This annual report gives an overview of the main activities and key accomplishments of the McGill Office of Sustainability (MOOS) for the 2017 calendar year.

About MOOS

MOOS provides the strategic guidance, support, and resources to transition McGill into an institutional model of sustainability for society. In partnership with students, staff, and faculty, we advance McGill’s vision for sustainable research, education, connectivity, operations, and governance.

Here are the people who contributed to MOOS in 2017, making these accomplishments possible:

The Staff

- Amelia Brinkerhoff, Vision 2020 Coordinator
- Toby Davine, Communications Officer
- Krista Houser, Sustainability Officer, SPF Steward
- Kim McGrath, Sustainability Officer, SPF Steward (completed mandate in August 2017)
- François Miller, Sustainability Director
- Kathleen Ng, Sustainability Officer
- Ali Rivers, Climate Officer
- Shona Watt, Sustainability Officer, SPF Administrator

The Amazing Interns

- Monica Allaby, Communications Intern
- Mandakini Chandra*, Communications Intern
- Brayden Culligan, Multimedia Intern
- Tim Ellis, Website Intern
- Aiden Goertzen*, Monitoring & Reporting Intern
- Nick Milum*, Vision 2020 Action Teams Intern
- Haejoo Oh*, Education Intern
- Claire Paoli, SPF Administrative Intern
- Amanda Starnino, Waste Reduction Intern
- Ian Tattersfield*, Website Intern
- Jeff Tétreault, Staff and Student Engagement Intern

*Completed mandate in Spring 2017

In 2017, the McGill Office of Sustainability...

- Published the final report of the 2014-2016 Sustainability Action Plan under Vision 2020, which showed that we implemented an average of 89% of deliverables.
- Stewarded the final phase of the consultation process surrounding the subsequent Vision 2020 Action Plan that focuses on climate and sustainability. As such, we:
  * Organized 5 Action Team Meetings in January where interested students, faculty members, and staff evaluated and proposed actions to be included in the Plan.
  * Hosted 3 Community Conversations on Carbon Neutrality in March. In which attendees shared opinions and ideas surrounding McGill’s ability to achieve carbon neutrality.
  * Convened a Task Force of Academic Experts on Carbon Neutrality, which consisted of 6 McGill professors to discuss the pathways towards carbon neutrality.
- Launched the Climate and Sustainability Action Plan (2017-2020), which contains two ambitious long-term targets and 22 pragmatic short-term actions. The launch event took place December 1st at the Faculty Club.
In 2017, the McGill Office of Sustainability...

- Stewarded the creation of the Advisory Council on Sustainability, a body that regroups both internal and external partners (19 people in total) with the goal of positioning McGill as a leading institution in North America on sustainability. The council met 3 times in 2017.
- Submitted an application that resulted in McGill being named the second-greenest campus in Canada by Corporate Knights.
- Published the Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) Annual Report, showing that the SPF total value since its inception is now close to $6.3 million. It also highlights that the SPF received 43 applications, the most received during any year since 2013.
- Mandated an Independent Cyclical Review of the SPF, which confirmed that the fund is “meeting its mandate and has created a culture that promotes sustainability throughout the McGill campus”.
- Received a prestigious award for the SPF at the Gala de reconnaissance en environnement et développement durable de Montréal in the category ‘Businesses and Institutions’.
- Ensured the inclusion of 3 sustainability key performance indicators (KPI) to the Board of Governors reporting framework.
- Bolstered the certification of sustainable events on campus. In total, 20 sustainable events have been certified – such as the ACFAS Conference and the VP Administration & Finance Luncheon – with the assistance of 11 volunteer students.
- In collaboration with Utilities and Energy Management, stewarded the McGill Waste Task Force. This group met 4 times in 2017 and developed a preliminary version of a Zero-Waste Strategy, which should be released early 2018.
- Included a case study in the 2017 Sustainable Campus Index published by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. The case study describes how the Board and Senate memorandums now include a question on sustainability issues to be considered.
- Promoted sustainability-related news, events and initiatives at McGill through various communication channels (website, newsletter, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.), regularly reaching more than 2,000 users.
- Extended the SPF Ambassadors Program to increase awareness about the SPF throughout the campuses. By the end of 2017, 12 ambassadors had been recruited to promote the fund to new audiences, reaching about 15,000 people.
- Gathered the McGill community at 6 Sustainability Fridays. These informal networking events give students, faculty, and staff a chance to discuss timely sustainability topics. In total, around 180 people participated.

Students, faculty and staff gather at the Community Conversations on Carbon Neutrality in March.
In 2017, the McGill Office of Sustainability...

- Organized 2 ‘Lunch and Learns’ in late November on how staff can embed sustainability in their workplace. A total of 23 individuals participated in “Envisioning Sustainability at McGill” and “Sustainable Offices and Events”.
- Actively participated in 8 Orientation Events to inform students on how to get involved in sustainability. In total, we connected with approximately 600 students.
- Collaborated with SSMU to publish a sustainability-themed student handbook, which was distributed to roughly 8,000 students at the beginning of the academic year.
- Collaborated with Faculty Frosh organizers to make their events more sustainable (with SPF funding). This included hiring a Sustainable Orientation Coordinator and buying Frosh bags made of jute (a biodegradable and sustainable fiber).
- Embedded 6 workshops that relate to sustainability in the newly launched SKILLS21 program for students. A total of 40 students participated to these workshops.
- Managed a Staff Garden Program on the northwest Burnside steps. A total of 75 staff gardeners coming from 33 different units joined and grew crops all summer.
- Piloted the Sustainable Workplace Certification with 5 offices. The program challenges staff to foster healthier, more environmentally-friendly, and connected workplaces through individual and collective practices.
- Contributed to the creation of a Sustainable Labs Guide for Researchers, which highlights best practices in a variety of areas (energy, water, waste, procurement, etc.).

Thank you to everyone who supported or contributed to the work of the McGill Office of Sustainability in 2017!