyst Awards (April 14th), an event that celebrates the best sustainability projects and leaders at McGill. Close to 130 people attended.



2016 Catalyst Award Winners

- Gathered the McGill community at five Sustainability Fridays. These informal networking events give students, faculty, and staff a chance to discuss timely sustainability topics. In total, around 180 people attended.

Thank you to everyone who supported or contributed to the work of the McGill Office of Sustainability in 2016!