

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2025

(5/1/2024 – 4/30/2025)

Report prepared by the
McGill Office of Sustainability
August 2025



Sustainability Projects Fund

SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS FUND

The Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) builds a culture of sustainability across the campuses of McGill University through the development and seed funding of interdisciplinary projects.

Since its creation in 2010, the SPF has allocated over \$12.9 million in funding and has approved **408 projects**, which have yielded dramatic and lasting improvements to McGill's sustainability performance.

The SPF is one of the largest dedicated campus sustainability funds of its kind in North America, and is the largest in Canada. It is uniquely committed to collaboration between students and staff in its financing, decision-making, and project leadership.

This report highlights the key impacts and activities of the Sustainability Projects Fund during Fiscal Year 2025: May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025.



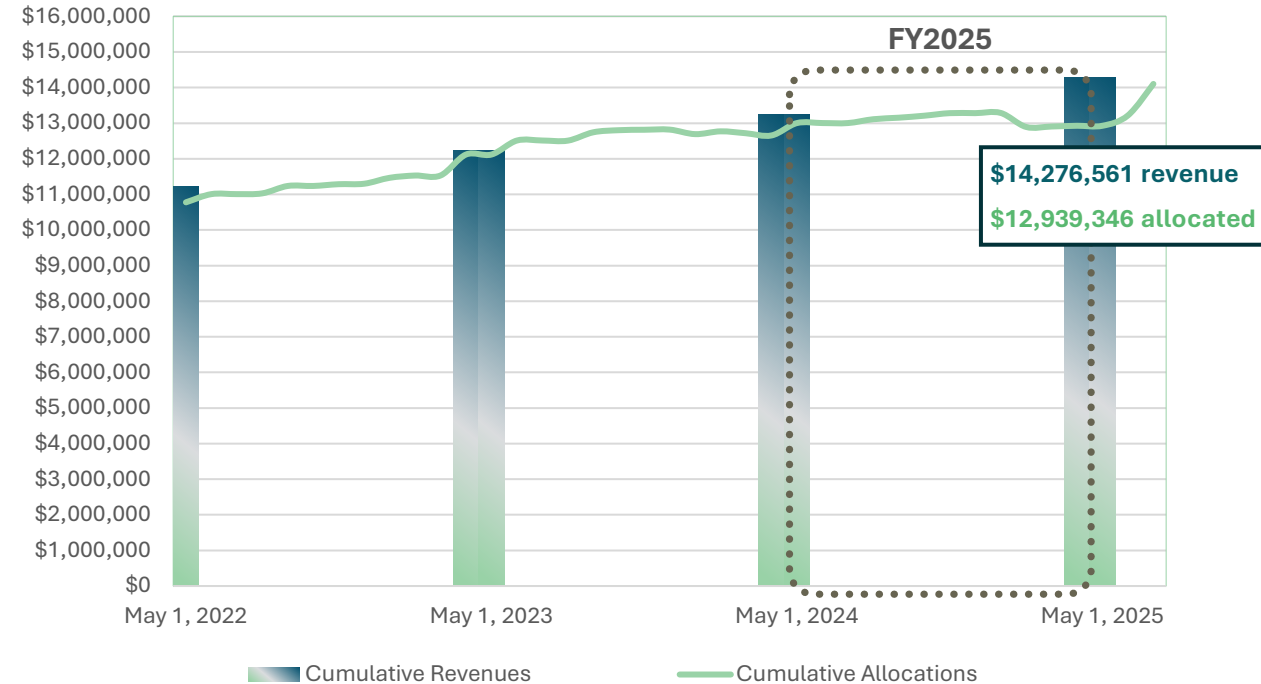
FY2025 FINANCIAL AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

FY2025 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In Fiscal Year 2025, the SPF was funded through a student fee of \$0.55 per credit, which is matched equally by McGill University.

To date, the SPF has received over \$7.1 million in student fees, which, when matched by the University, brings the Fund to a total value of approximately \$14.2 million. All allocations are approved by the Governance Council and any unallocated funding is carried forward to the next year. Since the Fund operates on a reimbursement basis, actual spending lags behind allocation. Similarly, the matching revenue, which can include department contributions and benefits, is reimbursed at a delay based on Fund expenditures. At the end of a project, unused budget allocations are released and made available for new allocations.

Cumulative Financials (FY2022-FY2025)



Note: Allocations include approved project budgets, budget amendments awarded to teams, and SPF overhead expenses. The chart has been adjusted to reflect the release of unused budget allocations over the past few years. If the allocations amount decreases, it is because funding has been released from previous projects, reducing the total amount allocated. The released amount is then used for new project budget allocations. This process allows all of the funding received to be spent.

FY2025 APPROVAL SUMMARY

Over the lifetime of the Fund, 737 applications were received, 55% of which were approved.

This year, the SPF received 59 new applications, and approved 39 projects. Some approved projects were initially submitted in a previous Fiscal Year. As such, the Fund has awarded funding to 408 projects in its lifetime.

59

Applications received this year

39

Projects awarded funding by SPF in 2025

408

Projects awarded funding overall by SPF

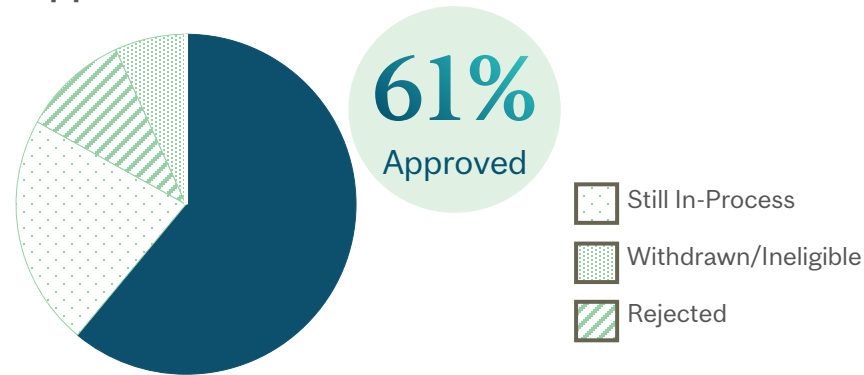
55%

of applications approved since 2010



FY2025 APPROVAL SUMMARY

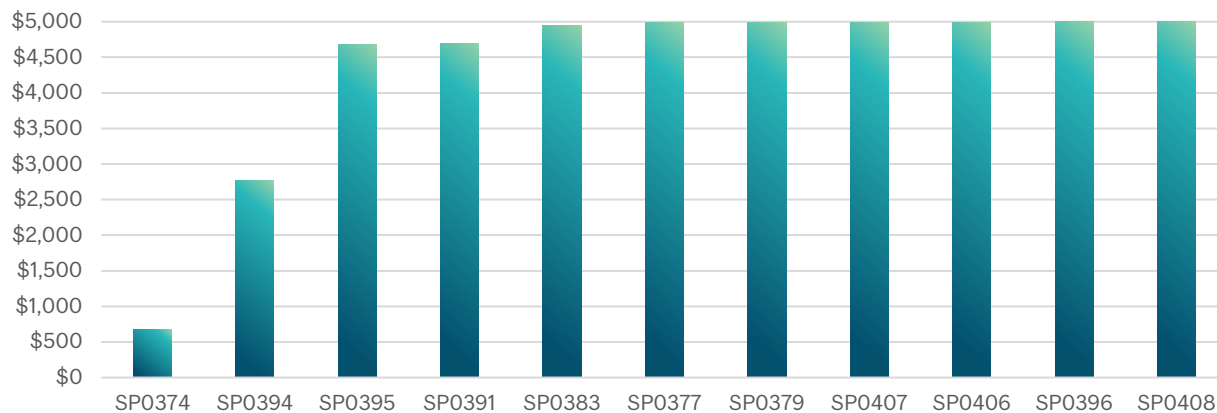
FY2025 Applications Status



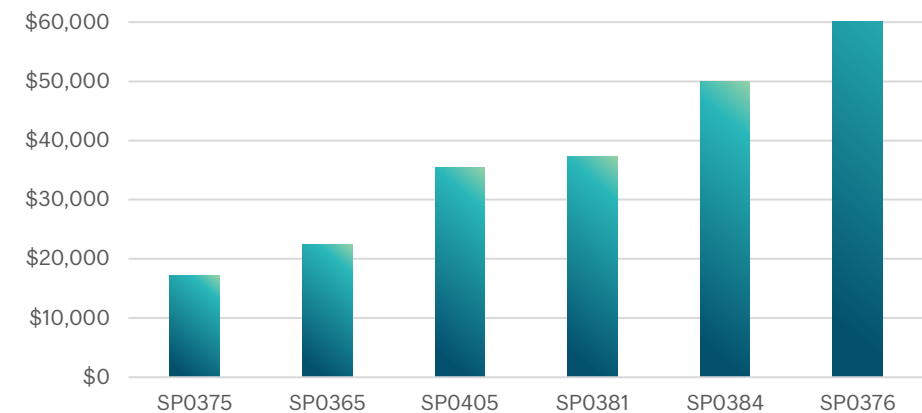
Approved \leq \$300 (Tiny Stream)

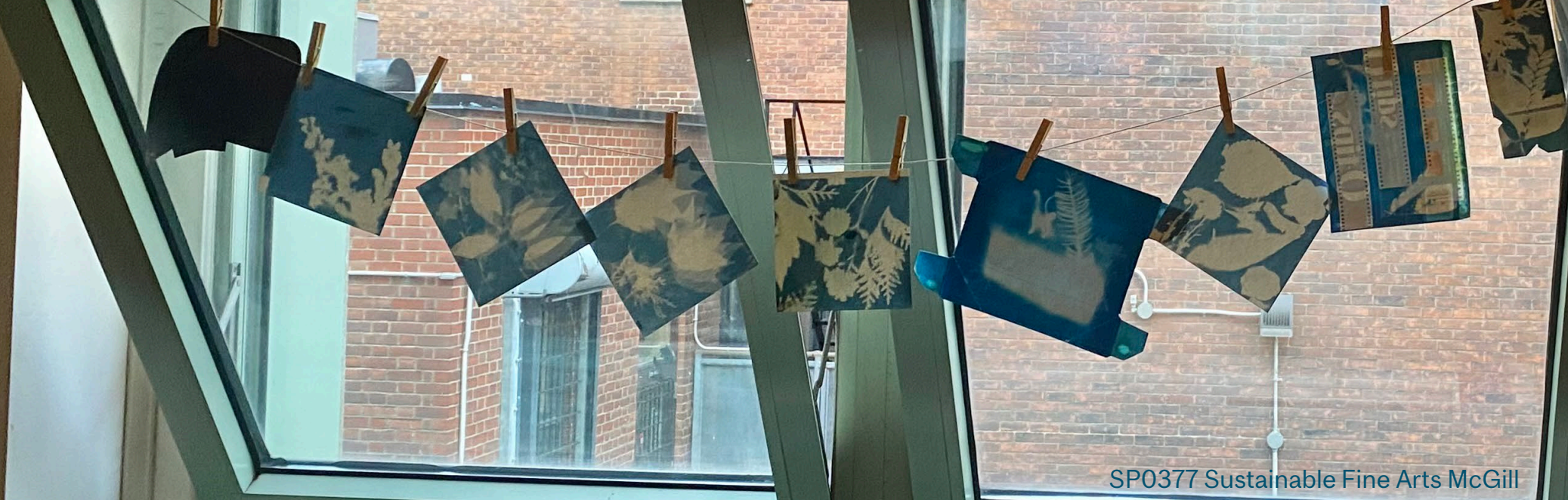


Approved Under \$5,000 Stream Project Funding



Approved Over \$5,000 Stream Project Funding



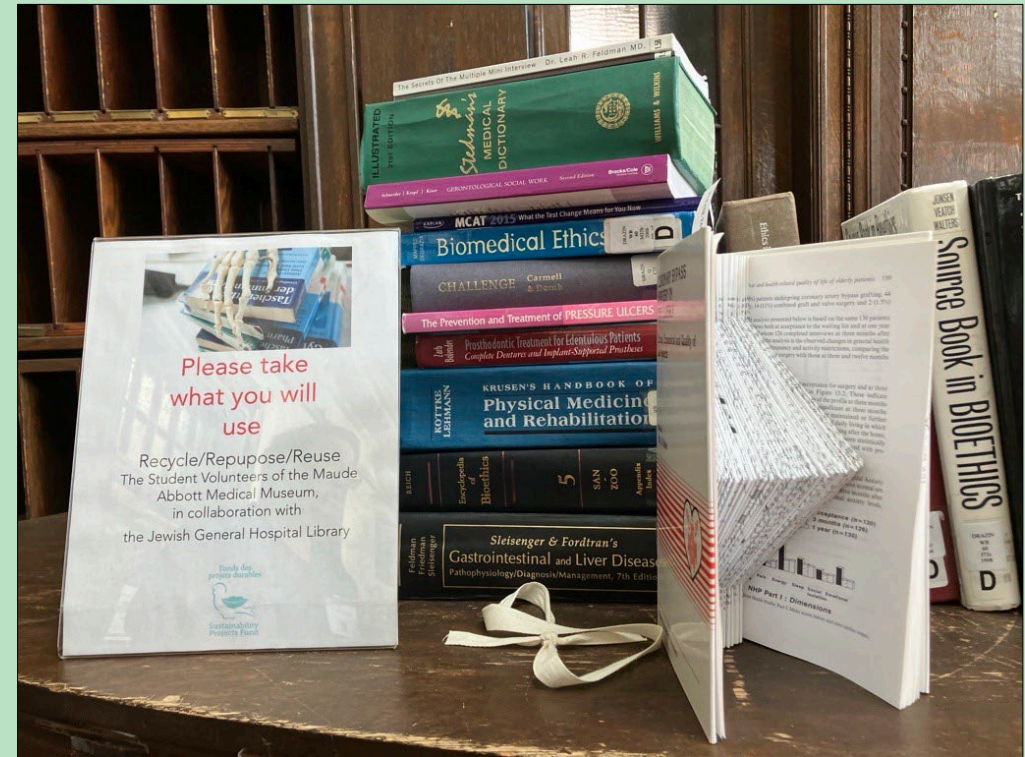


SP0377 Sustainable Fine Arts McGill

APPROVED PROJECTS

≤\$300 (TINY STREAM)

- SP0371 Education Community Garden Expansion & Pest Protection** \$300 Approved
- SP0372 Recycled Book and Notebook Give Away** \$230 Approved
- SP0373 Compost Bin for MUCC** \$300 Approved
- SP0378 Education Frosh 2024** \$300 Approved
- SP0380 CGSS Bagel Hour** \$300 Approved
- SP0382 New2Wheels** \$300 Approved
- SP0385 Panel on Intergenerational Activism** \$300 Approved
- SP0386 Architecture Eco-Scavenger Hunt** \$300 Approved



SP0372: Books on display at the Recycled Book and Notebook Giveaway event. Over eighteen boxes of books were redistributed to students.

≤\$300 (TINY STREAM)



SP0397: Students gathered at the 3rd Annual American Fisheries Society Quebec Student Subunit Symposium

- SP0387 MUGS x SASSS Burnside Plant Repotting and Propagation** \$300 Approved
- SP0388 Teach-In for 21st Century Learning: Education 2030** \$300 Approved
- SP0389 Reducing Waste in the Harrington Research Group** \$150 Approved
- SP0390 Carbon Democracy: An Interdisciplinary Reading Group** \$260 Approved
- SP0392 Earth Day 2025 Plant Giveaway** \$271 Approved
- SP0393 Good Jobs Panel** \$300 Approved
- SP0397 3rd Annual American Fisheries Society Quebec Student Subunit Symposium** \$300 Approved

≤\$300 (TINY STREAM)

- SP0398 SustainaVision Design Challenge** \$300 Approved
- SP0399 Compost Project for Financial Services at 680 Sherbrooke** \$300 Approved
- SP0400 Desautels Earth Day 2025 plant giveaway** \$300 Approved
- SP0401 Mac Sustainable Menstruation Initiative** \$200 Approved
- SP0402 Contextual, situated, relational: Music as an agent of the socio-ecological transition**
\$300 Approved
- SP0403 Food, Fairness, and the Future: Climate & Economic Justice for Rural Communities** \$300 Approved
- SP0404 Plants for the Workplace!** \$300 Approved



SP0404: Staff enjoying new plants in their workplace

≤\$300 (TINY STREAM)



SP0398: SustainaVision Design Challenge



SP0401: Mac Sustainable Menstruation Initiative

≤\$300 (TINY STREAM)



SP0400: Desautels Earth Day 2025 plant giveaway



SP0403: Food, Fairness, and the Future: Climate & Economic Justice for Rural Communities

UNDER \$5,000

SP0374

Orientation Week 2024 Compost (Science x Engineering)

\$672 Approved

A project to place organic waste collection bins at every Frosh event where food is served along with trained staff to provide waste education.

SP0377

Sustainable Fine Arts McGill

\$4,190 Approved

A project to establish a space for eco-art creation at McGill with an aim to enliven climate participation and facilitate discussion.

SP0379

McGill Farmers' Market Accessibility Initiatives

\$4,900 Approved

A project to establish a financial aid program to broaden the reach of the McGill Farmers' Market Community Supported Agriculture initiative.

SP0383

McGill Food Coalition

\$4,944 Approved

A project to bridge the gap between food groups on campus, students, and staff and increase awareness about the campus food system.

SP0391

Transforming Recycling Bins into Public Art Displays on Campus

\$5,000 Approved

A project to repurpose recycling stations at the Desautels Faculty of Management and transform them into PLEXIGLAS-topped display cases for public art to be freely enjoyed on campus.

SP0394

New2Wheels

\$2,762 Approved

A set of four workshops, featuring bike safety education and bike-lane tours near campus to help McGillians gain confidence in urban cycling.



SP0394: Students enjoy a bike-lane tour during one of the New2Wheels cycling workshops. 93% of participants stated increased confidence in city biking.

UNDER \$5,000


SUSTAINABILITY AT FROSH

Sustainability Projects Fund

To help us maintain a standard of sustainability at Frosh, we would like to thank the SPF for funding to help with providing compost bins and materials at our events with food!

The Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) mandate is to build a culture of sustainability on McGill campuses through the development and seed-funding of interdisciplinary projects.


It creates opportunities for the McGill community to actively engage in sustainability initiatives on campus, empowering individuals to be change agents in their own studying and work environment. Valued at \$1 million annually, the SPF is the largest fund of its kind in Canada. Since 2010, more than \$10 million has been allocated toward over 260 projects. We are working to build a culture of sustainability on our campuses with the #McGillSPF.



SUSTAINABILITY AT FROSH


CARBON OFFSETS

Over 200\$ of **carbon offsets** were purchased to compensate for emissions produced during Science Frosh 2024! Carbone Scolere Quebec promotes sustainability education in schools across the province.



COMPOST @ FROSH

0.52 T	of organic waste diverted from landfill
214 L	of agricultural-grade soil created
0.37 T	of greenhouse gas emissions reduced



SP0374: Orientation Week 2024 Compost (Science x Engineering)



SP0377: Sustainable Fine Arts McGill

UNDER \$5,000

SP0395

Climate Wayfinding at McGill

\$4,680 Approved

A transformative six-part workshop series designed to help students channel eco-anxiety into purpose-driven action.

SP0396

Robohacks 2025

\$5,000 Approved

A hackathon organized by McGill Robotics. Participants competed in sustainability-focused challenges and attended talks from experts in robotics and sustainability.

SP0406

Autonomous Greenhouse

\$4,995 Approved

Promoting the benefits of a sustainable, campus-rooted food system at McGill through infographics and an interactive compact greenhouse model.

SP0407

Fresks at McGill: workshops on environmental challenges & sustainability

\$4,991 Approved

Four educational workshops designed to enhance awareness of climate change, biodiversity loss, digital sustainability, and the circular economy.

SP0408

“Summer Learning in the Garden”: A McGill Education Garden Event Series

\$5,000 Approved

A project to expand the mission of The Faculty of Education Community Garden by providing regular summer workshops focused on sustainability to connect the McGill and Montreal communities.



SP0408: Students attend a workshop on Anishinaabemowin in the garden as part of the “Summer Learning in the Garden” event series.

UNDER \$5,000

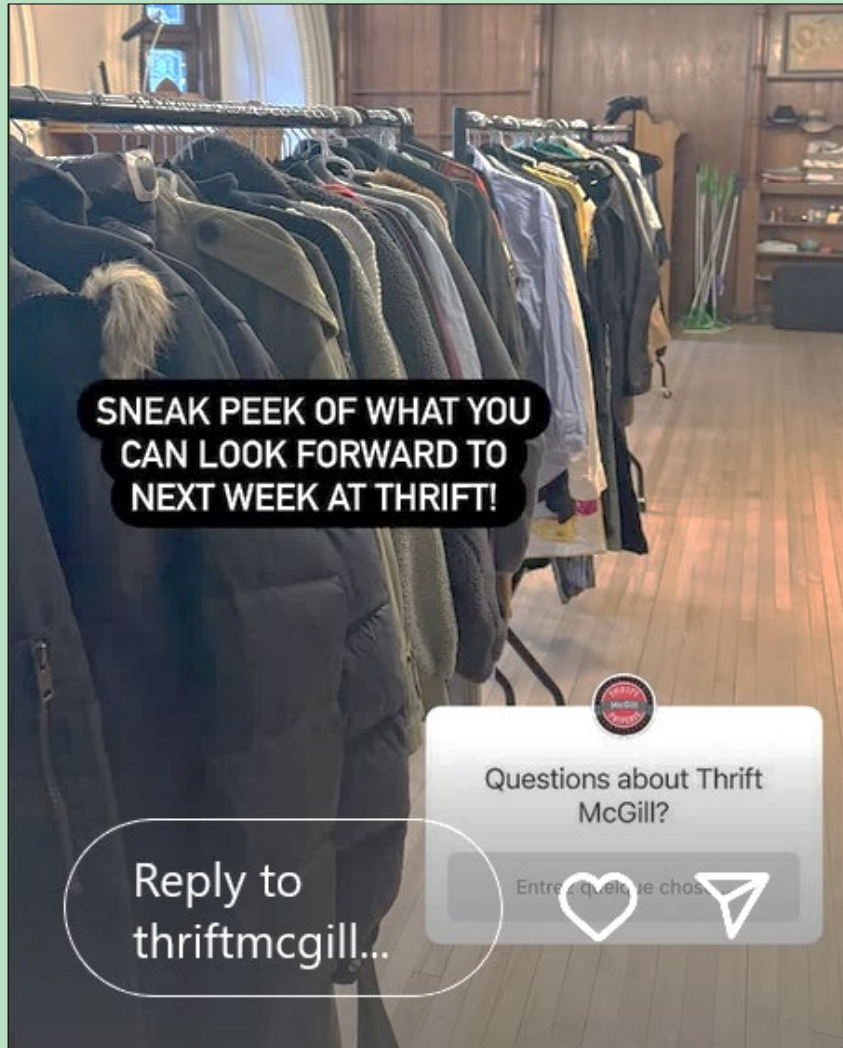


SP0395: Climate Wayfinding at McGill



SP0407: Fresks at McGill: Workshops on environmental challenges and sustainability

OVER \$5,000



SP0381: Thrift McGill provides free items for students and staff to take home. On the first day of opening, 210 attendees took nearly 300 items.

SP0375

NeedleAID Green: Recycling needle-caps & reducing sharps container waste

\$17,130 Approved

Placing novel safe needle preparation devices and receptacles for recycling needle-caps in research and animal facilities around McGill.

SP376

Sustainability-driven modernization of the Shaver Poultry Complex

\$85,000 Approved

Implementing aviary housing at the Shaver Poultry Complex for welfare-intended and climate-conscious egg production to provide sustainable eggs for the McGill feeding McGill Initiative.

SP0381

Thrift McGill / Friperie McGill

\$37,349 Approved

A McGill thrift store, where students and staff can donate items and take items home for free.

SP0384

Bronfman Building Composting Project

\$50,000 Approved

Implementation of composting stations with 100% availability in the Bronfman building, educating students and staff on proper sorting procedures and building toolkits for future project leaders.

SP0405

Renewing Waste Systems in McGill's Student Spaces

\$35,475 Approved

Implementation of McGill's 4-stream waste infrastructure in student-run spaces.

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES

The SPF offers a unique opportunity for McGill community members to develop project management skills.

Experiential learning is an excellent complement to classrooms and workplaces across campus. This year, the SPF received 19 Final Reports from project organizers. The outcomes from these reports are summarized below.

2,600+
volunteers and other
participants trained

20
collaborations
developed

"Organizing RoboHacks 2025 provided our team with **invaluable hands-on experience** in project management, logistics, coordination, budgeting, external communications, and stakeholder engagement. Team members **developed skills** in navigating institutional systems, negotiating with sponsors, and designing technically coherent challenges, all of which are **directly transferable to professional settings.**"

Engineering students compete in a hackathon to develop robotic solutions for automated seed planting (SP0396)



SPF GOVERNANCE COUNCIL + TEAM

FY2025 Governance Council Membership

STUDENTS



Annelies Koch-Schulte
SSMU



Cameron Toy Kluger
SSMU



Alex MacDonald
MCSS



Zeina Seaifan
PGSS

STAFF



Diane Dechief
Academic



Emily Sprowls
Academic



Wesley McCoy
Administrative



Kendra Gray
Administrative

In the spirit of staff-student collaboration, which drives the SPF, the Governance Council consists of eight voting members who provide decisions and feedback on project applications by consensus:

- four students (two SSMU, one MCSS, and one PGSS representative),
- two academic staff,
- two administrative staff

SPF GOVERNANCE COUNCIL + TEAM

Additionally, the following McGill Office of Sustainability staff directly supported the SPF in FY2025:

- **Megan Toth**, Sustainability Officer, SPF Administrator
- **Peter Garber**, Sustainability Officer, Engagement
- **Shona Watt**, Associate Director, SPF Steward
- **Karen Oberer**, Sustainability Officer, Monitoring & Reporting
- **Chloe Hedley**, Communications Officer
- **Océane François-Saint-Cyr**, Communications Intern
- **Veronica Marallag**, Communications Intern



SPF AMBASSADORS

WHO ARE THE SPF AMBASSADORS?

*They are a group of volunteer student leaders who champion the SPF to increase visibility and student engagement. This year, the Ambassadors collectively interacted with over **3,830 students** through class presentations and tabling.*

Thank you to this year's Ambassadors:

- Alyssa Upton
- Aster Gamarnik
- Caitlyn Moore
- Catherine Murphy
- Céline Fernande Anne Gruz
- Connor Gunn
- Elizabeth Roberts
- Emma Zgonena
- Erica Lin
- Evelyn Rogan
- Francesca Foy
- Grant Borucki
- Léonie Christelle Lado Nguedam
- Lily Weinstein Terry
- Maia Bergeron
- Mairin Burke
- Maja Vlahovic
- Mariana Moncada de la Fuente
- Noémie Setlakwe
- Pavani Miglani
- Sahel Delafoulhouse
- Saule Zaprauskis
- Simon Lindsay-Stodart
- Annelies Koch-Schulte
- Naya Tawil



SPF AMBASSADORS AROUND CAMPUS

Ambassadors worked on independent projects, including the creation of a hand-painted mural to indicate that the SPF had funded McGill Feeding McGill at Mac campus (pictured left).



Mural at Mac painted by Aster Gamarnik



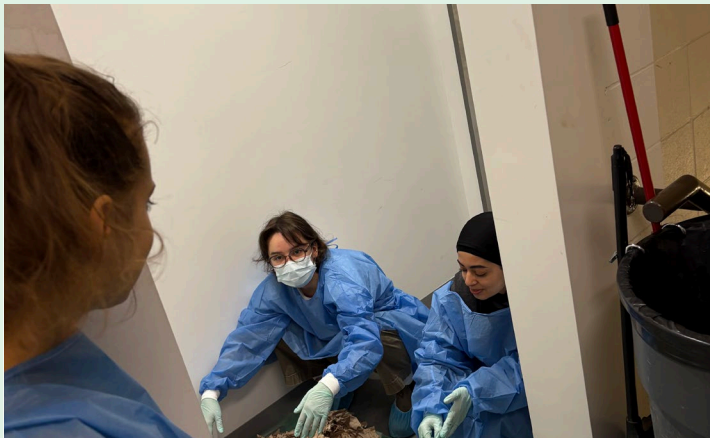
Tabling at orientation



Mosaic for Zero Waste Zone

SPF AMBASSADORS ADVANCING FUNDED PROJECTS

Ambassadors also assisted with existing SPF-funded projects, including compiling data on common names for species found on campus (pictured right).



Waste audit for SP0384:
Bronfman Building
Composting Project



Bike engagement survey for
SP0303: Sustainable
Commuting Program



Working session to advance
biodiversity atlas for SP0344:
Biodiversity Plan



SP0344 Implementing the McGill Biodiversity Plan

RECOGNITION

SPF 15th ANNIVERSARY EVENT

In September 2024, the SPF Anniversary Event welcomed over 100 attendees. 10 project teams animated kiosks to showcase their progress and engage students, faculty, and students.



2025 EMERALD KEY AWARD

In March 2025, three SPF project leads received the Emerald Key Award.

This award, given by the Scarlet Key Society, recognizes student leaders who go above and beyond what is expected of them, and who demonstrate outstanding dedication to advancing sustainability on campus. Juliet Guay (center left), Elias Maldonado (not pictured), and Göktuğ Bender (center right) were recognized as leaders for their projects regarding polystyrene recycling in labs and integrating sustainability into dining halls, respectively.



From left to right: Shona Watt (Associate Director Sustainability), Juliet Guay (PhD'25), Göktuğ Bender (BA'24), François Miller (Executive Director Sustainability)

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

In October 2024, the Sustainability Projects Fund earned the top prize in the Student Engagement category of the International Green Gown Awards.

The SPF was recognized as the winner in the 2024 International Green Gown Awards, a prize affiliated with the UN Environment Programme that celebrates exceptional sustainability initiatives at universities from around the world.

The judges recognized the SPF as a “robust project that effectively integrates students into tangible sustainability actions, with measurable results and strong community engagement.” Also recognized: the SPF’s clearly defined application criteria, and the fact that any student, staff, or faculty member can apply. “In addition, the project demonstrates a very good system of democratic process of governance.”

WINNER 2024

Winner



McGill University, Canada

Catalysing community: The Nature of McGill’s Sustainability Projects Fund

IN THE NEWS

— McGill’s Sustainability Projects Fund marks 15 years of improving campus life —

The program has enabled thousands of students to put classroom knowledge into real-world practice.



— Fighting climate change together —

FSCI 198 encourages students to take a proactive, collaborative approach to finding climate solutions



— McGill Desautels aims to serve as a model on composting —

Faculty’s strategy, in aid of the University’s goal of achieving zero waste by 2035, includes making bins accessible, and educating students and staff on what does – and doesn’t – go into them



— McGill introduces workshops aimed at reducing eco-anxiety —

Climate Wayfinding will offer ‘the time and space to reflect on what a meaningful, sustainable path in climate action can actually look like’



SOCIAL MEDIA

LinkedIn Post

Event recap: Contextual, situated, relational: Music as an agent of the socio-ecological transition



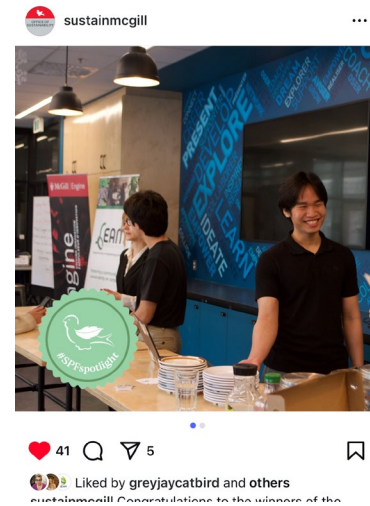
Instagram Reel

Thrift McGill/Friperie McGill
48K+ views
Created by SPF Ambassadors



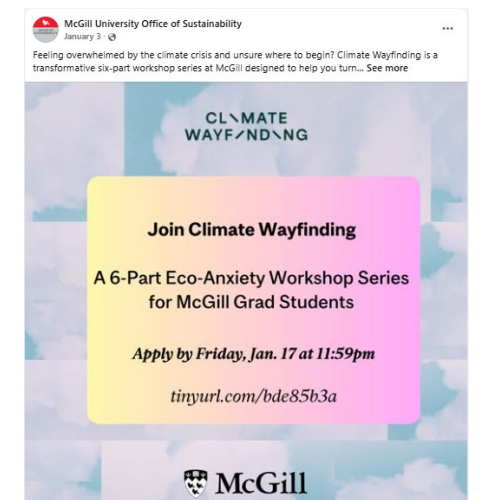
Instagram Post

Event recap: SustainaVision Design Challenge



Facebook Post

Call for participants: Climate Wayfinding at McGill



CONNECT WITH THE SPF



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mcgill.ca/sustainability/spf

spf.sustainability@mcgill.ca

