



SP0168 Final Report

Please answer the following questions and return the completed form to the [SPF Staff](#) via e-mail.

Project Title: MSEG Composting

Final Report prepared by: Amiya Seligman

E-mail: amiya.seligman@mail.mcgill.ca

Actual Project Start Date: 6/1/2017

Actual Project End Date: 10/31/2017

1. Please summarize the project and its key accomplishments in 1-2 sentences.

(400 characters maximum)

The funds for this project went to building three aerated compost bins to facilitate more efficient composting at Macdonald Student Ecological Gardens.

2. Your team listed the following goal in your application:

Introducing a more sustainable composting system for MSEG to reduce its waste and become more self-sufficient by building an Aerated Static compost bin system.

Did your team achieve your project's goal? In your answer, please describe the impact your project had on McGill's structures, processes, and/or systems. Also, please specify how this positively transformed people's behaviors/perspectives/habits on McGill campus(es).

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

We did achieve our goal of introducing a more sustainable composting system at MSEG. Prior to the compost bins, we had no real efficient means of dealing with our waste. Although this season we were not able to use the compost bins because they were not finished in time, they will be ready for the start of next year. Nonetheless, working on the compost bins throughout the season has made everyone on the team more conscious of our waste. We started more systematic initiatives to reduce our waste (such as selling second-grade veggies, building relationships with restaurants and food banks who take non-sellable items, and leaving extra produce out on campus for students to take). Next year, we hope that the combination of these initiatives and the compost bins will reduce our waste by 100%.

We also held a number of tours and workshops about our compost bins, which will continue in the following years as well. As the only farm run with organic methods on campus, we are happy to be able to have a functional composting system to model for the rest of campus. As the season is slowly coming to an end for us, we are also planning on adding one component of our website dedicated to our compost bins.

3. Please describe the key successes and challenges of your project. (Minimum of two examples for each)

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

This biggest challenge that we faced for this project was finding time and all the resources to complete the bins. We work over 50 hours a week during the season, and construction projects tend to fall on the lowest priority list. The bins weren't too difficult to build, but they were time intensive, requiring extra time devoted on the weekends. Once we made the call as a team that we could wait until next year to use the bins, we were able to reduce the pressure a little. The second challenge I think was that a few crucial materials kept being lost in the mail, disabling us from completing our project.

Our biggest successes however has been not only completing the bins but leading educational tours and workshops.

4. What key points of advice or *lessons learned* would you give to other SPF teams either regarding your experience managing your project or the project itself?

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

The biggest advice I would give would be to set aside time devoted to the project. An hour or two a week (depending on the scale) is crucial for getting things done.

5. What recommendations do you have for the future of this project to be continued and are there any opportunities for complementary projects? Who will take responsibility for the project’s future and how can interested persons be in touch? The SPF team will also be in touch with this contact for updates on the project’s progress in coming years, if ongoing.

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum 1 paragraph)

Next year I will continue to oversee the project, which I am looking forward to. It will be a very good trial year to experiment how best to use the compost bins (i.e. what temperature works best/ which ratios of green to brown matter works..etc.) We will be able to track temperatures and hopefully give out compost to the mcgill community.

6. Would you or your project team member(s) be willing to serve as a mentor to SPF project teams? Please choose one. If yes, SPF Staff will contact you with more information. (800 characters maximum)

Yes No

7. In your application, you listed the following sources of funding: N/A

Please confirm if you received this funding in the space below. In your response, please list the actual amount (in dollars) that you received. Note: If you received funding from a McGill Department or Unit, please attach a letter from its Financial/Budget Officer confirming the actual amount of support.

(1,800 characters maximum)

8. Did you purchase equipment or make an installation on campus? Yes No

If yes, please briefly describe how these items will be maintained and used in the future.

(1,800 characters maximum)

9. The following Key Success Indicators were indicated in your project application and selected for tracking. Please indicate the actual results that you have achieved in the “Actual” column.

Selected Key Success Indicators	Target	Actual
% Reduction in fertilizer costs	60%	100%
# of group tours conducted throughout the season	7	10
# of guides detailing construction process, pictures, and operating instructions developed and distributed	1	0 (tbd)

If there is a significant difference in the target numbers and the actual numbers achieved, please explain. If you have any additional information to share about these success indicators, please also include it below.

(1,800 characters maximum)

We did not have to buy any compost this year (because of surplus from the last year), and we will hopefully not have to buy any for next year as well. We still haven't created the detailed guide, but we plan on finishing it this winter as part of our website.

10. Please report on your results for the standard SPF Key Success Indicators in the “Actual” column.

Standard SPF Key Success Indicators	Actual #
# of volunteers directly or indirectly engaged in the project	5
# of people (student, staff, or other) trained in the context of the project	6
\$ raised for project activities subsequent to SPF funding	0
# of partnerships or collaborations developed between the project team and other McGill administrative units, student groups, community groups, other universities, and/or other groups/organizations.	3

Regarding the last Key Success Indicator, please list the groups and/or organizations that you counted.

(Unlimited characters; point form acceptable.)

John Abbot College, Gorilla Composting, Nutrition Course at Mcgill,

If you have any additional information to share about the Standard SPF Key Success Indicators, please include it below. (1,800 characters maximum)

11. Please indicate the McGill stakeholder groups that were involved with your project as a team member or collaborator/partner. Choose all that apply.

- Undergraduate
 Postgraduate
 Administrative Staff
 Academic Staff
 Alumni

12. Please rate your project team’s overall satisfaction with the support provided by the SPF Staff. Choose only one response.

- Very Dissatisfied
 Dissatisfied
 Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied
 Satisfied
 Very Satisfied

13. Please provide any feedback or recommendations regarding your team’s experience with the SPF.

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum 1 paragraph)

We were very happy with the support that SPF staff provided us! The only frustrating part of the project was the fact that items kept being lost in the mail, but that is nobody's fault really.

14. If there is additional information you would like to share about your project, please use the field below.

(Unlimited characters)

15. Has involvement in this SPF project positively impacted your team in the area of professional growth?

Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below. (800 characters maximum)

- Yes
 No
 Prefer Not to Share

16. Has involvement in this SPF project positively impacted your team in the area of personal growth?

Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below. (800 characters maximum)

- Yes
 No
 Prefer Not to Share

17. Which of the following skills or attributes has your team improved through involvement in your SPF project? Choose all that apply.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Budgeting | <input type="checkbox"/> Networking | <input type="checkbox"/> Systems Thinking |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Teamwork |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conflict Resolution | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Problem Solving | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leadership | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Time Management |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Listening | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder Engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify in the field below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Negotiating | <input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder Identification | |

Other:

18. Since starting your SPF project, has your team improved its knowledge of sustainability?

Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below. (800 characters maximum)

- Yes No Prefer Not to Share

19. (Optional) If applicable, please list the total number of team members voluntarily self-identifying as members of marginalized communities:

Please identify the represented communities below. (e.g. women, Indigenous people, people of colour, LGBTTQI, student parents, members of ethnic minorities, immigrants, people with disabilities)

(1,800 characters maximum)

Thank you for completing your Final Report!

Please e-mail your report to the [SPF Staff](#) attaching any additional information that you would like to share about your project (e.g. other reports, research, documents, photos, etc.). Please note that this Final Report will be shared publicly on your SPF project's webpage.