

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025

Empowering our community
Advancing our efforts
Transforming our campuses



McGill

Office of
Sustainability

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Climate & Sustainability Strategy lays out a pathway for McGill to improve its relationship with the land and the people with whom we share it.

McGill University is located on Indigenous territory home to the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabeg nations. We honour and respectfully recognize the Kanien'kehà:ka as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which people of the world now gather. We acknowledge with gratitude the diverse Indigenous peoples whose presence in this territory is past, present, and future.

Historically, the cultural protocol of acknowledging traditional territory served to reify the importance of place and identity for Indigenous peoples. Within many Indigenous communities, protocol requires that individuals situate themselves and their relationships to the people and the land. For many Indigenous peoples in Canada, and increasingly in broader Canadian society, traditional territory acknowledgements are an important practice at ceremonial events that acknowledge and honour Indigenous peoples' connections to their ancestral lands.

The city of "Montreal" is known as Tiohti:áke in the language of the Kanien'kehà:ka people, one of the founding nations of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy. In the language of the Anishnaabeg, "Montreal" is known as Mooniyang.

Among the many values and traditions central to Haudenosaunee culture is that of the Seventh Generation, a principle memorialized in the Great Law of Peace, the oral constitution of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. This principle explains that all decisions and actions made in the present must take into account the welfare of those who are not yet born. This fundamental responsibility not only applies to environmental ethics, but to all choices that affect the culture and wellbeing of our descendants.

While this Strategy looks ahead to 2025, the Seventh Generation principle reminds us to look further: to live and act today as if we are only borrowing the world from future generations. It is our sincere hope that the McGill University Climate & Sustainability Strategy can push our University forward towards a path that recognizes this sacred duty.

WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

2020 has been a year of unprecedented crisis and disruption. We have all been challenged to reconsider what it means to go about business-as-usual. The McGill University Climate & Sustainability Strategy also challenges the status quo, aiming to guide our community to move towards a better future for our local and global societies.

From our research to our operations, the Strategy highlights a series of bold initiatives aimed at embedding sustainability into all key sectors of the University. We are building upon the successes of Vision 2020, our previous Climate & Sustainability Action Plan, to forge our way to a socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable future.

To this end, McGill has expanded on its long-term targets. In addition to achieving carbon neutrality by 2040 and attaining a Platinum sustainability rating by 2030, we are now committing to becoming zero-waste by 2035.

Most importantly, we are creating space for you, our community, to help shape our future. The vision set out in our Strategy can only be brought to life through our collective actions. As this tumultuous year has demonstrated, the challenges at our doorstep are urgent. We all have a part to play in becoming ambassadors for an ecological and equitable transition, and we are eager to continue this journey together.



SUZANNE FORTIER
Principal and Vice-Chancellor

SUZANNE FORTIER
Principal and Vice-Chancellor



YVES BEAUCHAMP
*Vice-Principal
(Administration and Finance)*



CHRISTOPHER MANFREDI
*Provost and Vice-Principal
(Academic)*

WORD FROM THE VICE-PRINCIPAL (ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE) AND THE PROVOST AND VICE-PRINCIPAL (ACADEMIC)

We are proud to release McGill's latest Climate & Sustainability Strategy for 2020-2025. This ambitious Strategy identifies achievable actions focused on the University's operations and academic activities that will further position McGill as a leader among universities with respect to sustainability.

The Climate & Sustainability Strategy builds on orientations and commitments embedded in previous high-level planning documents, such as the Campus Master Plan, the Energy Management Plan 2016-2021, the Strategic Academic Plan 2017-2022, the Strategic Research Plan, and the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

Everyone at McGill has a role to play in ensuring sustainability, and the eight categories and two transversal themes of the Strategy reflect just how inclusive and cross-cutting this commitment is for our campuses. We believe that the actions that have been identified in the Strategy will guide and inspire students, faculty, and staff through the next chapter of our sustainability journey.

We look forward to seeing our community work together to take the small steps and large leaps necessary to help us reach our sustainability targets.

PROF. YVES BEAUCHAMP
Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance)

PROF. CHRISTOPHER MANFREDI
Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)

FALL 2025

A STUDENT'S FIRST DAY ON CAMPUS

We're in 2025 and I am finally starting my journey at McGill. I've wondered what this day would feel like for so long, walking onto campus for the first time. Would I be scared? Excited? I've already completed the online modules that were required of me—even that one about sustainability on campus. I think they've helped ease my nerves, even if just a little bit.

Campus feels different than I thought it would. It is warm, welcoming, and verdant. Clusters of students sit across the lower field. We're in the middle of downtown Montreal, yes, but I felt like upon walking through the Roddick Gates, I've entered a community unique to itself. The trees on Mount Royal act as a backdrop to the downtown campus and their bright green leaves are holding out for the last bits of warm weather. They call me through campus and up the mountain.

As I walk up towards the Y-Intersection, I see more hints of green peeking over the rooftop of a building I've yet to learn the name of. I wonder what's growing up there. A cyclist whizzes by me and stops to lock up their bike at the building's entrance. There are more bikes than I can count, but it somehow seems like there's still room for more.

Next to the bike rack I notice a waste sorting station. Right! That was covered in the sustainability module. I was worried they'd be hard to find when I got

to campus, but they seem to be everywhere. At least that's one concern off my list. The module also mentioned zero-waste zones. I have to look it up tomorrow.

I continue forward and just ahead of me, a table is overflowing with fresh produce. "McGill Farmers' Market," the sign reads. True, there's farm at the Macdonald Campus. I didn't know they also sold the food downtown. Students behind the table smile as they hand over boxes of fresh fruits and veggies. I'll have to remember to come back this way after my walk to grab an apple before class.

I continue my trek up through campus, towards the mountain, and I'm struck by how the historic grey stone blends seamlessly with the contemporary, light-filled buildings. Across the street from me is a construction project that also seems to walk the line between recognizing heritage while embracing an ambitious vision for the future. The poster on the fence reads, "The New Vic Project." As I approach, I read more closely: "Sustainability Systems" and "Public Policy." I wonder if I'll be able to take a class there one day.

I keep climbing upwards until I find myself off campus and among the trees. I am still a little scared and excited, but I have a feeling I'm going to like it here.

ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Once the Climate & Sustainability Strategy will have been implemented in 2025, McGill will look and feel different than it does in 2020. Some visible initiatives people may experience and come across are, for example:

- An inviting and educative zero-waste zone (WM1);
- Exciting sustainability engagement programs (CB8);
- A sustainability online module available to students, staff, and faculty (RE1);
- Lush and verdant exterior spaces and potentially a new green roof (LE2 + LE4);
- An increased number of bike parking (TC3);
- Fewer single-use items (FS8); and
- An engaging initiative to encourage units to go paperless (WM4).

INTRODUCTION

DEFINING SUSTAINABILITY

McGill adheres to the definition of sustainability set forward in the Brundtland Report (1987) where sustainable development “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Since this influential beginning, the concept of sustainability now recognizes the interconnections between the environmental, social, and economic dimensions, also referred to as the three pillars of sustainability.

In the past decades, many definitions of sustainability have been brought forward. These pluralistic views and definitions each contribute to shape a holistic understanding of our environment.

McGill's journey in embedding climate and sustainability considerations is marked by multiple achievements that extend over two decades.

- 1998** ● Founding of the McGill School of Environment
- 2001** ● Adoption of an Environmental Policy
- 2009** ● Creation of the Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF), a collaboration between students and the administration
- 2010** ● Adoption of a Sustainability Policy
● Conversion of the downtown campus to a pedestrian zone
- 2011** ● First LEED Gold certified building (Life Sciences Complex)
- 2012** ● Silver sustainability rating using the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS®)
- 2013** ● First University in Quebec to receive a Fair Trade Campus designation
- 2014** ● Release of McGill's Sustainability Strategy - Vision 2020
- 2016** ● STARS® Gold sustainability rating
● First five-year Energy Management Plan (2016-2021)
● Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education initiates
● Stewardship role of the Board of Governors over sustainability enhanced
- 2017** ● Release of McGill's Climate & Sustainability Action Plan (2017-2020)
● Creation of McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative (MSSI)
- 2019** ● Recipient of the International Green Gown Award's Sustainability Institution of the Year
● Named one of Canada's Greenest Employers for a third consecutive year
● Banned the sale of single-use plastic water bottles
- 2020** ● The SPF hits \$1,000,000 in funding per year
● Established the Board of Governors Committee on Sustainability
● Release of the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Strategic Plan 2020-2025
● Release of McGill's Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism

CONSULTATION PROCESS

Between January and September 2020, the McGill Office of Sustainability led an extensive consultation process. Social media posts and broad communications targeted at students, staff, and faculty have been seen over 65,000 times. During this period, specific contributions were collected from over 200 community members which helped shape and inform the content of the Strategy.

CATEGORY FOCUS GROUPS

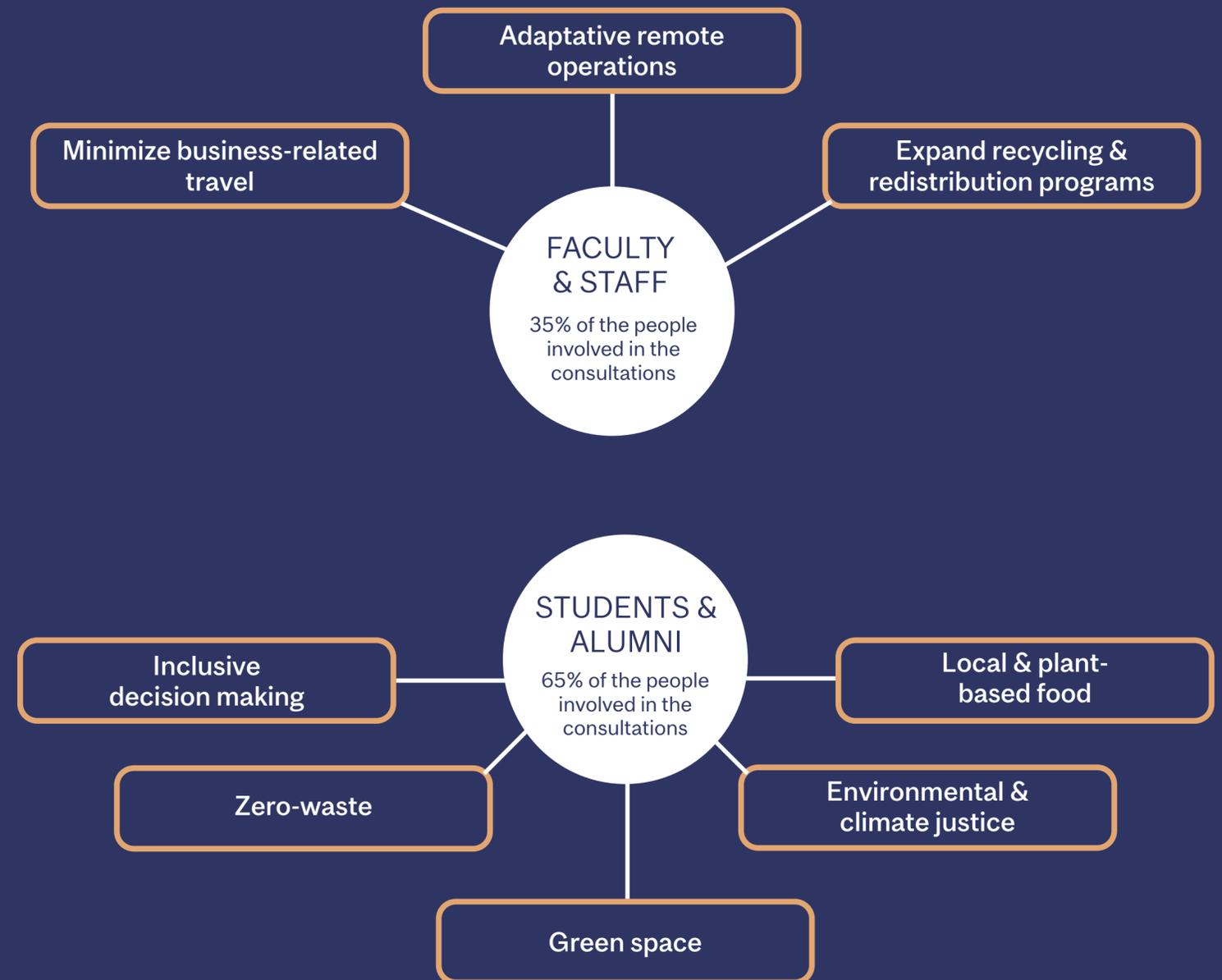
The first phase of consultations consisted of focus groups held with key stakeholders—students, staff and faculty—whose work intersected with the categories. Participants reflected on the potential objectives and actions that could be part of the Strategy, and how these would help achieve the University’s long-term targets.

VIRTUAL CONSULTATIONS AND WEB SUBMISSIONS

In response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of Sustainability transitioned its consultation process online in March 2020. McGill community members participated virtually in the process via facilitated remote consultations, online input forms, a collective vision board, and other platforms of engagement. Feedback collected from the virtual consultations drove the creation of an additional long-term target: to become zero-waste by 2035.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The illustration below provides a visual overview of key ideas brought forward by the McGill community during the consultation process.



COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

Broad communication and outreach efforts were maintained throughout the consultation process. Amongst these, two articles were published in the McGill Reporter, numerous social media posts were created, sustainability newsletter articles and blurbs in the student and staff *What's New* were shared, and a McGill-wide Instagram takeover took place over the course of a three-day campaign.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SUSTAINABILITY

Established in 2016, the Advisory Council on Sustainability (or the “Council”) is comprised of 18 members representing students, staff, faculty, as well as external members. The Council regularly discussed the Climate & Sustainability Strategy, and actively contributed to the development of the Strategy.

BOARD COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABILITY

The Board Committee on Sustainability started its activities in September 2020. It brings together members of the Board of Governors, the Senate, student associations, staff and faculty, as well as members from the general public. In line with its mandate, the Board Committee on Sustainability endorsed the McGill University Climate & Sustainability Strategy after a comprehensive review process.

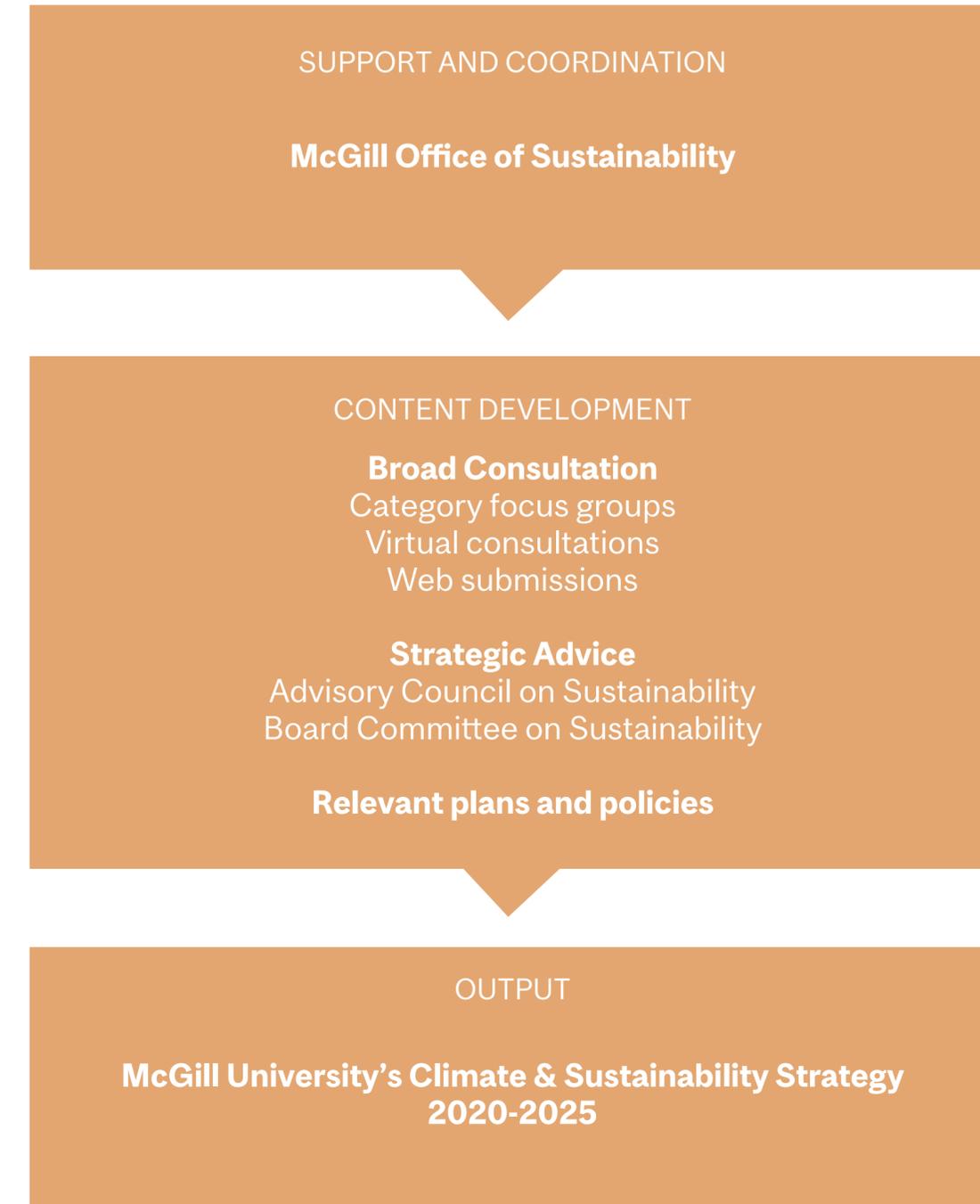
RELEVANT PLANS AND POLICIES

The content of the Strategy was also shaped by existing plans and policies, such as the following:

- Energy Management Plan (2016-2021)
- Strategic Academic Plan (2017-2022)
- Provost’s Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education: Final Report (2017)
- Sustainability Policy (2018)
- Waste Reduction and Diversion Strategy (2018-2025)
- McGill Master Plan (2019)
- Strategic Research Plan (2019)
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategic Plan (2020-2025)
- McGill’s Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism (2020-2025)

BUILDING THE MCGILL UNIVERSITY CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

The illustration below provides an overview of the building blocks leading to the creation of Strategy.



LONG-TERM TARGETS



**PLATINUM
SUSTAINABILITY
RATING**
by
2030

Attaining a **Platinum sustainability rating** means that McGill must commit to embedding sustainability in all areas and at every level. This means implementing key actions that incorporate sustainability in the University's operations, academics, engagement initiatives, and planning and administration activities.



**ZERO
WASTE**
by
2035

Becoming **zero-waste** means that McGill must reach a diversion rate of 90%. That will be done through bolstering education initiatives, and implementing changes in the campuses' infrastructure, supply chain and waste collection programs.



**CARBON
NEUTRAL**
by
2040

Achieving **carbon neutrality** means that McGill reaches net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by completing a series of key actions like large-scale energy transformations, electrification of the University vehicle fleet, and offsetting a portion of air travel emissions.

1

LONG-TERM TARGET 1: ATTAIN A PLATINUM SUSTAINABILITY RATING BY 2030

The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS®) developed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) is a transparent, self-reporting framework that is widely used by colleges and universities. Over 1,000 universities and colleges have used it thus far.

STARS® is built around four categories: Academics, Engagement, Operations, and Planning & Administration. A score is provided to each organization based on more than 1,000 datum across 70 credits. Additional points can be earned through the submission of “Innovation & Leadership” projects or initiatives that go above and beyond what STARS® asks in the report.

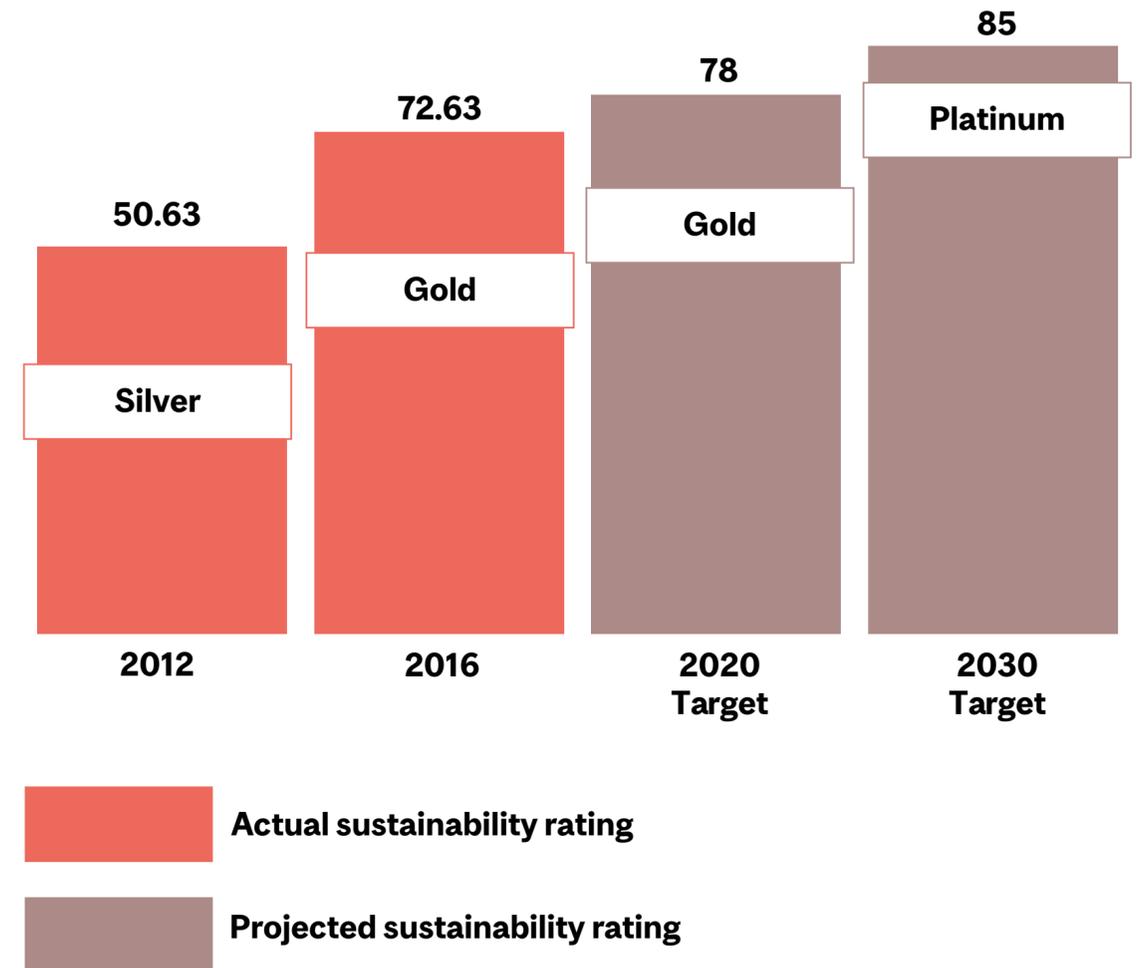
There are five levels of recognition for STARS®:

- Reporter
- Bronze (minimum score: 25)
- Silver (minimum score: 45)
- Gold (minimum score: 65)
- Platinum (minimum score: 85)

Submissions are reviewed by AASHE staff prior to confirmation of rating. McGill received its first STARS® rating in 2012, achieving Silver. Since this inaugural assessment, McGill has made significant progress which was reflected in the University’s move to a Gold rating in 2016. The Platinum rating is the highest achievement. At the time of this document’s publication, only two universities in Canada had reached the Platinum level¹.

The vast scope of the data needed for the STARS® report and the rigorous demands required for obtaining a Platinum sustainability rating means that McGill must commit to embedding sustainability in all areas and at every level. McGill’s 2016 rating was submitted under version 2.1. of the STARS® system, which has now been upgraded to version 2.2. While a higher score for our 2020 STARS® report is anticipated, it is worth noting that it will become increasingly difficult to obtain and maintain a Platinum rating as the STARS® system is further developed.

McGill’s STARS® Score



2

LONG-TERM TARGET 2: BECOME ZERO-WASTE BY 2035

Since the adoption of the McGill Waste Reduction and Diversion Strategy in 2018, the University has made significant efforts to increase awareness about waste sorting habits and improve waste infrastructure on campus. From initiatives such as standardizing waste signage, setting up a new data collection and tracking system, to progressively rolling out an organic waste collection program, McGill is gradually reducing its waste footprint. In order to achieve major changes in waste management, a bold target needs to be set.

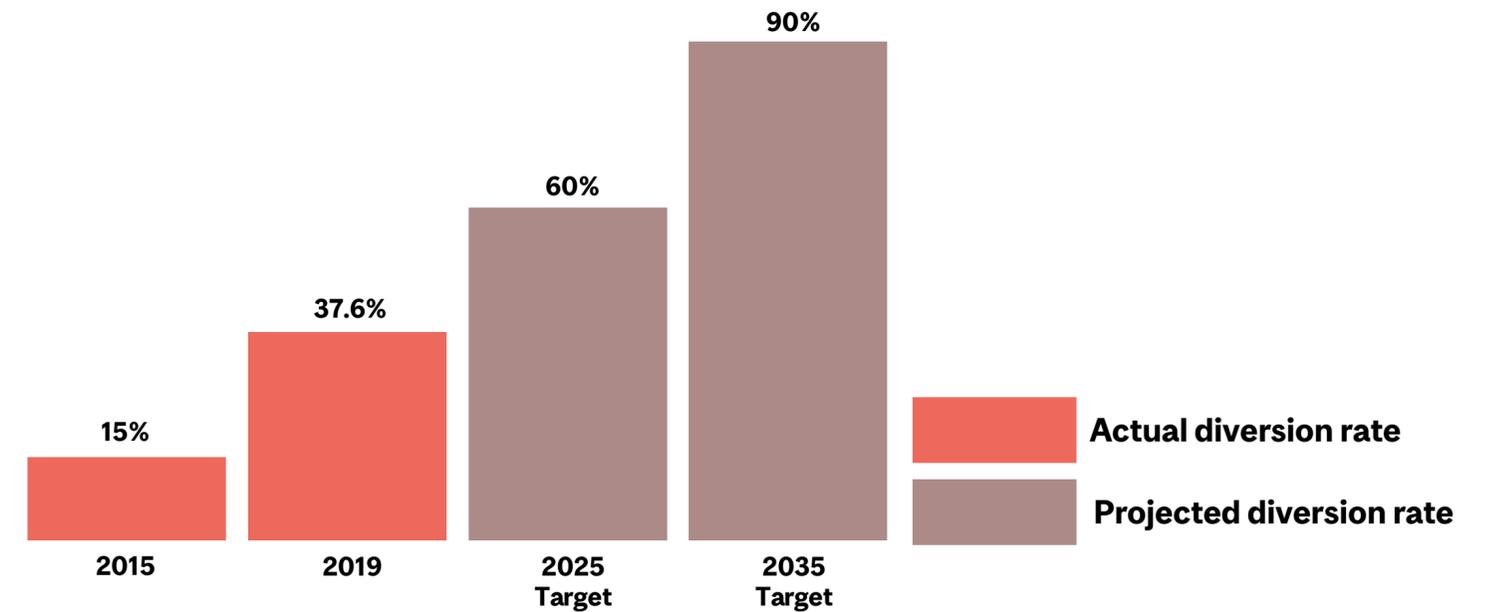
Becoming zero-waste implies that McGill reaches a waste diversion rate of 90%.² This percentage is based on the internationally recognized standard³ that zero-waste means achieving a diversion rate of 90% or higher. In 2019, the University's waste diversion rate was 37.6% compared to an estimated 15% in 2016.

In order to achieve this target, McGill will have to make changes in the campus infrastructure, supply chain, programs, and bolster education and

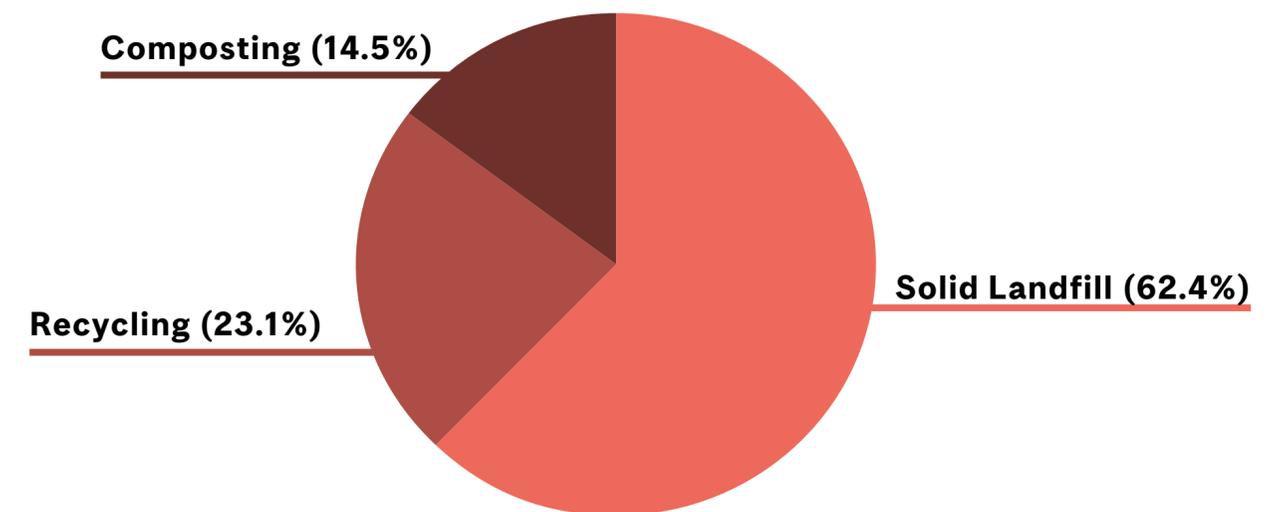
engagement initiatives. To meet a mid-term goal of 60% diversion rate by 2025, the University will rely on setting up intergrated waste sorting stations, expanding compost collection and reducing the amount of waste generated. In 2018 a waste audit was performed in major academic buildings on the downtown campus, revealing that 46.6% of the matter found in the landfill stream was organic. The roll-out of university-wide compost collection will help make significant progress towards this long-term target.

The scope of the target includes day-to-day waste produced on both the downtown and Macdonald Campus. The target does not consider hazardous waste, or construction and demolition waste. The latter will be reevaluated for inclusion in 2025. This decision was based on benchmarking from U15 universities as well as internal contextual elements. Among McGill's research-intensive peer institutions in Canada (U15), five universities have committed to reach an 80% waste diversion rate or more.⁴

McGill's Diversion Rate



McGill's Waste Diversion Streams (2019)



² The waste diversion rate is the percentage of waste that an organization diverts away from landfills or incinerators.

³ As per stated by the Zero Waste International Alliance.

⁴ University of Alberta (90% by 2020). University of Waterloo (90% by 2035). University of Calgary (80% by 2020). UBC (80% by 2020). University of Ottawa (80% by 2050).

3

LONG-TERM TARGET 3: ACHIEVE CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2040

In 2017, McGill launched its Climate & Sustainability Action Plan (2017-2020) which included a commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040.

Carbon neutrality is a process that is intended to achieve net-zero greenhouse gases (GHG) by implementing a combination of actions aimed at: 1) eliminating greenhouse gas emissions wherever feasible, 2) sequestering carbon through the use of carbon sinks, and 3) purchasing carbon offsets. Therefore, the three considerations of carbon neutrality in order of priority are: GHG reductions, carbon sequestration, and carbon offsets.

Most of McGill's peer universities that have committed to carbon neutrality focus solely on reductions in scope 1 and scope 2 emissions. By including select scope 3 emissions⁵ in its long-term target, McGill is taking an ambitious approach to carbon neutrality, demonstrating leadership and accountability. Most of the University's scope 3 emissions come from commuting and air travel.

The University's target of achieving carbon neutrality by 2040 is aligned with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) decarbonization timeline.

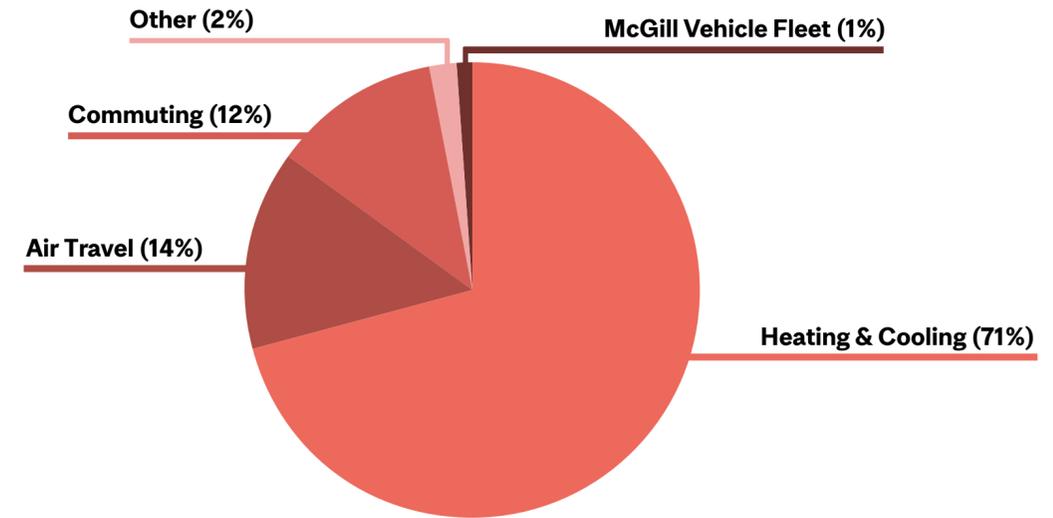
Due to the urgency of climate change, strong commitments and actions, such as those laid out in the Strategy, need to be implemented and prioritized in order to significantly reduce our carbon footprint.

In 2019, the University's gross GHG emissions amounted to 58,091 tonnes of CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent). Carbon sequestration occurring on McGill-owned forested lands (mostly at the Gault Nature Reserve and the Morgan Arboretum) contributes to removing GHGs from the atmosphere. The University's net carbon emissions, which account for the sequestration happening at McGill, was 55,462 tCO₂e for 2019.

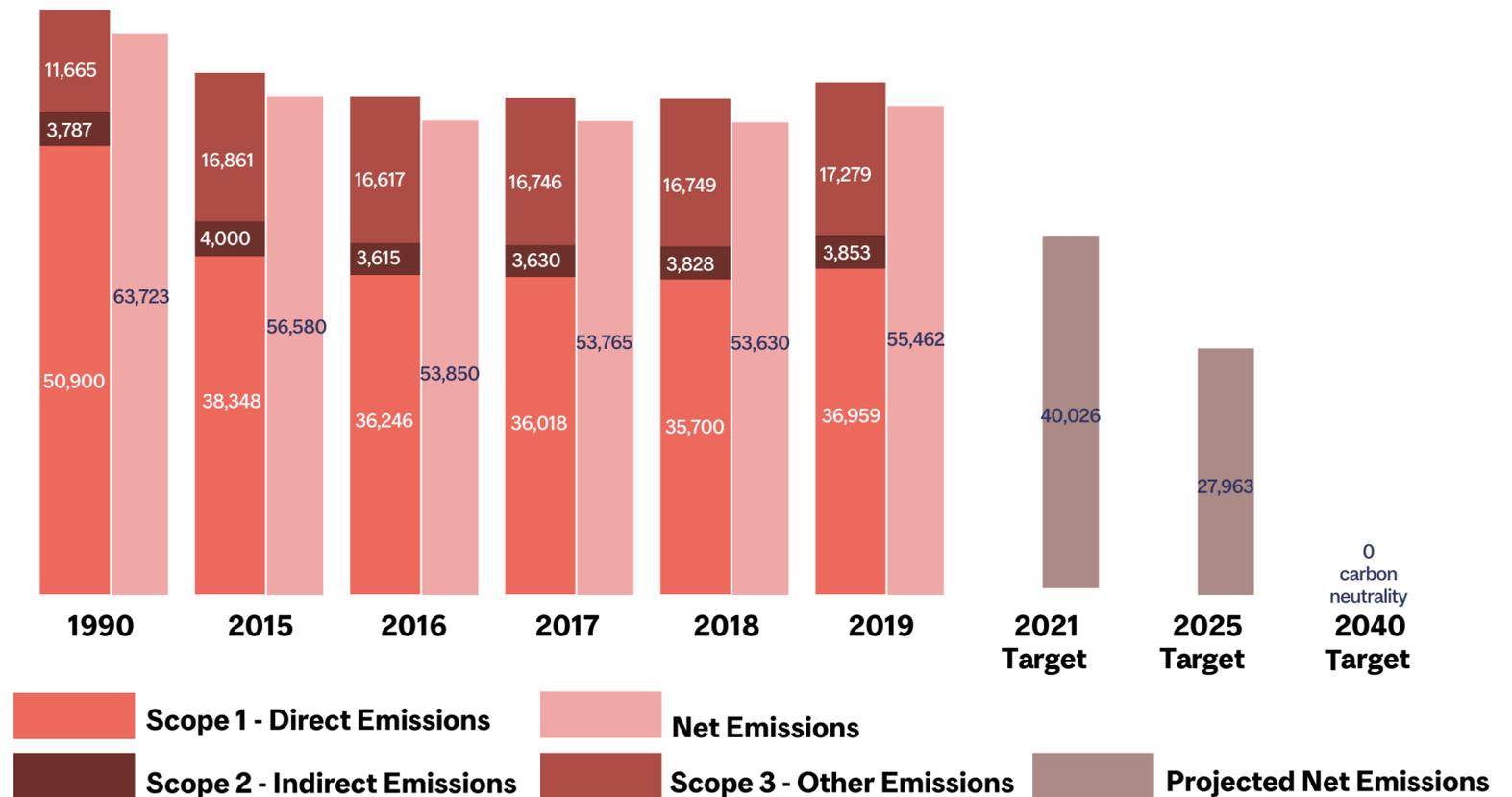
In the upcoming months, progress towards carbon neutrality will be substantial with key reduction measures planned under this Strategy. These measures include: large-scale energy transformations, electrification of the University vehicle fleet, and major steps towards offsetting a portion of the University's air travel emissions. McGill's carbon neutrality target date will be reassessed in 2025 to consider potential changes in regulations, available technologies, carbon markets, and climate conditions.

⁵ Greenhouse gas emissions are grouped into three Scopes: Scope 1 (direct emissions) includes emissions from sources owned or controlled by an institution, such as McGill's buildings and fleet vehicles. Scope 2 (indirect energy emissions) includes emissions from the generation of purchased energy, particularly electricity. Scope 3 (other indirect emissions) includes all indirect emissions not included in Scope 2 that occur in the value chain of the reporting institution, including both upstream and downstream emissions. Examples of Scope 3 emissions are commuting, leased vehicles, and air travel.

McGill's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Sources (2019)



McGill's Greenhouse Gas Emissions (metric tonnes CO₂e)



Net emissions represent the gross emissions (scope 1, 2, and select scope 3), minus the carbon sequestered and/or offset during the year. Targets are in net CO₂ emissions.

CATEGORIES

The McGill University Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025 covers a five-year period and is structured around eight categories:



Research & Education encompasses the research activities conducted on and off campus, as well as the learning outcomes that shape all McGillians.



Food Systems involves the full cycle by which food is produced, distributed, and consumed at McGill.



Buildings & Utilities focuses on the built physical spaces, as well as activities involved with heating and cooling.



Procurement considers the environmental, social, and economic impact in the selection and purchase of goods, resources, and services.



Waste Management addresses waste collection, sorting, reduction, and diversion efforts on campus, including recycling and composting.



Landscapes & Ecosystems emphasizes effective management and responsible stewardship of the University's outdoor spaces.



Travel & Commuting encompasses the ways in which members of the University move to, from, and between campuses, including business-related travel.



Community Building addresses how the University builds connection amongst its people and integrates social sustainability.

DEFINITIONS

CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

Every category of the Strategy includes a category objective. Each objective is formulated as a broad climate and sustainability ambition to strive towards by 2025. Significant progress towards these category objectives will support the University in achieving its three long-term climate and sustainability targets.

FLAGSHIP ACTION

Every category of the Strategy includes a flagship action. These flagship actions stand out from the other complementary actions for multiple reasons: their level of ambition, their potential to mobilize various stakeholders, and their contribution to the category objective.

TRANSVERSAL THEME

The McGill University Climate & Sustainability Strategy includes two transversal themes: **Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation** as well as **Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI)** which are embedded throughout the categories of the Strategy. These themes are the foundational principles in which our practice of sustainability is anchored (refer to Appendix 3 to see overlaps between the transversal themes and action items of the Strategy).

TRANSVERSAL THEMES

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION

Sustainability and climate change are inextricably linked. Largely attributed to human activities and associated greenhouse gas related emissions, adverse effects of climate change are already being felt globally, especially by vulnerable communities. Because climate change will impact all areas of McGill's operations and the well-being of its community, it is important to proactively include climate considerations in all categories of the Strategy. Reducing greenhouse gases generated from our own operations and adapting to climate change requires immediate coordination, innovation, and engagement.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION (EDI)

As our society faces increasingly complex global challenges, it is important to recognize that environmental problems are rooted in- and accelerate- social inequities. In fact, vulnerable communities are disproportionately affected by the negative impacts of sustainability issues, including climate change. By creating an equitable, diverse, and inclusive practice of sustainability that focuses on the power of community engagement, our University, and ultimately our society, is better equipped to respond to these urgent global challenges. Through mindfully incorporating the social dimension of sustainability, the University can strive towards a holistic and intersectional understanding of our environment.



RESEARCH & EDUCATION

The mission of McGill University is the advancement of learning, and the creation and dissemination of knowledge. McGill is a student-centered institution and one in which the learning of faculty, staff, and community partners is also actively supported. It is the University's role, as a research and educational institution, to produce learning outcomes that create aware and engaged citizens while taking responsibility for the environmental, economic, and social implications of research.

CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

By 2025, identify strategies to increase learning and research opportunities in sustainability.

PAST HIGHLIGHTS



Launched in 2019, McGill's Strategic Research Plan includes sustainability as a core commitment;



In 2020, a total of 24.9% of undergraduate and graduate courses are sustainability inclusive;



In 2020, sustainability research touches 23.3% of faculty members;



In 2017, the University invested \$10 million over five years to tackle some of the most complex and challenging issues in sustainability. This led to the creation of the McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative (MSSI); and,



The Sustainable Labs Working Group, comprised of student, staff, and faculty, helped reduce energy consumption and waste in labs.



FLAGSHIP ACTION

Implement a sustainability online module available to all students, staff, and faculty members.

The goal of this online module is to provide foundational information about sustainability at McGill, provide a catalyst for engagement, and foster a culture of sustainability on campus.

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIONS

Interdisciplinary and Applied Student Research

- Bolster the visibility of the MSSSI and continue to develop new research themes that tackle global sustainability and climate issues.
- Use the campus as a living lab for applied student research in climate and sustainability.
- Develop and implement opportunities to support Indigenous-led research strategies and initiatives by researchers.⁶

Sustainability Learning Outcome

- Launch a McGill-wide course in sustainability for all students.
- Develop a University-wide sustainability minor.
- Design workshops to support instructors in embedding sustainability into their curricula.

Environmental Impact of Research Activities

- Launch a Sustainable Lab Certification Program.
- Embed sustainability and climate components in the onboarding and training material of faculty members.
- Create a platform to facilitate the sharing and reuse of research assets.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

	Student	Staff	Faculty
Register for a SKILLS21 or SKILLSETS workshop to complement your academic learning.	●		
Attend a sustainability-focused event hosted by a club or student group.	●	●	●
Become a MSSI Member .	●	●	●
Use the campus as a living lab by participating in an Applied Student Research project.	●	●	●
Encourage your laboratory to implement sustainable practices as recommended by the Sustainable Lab Guide for Researchers .			●
Integrate information on climate change and environmental, economic, and social sustainability in your curriculum.			●



BUILDINGS & UTILITIES

McGill operates over 200 buildings across its campuses. With that in mind, it is essential to ensure that the University is built and managed efficiently, and that sustainability is embedded throughout its operations. While electricity in Quebec is nearly entirely renewable, the University still relies on natural gas for heating. Converting energy systems to electricity and investing in energy efficiency upgrades are at the heart of the University's strategy to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with buildings and utilities.

CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

By 2025, increase the environmental performance of buildings while reducing their carbon footprint.

PAST HIGHLIGHTS



In 2011, McGill's Life Sciences Complex was the first university-owned laboratory in Quebec to receive LEED Gold certification;



Green Building Standards are embedded in McGill's Design Standards;



The University was awarded \$1.8 million in federal funding to implement energy conversion and efficiency projects that will result in a reduction of approximately 10,000 tCO₂e;



Five smart energy grids were deployed across the downtown campus to maximize energy efficiency; and,



Solar panels and solar hot water heaters were installed at the Bellairs Research Institute of McGill University in Barbados.



FLAGSHIP ACTION

All new construction and major renovation projects to be, at minimum, LEED Gold certified.

Attaining [LEED Gold certification](#) will create accountability in the way the University constructs and renovates its buildings by adhering to high standards related to material selection, energy efficiency, waste reduction, and water management.

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIONS

Sustainability Performance of Buildings

- Integrate health, well-being, and accessibility considerations to the existing building design standards aligned with the [WELL certification](#).
- Develop social and environmental requirements in calls for tenders pertaining to construction, engineering, architecture, and planning projects.

Energy Conversion and Energy Efficiency

- Implement the new Energy Management Plan with particular attention to energy conversion projects, geothermal exchange projects, smart energy grids, and peak power demand management.
- Incorporate natural ventilation strategies to reduce HVAC energy consumption and improve occupant well-being.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

	Student	Staff	Faculty
Appoint a team member to shut down electronics and appliances over weekends and holiday breaks.		●	
Include the Campus Access Guides in your syllabus so that students become aware of accessible entrances, elevators, and washrooms.			●
Use the campus as a living lab by participating in an Applied Student Research project.	●	●	●
Shut down the sash in your laboratories whenever possible.	●	●	●
Create a health and well-being initiative for your building with funding from the Sustainability Projects Fund and/or SSMU's Equity Fund or Space Fund .	●	●	●



WASTE MANAGEMENT

From research labs to classrooms and cafeterias, waste comes from multiple sources. The University aims to rethink and reduce its consumption, and to divert waste from landfill through recycling and composting programs. Moving towards a zero-waste campus benefits land, water, and air quality while having a direct impact on the well-being of our global community. It involves rethinking our individual consumer habits, and supporting the University's efforts on waste reduction, collection, and sorting.

CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

By 2025, expand reuse, recycling, and composting efforts to increase the University's diversion rate.

PAST HIGHLIGHTS

-  McGill released its Waste Reduction and Diversion Strategy in 2018;
-  Waste signage has been standardized across the downtown campus;
-  Three hundred and forty tonnes of compost was collected in 2019;
-  The student-led Plate Club contributes to reducing waste by providing reusable dishware for events held by McGill community members; and,
-  An integrated waste education campaign called Rethink React was launched in Fall 2019.



FLAGSHIP ACTION

Implement a zero-waste zone on campus.

This educational space will be an invitation for the McGill community to take action and learn more about waste reduction practices. The zone will be clearly delineated to illustrate its unique purpose: to be free of landfill waste.

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIONS

Waste Generation

- Create a zero-waste brigade to promote best practices throughout the University.
- Complete the implementation of the Waste Reduction and Diversion Strategy (2018-2025).
- Launch a campus-wide initiative to encourage units to go paperless.

Recycling and Composting

- Install integrated sorting stations in multiple key areas of the campuses.
- Deploy a campus-wide compost collection system.
- Evaluate the implementation of in situ compost treatment sites.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

	Student	Staff	Faculty
Arrive to campus with a reusable drink bottle, mug, container, and utensils.	●	●	●
Acquire second hand textbooks, furniture, bicycles, and other goods on the SSMU Marketplace .	●	●	●
Ensure you are aware of proper waste management practices for landfill, recycling, and organic streams.	●	●	●
Encourage paperless communication.	●	●	●
Recycle McGill-owned electronic equipment by contacting your building's IT Asset Steward and/or IT Technical Steward.		●	●
Recycle your personal electronics through Reboot McGill .	●	●	●
Check out the Sustainable Event Certification , Plate Club and special event composting services to reduce waste from your events.	●	●	●



TRAVEL & COMMUTING

Travel and commuting activities at McGill are responsible for nearly one-third of the University's greenhouse gas emissions. The approach proposed in this Strategy aims to reduce business-related transportation emissions without compromising the University's mandate as a leading research institution. Reducing emissions from travel—especially air travel—and commuting is essential towards achieving the University's long-term target of reaching carbon neutrality by 2040.

CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

By 2025, develop initiatives to reduce the carbon footprint of commuting activities, directly-funded air travel, and McGill's fleet of vehicles.

PAST HIGHLIGHTS

-  The Office of Sustainability released a Sustainable Travel and Mobility Guide;
-  A total of \$250,000 was committed by the Sustainability Projects Fund to accelerate the electrification of McGill's fleet of vehicles;
-  McGill joined the City of Montreal and other partners in a commitment to reduce the environmental impacts of air travel; and,
-  McGill's bicycle collective, the Flat, promotes sustainable transportation by empowering visitors to learn how to fix their own bikes.



FLAGSHIP ACTION

Develop a carbon offsetting program to mitigate the environmental impacts of traveling.

McGill will develop a carbon offsetting project in partnership with Indigenous communities in Panama to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions deemed challenging to address, such as air travel.

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIONS

Commuting

- Expand the number of charging stations for electric vehicles.
- Enhance the quality and increase the quantity of biking infrastructure.
- Develop programs to encourage the use of sustainable and accessible transportation.

Air Travel

- Raise awareness about the environmental impact of air travel.
- Promote teleconferencing options to replace air travel whenever possible.

Vehicle Fleet

- Implement the Vehicle Asset Management procedure which mandates units to electrify their vehicles when possible.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

	Student	Staff	Faculty
Make the most of the 15% discount on annual Bixi memberships , available to all McGill community members.	●	●	●
Volunteer for The Flat Bike Collective and attend one of their workshops on bike maintenance.	●	●	●
Purchase carbon offsets whenever air travel is necessary.	●	●	●
Choose to travel by rail and benefit from a discount with VIA Rail .	●	●	●
Take advantage of the free Self-Serve Bicycles Service at Mac Campus .	●	●	●



FOOD SYSTEMS

Building sustainability food systems entails selecting vendors that source sustainably-produced food and support fair wages for their workers. It also means supporting regenerative agricultural practices through purchasing standards and progressively eliminating food packaging. Urban agriculture also plays an important role in promoting healthy choices, building community, and, at a smaller scale, reducing the carbon footprint of food production.

CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

By 2025, enrich sustainable food offering by promoting local, third-party certified, and plant-based options.

PAST HIGHLIGHTS



McGill is the first university in Canada to house two sustainably certified dining halls (Sanitas Per Escam certified), and to receive a Marine Stewardship Certification for fish and seafood;



Fifty per cent of all food on campus is sourced from Quebec or within 500 km of our downtown campus;



The Macdonald Campus Farm supplied 15,600 kilos of produce, 5,000 kilos of beef, and 95,000 eggs to McGill cafeterias during the 2018-2019 fiscal year;



Macdonald Campus joined the downtown campus in receiving a Fair Trade Campus designation in Fall 2019;



MealCare's student volunteers diverted over 2,722 kilos of food surplus from McGill cafeterias and vendors away from landfill since beginning their operations; and,



In 2019, over 10 student groups and nearly 200 staff were involved in urban agriculture initiatives.



FLAGSHIP ACTION

Explore the use of green roofs to grow food.

Implementing this type of infrastructure will encourage people to rethink current food systems while fostering social cohesion and well-being amongst the McGill community. At a smaller scale, this project will also provide locally grown produce.

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIONS

Sustainable Food Offering

- Increase the percentage of third-party certified food and plant-based options in food locations.
- Increase the amount of food produced at the Macdonald Campus and served in dining halls.
- Ensure that environmental and social considerations are factored into food service contracts and that supplier performance is monitored.
- Expand food options on campus that meet the cultural and religious needs of the McGill community.
- Support and promote student-led food-related initiatives, such as the McGill Farmers' Market.

Urban Agriculture

- Optimize the coordination of urban agriculture initiatives and foster relationships with external groups.

Wasted Food and Packaging

- Collaborate with food suppliers and internal stakeholders to reduce single-use items and food packaging while considering accessibility needs.
- Promote partnerships to distribute surplus food to local organizations.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

	Student	Staff	Faculty
Shop at the McGill Farmers' Market , the Mac Market, and the Buy your Own Bulk pop-up at Macdonald Campus.	●	●	●
Get involved in urban agriculture by connecting with student groups and /or registering to the Staff Gardens .	●	●	●
Join one of the many clubs and societies producing innovative food systems solutions.	●		
Order Fair Trade tea and coffee for your office.		●	●
Enjoy sustainable eating on campus through Food & Dining Services' Sustainable Menus and McGill Feeding McGill commitments.	●	●	●



PROCUREMENT

Sustainable procurement involves leveraging the University's supply chain to support environmental, social, and economic sustainability. McGill strives to have a deep understanding of the full life cycle of the goods and services it purchases. This involves food, office supplies, travel, IT equipment, furniture, vehicles, and more. Throughout this process, McGill aims to establish a culture of sustainable procurement practices internally as well as in the wider community.

CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

By 2025, raise awareness on sustainable procurement and contribute to the development of a circular economy.

PAST HIGHLIGHTS



Eighty-five people were trained in sustainable procurement between 2015 and 2020;



Forty partnerships have been developed with social economy businesses and Indigenous businesses;



McGill's sustainable procurement activities under STARS® was ranked second in the world and first in Canada in 2017; and,



More than a dozen groups of students from diverse faculties participated in Applied Student Research projects on sustainable procurement.



FLAGSHIP ACTION

Increase the amount of goods and services purchased from social economy businesses and Indigenous businesses.

McGill will enhance partnerships with local social economy businesses and Indigenous businesses. This commitment will help foster systemic changes by placing value on the social benefit of a purchase.

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIONS

Training and Awareness

- Work with buyers to increase the proportion of calls for tenders with specific sustainability criteria.
- Make Sustainable Procurement 101 training one of the mandatory activities for the Sustainable Workplace Certification.
- Develop and communicate guidelines for purchasing from social economy businesses and Indigenous businesses.

Climate Mitigation and a Triple Bottom Line Approach

- Encourage suppliers to provide information about the environmental and climate footprint of their products.
- Prioritize goods and services that are aligned with the University's carbon reduction target.

Circular Economy

- Develop an overarching Asset Management Policy and associated procedures in order to optimize the lifecycle management of University assets.
- Develop platforms to facilitate the sharing and reuse of University assets across faculties and units.
- Collaborate with other universities to support asset reuse, where possible.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

	Student	Staff	Faculty
Attend a Sustainable Procurement 101 training session and encourage your colleagues to do the same.		●	●
Follow the correct procedures for acquiring research assets, reusing research assets, and managing them when they reach their end of life.			●
Inform yourself about social economy businesses, Indigenous businesses, and circular economies.	●	●	●
Choose sustainable materials for your office supplies and favor purchases from social economy businesses and Indigenous businesses.	●	●	●
Follow the principles embedded in the Supplier Code of Conduct when purchasing goods and services for campus activities.	●	●	●



LANDSCAPES & ECOSYSTEMS

Between the lower field, the Morgan Arboretum, and the Gault Nature Reserve, members of the McGill community have always had access to outdoor space. Through the McGill Master Plan, the University aspires to enhance the quality of the on-campus experience for students, staff, and faculty, while adhering to principles of sustainable growth and responsible stewardship. From community gardens that emphasize urban agriculture, to the preservation of agricultural land on the Macdonald Campus Farm, and tree planting at the Morgan Arboretum, green spaces that elevate the McGill living and learning experience flourish across the University's campuses.

CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

By 2025, develop landscaping projects that reduce the heat island effect, increase biodiversity, and foster well-being.

PAST HIGHLIGHTS



McGill's Master Plan, adopted in 2019, sets the framework to sustainably manage all aspects of exterior spaces;



The Gault Nature Reserve and Morgan Arboretum sequester over 2,600 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year⁷;



Waste generated from landscaping activities is composted and reused as mulch or soil amendment; and,



A trail was redeveloped at the Gault Nature Reserve to improve access for local community members, with funding from the Sustainability Projects Fund.

⁷Boushey, I. 2019. "Evaluation of Aboveground Forest Carbon Sequestration for Climate Change Mitigation Targets: A Case Study on McGill University Properties".



FLAGSHIP ACTION

Ensure that vegetation initiatives increase canopy coverage and maximize local carbon sequestration.

Major tree plantation projects will increase our carbon sequestration and contribute to achieving our long-term target of carbon neutrality by 2040, while mitigating the negative impacts of climate change.

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIONS

Resilient Landscapes

- Use best practices for ecological design of exterior spaces that will lead to [SITES-certified landscapes](#).
- Create a plan for campus biodiversity that emphasizes native, adaptive, and edible species.
- Assess key climate risks for the University and define mitigation options.

Rainwater Management

- Evaluate the inclusion of climate resilient infrastructure, such as green roofs, on new and existing buildings.
- Leverage landscaping projects to reduce the amount of impermeable surfaces.
- Integrate rainwater retention features, where feasible.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

	Student	Staff	Faculty
Plan an event to promote knowledge of campus biodiversity with funding from the Sustainability Projects Fund Tiny Stream .	●	●	●
Take lunch breaks in one of McGill's green spaces, as recommended by the Sustainable Workplace Certification .	●	●	●
Visit the Gault Nature Reserve to promote a sense of stewardship for McGill's natural landscapes.	●	●	●
Encourage students to conduct an Applied Student Research project on urban agriculture, biodiversity, or ethnoecology.	●	●	●



COMMUNITY BUILDING

Several programs have been developed to address how the University builds connection amongst its community members and integrates social sustainability throughout its campuses. McGill aims to create a diverse, vibrant, and rich community where all feel a sense of belonging. The Provost's Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education, established in 2016, brought forward a set of specific calls to action for McGill. A number of these calls to action are addressed in the [Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Strategic Plan 2020-2025](#) as well as the McGill Master Plan. They are reinforced in this Strategy.

CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

By 2025, enhance opportunities for sustainability and well-being initiatives while increasing the representation of past and present communities on the campuses' physical spaces.

PAST HIGHLIGHTS



McGill won the Campus Sustainability Achievement Award for its sustainability engagement programs in 2019 from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE);



The SPF awarded funding for several community building projects such as the [Little Free Libraries](#), the [Spin Bike Gardens](#), and an [online learning experience for Indigenous students](#);



Campus Life & Engagement created trainings to increase the sustainability of orientation events;



As of October 2020, 43 sustainable workplaces and 300 sustainable events have been certified since the creation of these programs; and,



[My Healthy Workplace](#) facilitates a health-focused shift in McGill's workplace culture through continuous learning.



FLAGSHIP ACTION

Implement a Bicentennial Student Sustainability Challenge.

This challenge will be a hands-on learning opportunity for McGill students and recent alumni to turn ideas into projects that will have a meaningful impact on communities within our campuses and in our city.

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIONS

Diversity of Present and Past Communities

- Represent Black and Indigenous presence throughout the campuses' physical space.
- Provide ceremonial spaces for cultural practices such as smudging and burning of ceremonial medicine.
- Identify new naming opportunities on campus.

Engagement

- Support the implementation of key initiatives under My Healthy Workplace.
- Designate accessible spaces for activities promoting mental and emotional wellness.
- Embed sustainability and climate components in the staff onboarding and training material.
- Expand existing engagement programs in sustainability.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

	Student	Staff	Faculty
Become a Healthy Workplace Ambassador with My Healthy Workplace to co-create a work environment that promotes well-being.		●	●
Attend an event or workshop offered through the First Peoples' House cultural programming.	●	●	●
Learn how to sustainably certify your workplace with the McGill Sustainable Workplace Certification .		●	●
Join a sustainability group on campus.	●		



CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS LONG-TERM TARGETS

The following tables summarize how the actions included in this Strategy will contribute to the long-term targets by the year 2025.



PLATINUM SUSTAINABILITY RATING BY 2030

Current score	±76
Expected score in 2025	83.84
Gap to be filled by 2025	+7.84 points
Projected increase under the Strategy	+7.84 points

CATEGORY	KEY CONTRIBUTING ACTION	EXPECTED POINTS GAINED BY 2025
Research & Education	Launch a McGill-wide course in sustainability for all students.	2.96
Community Building	Expand existing engagement programs and workshops in sustainability.	1.48
Food Systems	Increase the percentage of third-party certified food and plant-based options in food locations.	1.08
Various	Other actions under the Strategy.	2.32
TOTAL		7.84



ZERO-WASTE BY 2035

Current diversion rate	37.6%
Expected diversion rate by 2025	60%
Gap to be filled by 2025	+22.4%
Projected increase under the Strategy	+22.4% (equivalent to reducing or avoiding 517 metric tonnes of waste)

CATEGORY	KEY CONTRIBUTING ACTION	EXPECTED WASTE DIVERTED OR AVOIDED BY 2025 (TONNES)
Waste Management	Install integrated sorting stations in multiple key areas of the campus.	146
Waste Management	Deploy a campus-wide compost collection system.	292
Food Systems	Collaborate with food suppliers and internal stakeholders to reduce single-use items and food packaging while considering accessibility needs.	25.5
Various	Other actions under the Strategy.	53.5
TOTAL		517





CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2040

Current Emissions	55,462 tCO ₂ e Net GHG emissions
Expected Emissions in 2025	27,963 tCO ₂ e Net GHG emissions
Gap to be filled by 2025	-27,499 tCO ₂ e
Projected change under the Strategy	-27,499 tCO ₂ e

CATEGORY	KEY CONTRIBUTING ACTION	EXPECTED GHG REDUCTIONS (tCO ₂ e) BY 2025
Buildings & Utilities	Implement the new Energy Management Plan.	13,501
Travel & Commuting	Develop a carbon offsetting program to mitigate the environmental impacts of traveling.	2,442
Travel & Commuting	Develop programs to encourage the use of sustainable transportation.	1,631
Various	Other actions under the Strategy	9,925
TOTAL		27,499

IMPLEMENTATION

The continued input and collaboration of the McGill community is key to ensuring a successful implementation of the Strategy. Distribution of ownership, strong communications and clear accountability are key to implementing the Strategy over the course of the 2020-2025 period. Ultimately, the McGill University Climate & Sustainability Strategy is a living document and will continue to be shaped by the voices and views of students, staff, and faculty.

SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS FUND

The Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) is a unique tool that can be leveraged to support the implementation of the Strategy. The SPF is the largest fund of its kind in Canada with a \$1 million budget per year. It aims to build a culture of sustainability on McGill campuses through the development and seed-funding of interdisciplinary projects.

SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUPS

The deployment of thematic sustainability working groups across the University will ensure that units across campuses are closely involved and coordinated in the implementation of the Strategy. Such working groups will be focused on priority areas of the Strategy.

DISTRIBUTED LEADERSHIP

In order to create meaningful and lasting changes on campus, every member of the McGill community must play an active role in implementing the Strategy. The following demonstrates how McGillians can contribute depending on their role.

Individuals

Actively engage in the implementation of the Strategy by referring to the “How Can I Get Involved” sections of each category. Discuss the Strategy with peers and consider how to create individual actions to advance the Strategy’s different objectives. Become involved in consultations and Town Halls for large, systemic changes within the University.

Heads of Administrative Units

Support and encourage staff to take part in sustainability working groups. Factor in climate and sustainability considerations in all new projects or initiative. Integrate sustainability-related objectives in the performance dialogue of your employees. Set unit goals that relate to climate and sustainable initiatives.

Chairs and Deans

Reflect on how your department / faculty can demonstrate leadership in sustainability and climate action.

Senior Leadership

Ensure leadership in sustainability and climate action. Hold direct reports accountable for the implementation of the Strategy.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The implementation of the Strategy does not solely rely on internal forces and capacities of the University. Partnerships with the external community are fundamental in accelerating this process and building resilient communities. For example, such partnerships may help us reimagine local food systems, strengthen our urban agriculture projects, or even bolster community-based research. By strengthening our ties with local organizations, our University aims to break down silos and identify solutions to tackle some of the complex challenges identified in the McGill University Climate & Sustainability Strategy.

COMMUNICATIONS

Effective communication is a key component to the successful implementation of the Strategy. Progress will be regularly communicated through the Office of Sustainability website, newsletter, blogs, and social media accounts, as well as through broader McGill platforms, such as the McGill Reporter and Alumni Magazine. Those activities will be supported by a broader communications plan.



MONITORING & REPORTING

Several tools will allow to track both the output and the outcome of the McGill University Climate & Sustainability Strategy, namely key performance indicators (KPIs), category metrics, and progress reports.

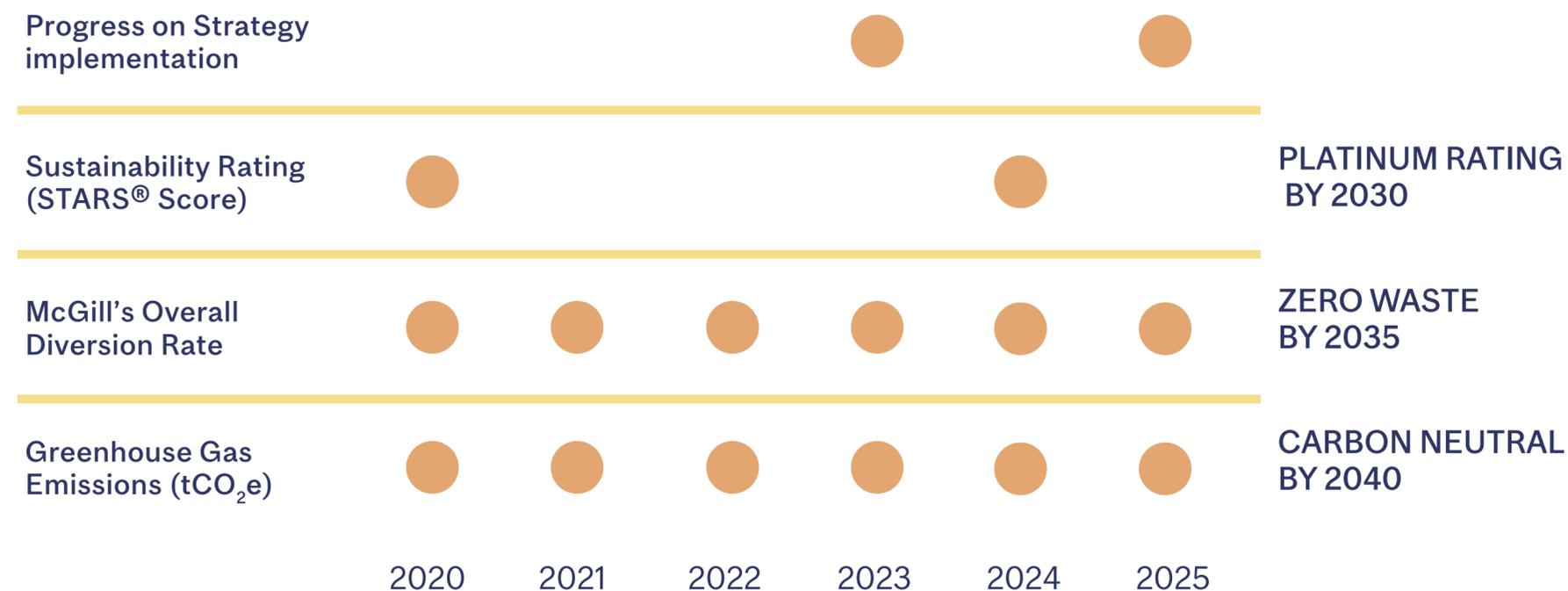
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Key performance indicators measure the progress toward an intended result. KPIs will be used to monitor and track how the University is progressing in implementing its three long-term targets as well as the Strategy as a whole. These KPIs are strategically aligned with the content of the current Strategy and are presented annually to the Board of Governors.

- The progress report on the Strategy will be reported twice (2023 and 2025).
- McGill's Sustainability Rating will be reported on every four years.
- McGill's waste diversion rate will be reported on annually.
- McGill's greenhouse gas emissions will be reported on annually.

The following KPIs are presented to the Board of Governors since 2017: Progress on Strategy implementation, Sustainability Rating and Greenhouse gas emissions. McGill's waste diversion rate is a new sustainability KPI that will be introduced as of 2021.

Public Reporting Timeframe for the Key Performance Indicators



PROGRESS REPORT

In order to ensure that the McGill University Climate & Sustainability Strategy is being implemented efficiently, the University will issue two progress reports: one at the halfway mark (2023), and one at the end date (2025). These reports will determine the level of completion of the actions listed under each category by assigning them with a percentage. This process-based information will provide a clear overview of how the University is progressing on the implementation of the Strategy. Updated category metrics will also be presented in the progress reports.





CATEGORY METRICS

The category metrics provide outcome-based information on the evolution of certain aspects of the eight categories of the Strategy. Category metrics are always linked to the objective and/or action(s) of a category, but sometimes indirectly. Their common denominator is that they can be relatively easily tracked and updated. Tracking these metrics over time will provide an obviously partial yet useful view of how the category is progressing. The category metrics are meant to be used to “spot check” how certain components of the Strategy are developing, to foresee potential issues and to suggest corrective measures. The desired trends for each category metrics are identified to help with that process. The category metrics may evolve over time.

In order to select the category metrics, five criteria were considered:

- **Data availability**
- **Ease of tracking**
- **Influence of individual behavior over the results**
- **Alignment with the category objective and/or actions**
- **Contribution to the long-term targets**

The information below also highlights how the category metric contributes to the long-term targets. For example, one of the category metrics for the “Travel and Commuting” category is the percentage of electric and hybrid vehicles in the McGill Fleet. In this case, the evolution of our percentage of electric and hybrid vehicles will have an impact on our long-term targets of reaching carbon neutrality and a Platinum sustainability rating. Information on the context and analysis for each metric is also provided.

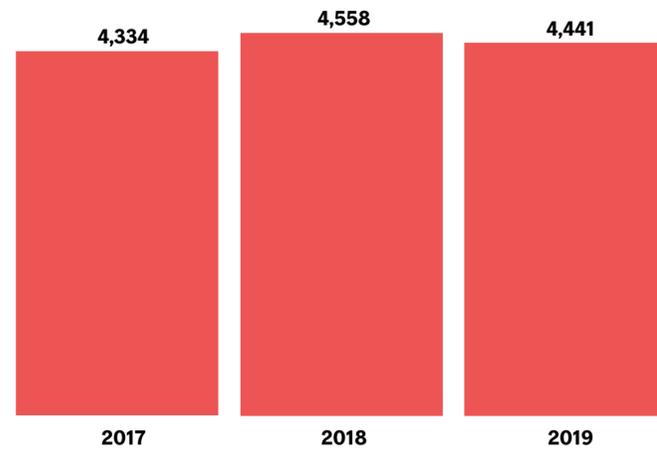


ALIGNMENT WITH LONG-TERM TARGETS

- Platinum sustainability rating by 2030
- Zero-waste by 2035
- Carbon neutrality by 2040

RESEARCH & EDUCATION

Number of McGill research publications associated with the UN Sustainable Development Goals



CONTEXT

This metric represents the number of publications produced by McGill researchers that relate to one of the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

ANALYSIS

McGill is one of the top Canadian contributors to publications related to SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being.

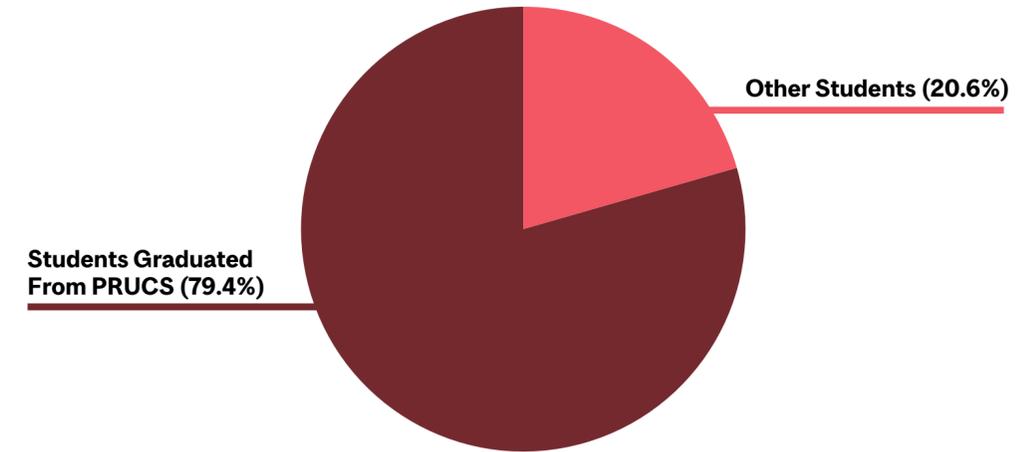
CAVEAT

Only publications indexed in Scopus are counted.

DESIRED TREND

Maintain or increase

Percentage of students who graduate from programs that require an understanding of the concept of sustainability (PRUCS) - 2019



CONTEXT

This metric represents the percentage of students that have graduated from programs that require an understanding of the concept of sustainability. This includes both undergraduate and graduate level students.

ANALYSIS

Further tracking of this metrics will allow for analysis.

CAVEAT

What qualifies as a “sustainability program” varies from institution to institution. At McGill, we define a sustainability program as one which requires the completion of sustainability-focused courses. A sustainability course covers sustainability topics and/or major challenges (e.g., global poverty, gender inequality, climate change, etc.)

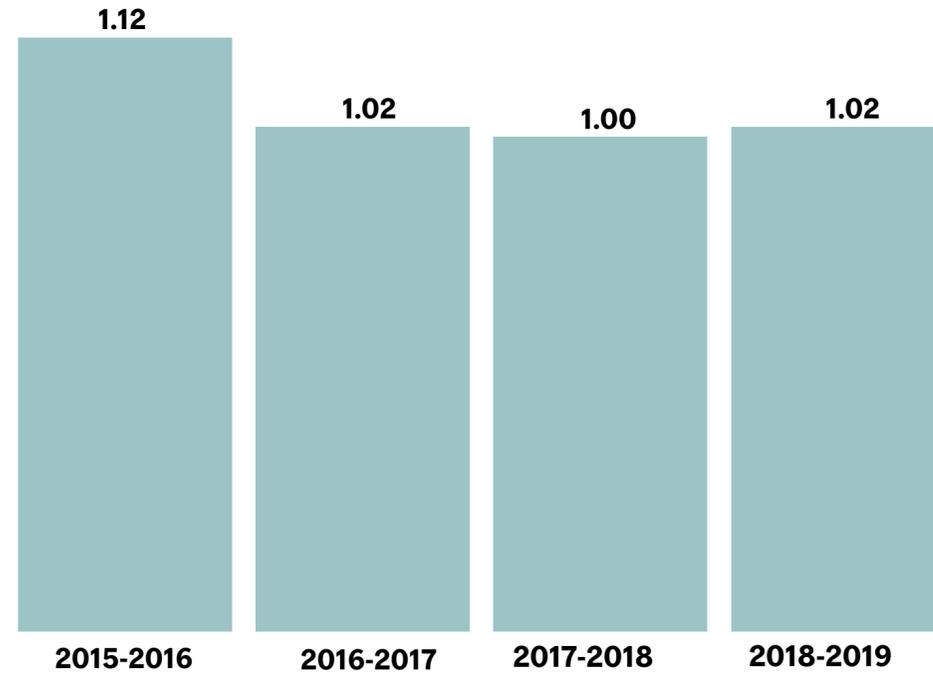
DESIRED TREND

Maintain or increase



BUILDINGS & UTILITIES

Building-related GHG emissions relative to full-time equivalent student (FTE)



CONTEXT

This metric represents the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emitted relative to full-time equivalent student (FTE).

ANALYSIS

GHG emissions per student enrolment have been decreasing due to energy efficiency and ongoing conversion projects. A slight increase between 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 is the result of a higher energy demand due to a colder average annual temperature in 2018-2019. Completion of major on-going energy efficiency projects will continue the overall downward trend for this metric into future years.

CAVEAT

The data includes only building-related Scope 1 and 2 energy emissions.

DESIRED TREND

Decrease

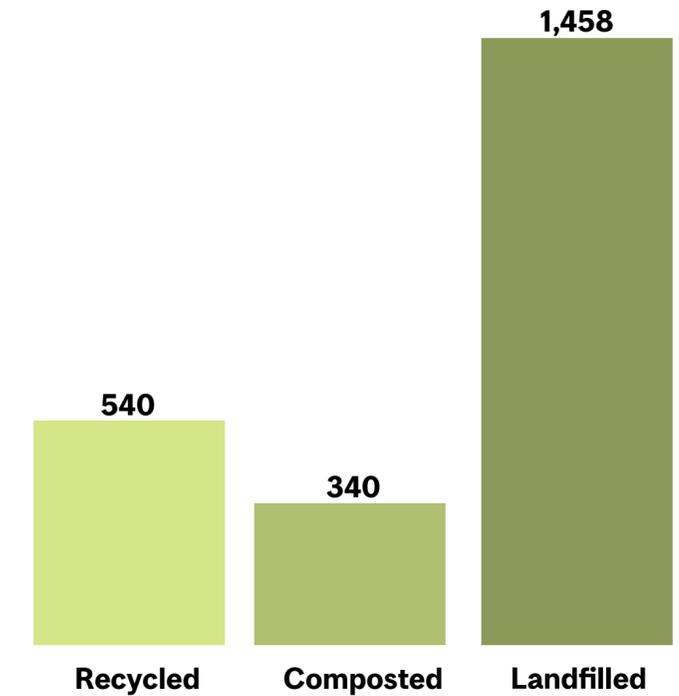
ALIGNMENT WITH LONG-TERM TARGETS

- Platinum sustainability rating by 2030
- Zero-waste by 2035
- Carbon neutrality by 2040



WASTE MANAGEMENT

Amount of waste per stream in metric tonnes (2019)



CONTEXT

This metric represents the tonnage of waste per stream.

CAVEAT

Because of changes in McGill's waste contracts, full data was only available for 2019. Therefore, no analysis can be performed at the moment.

DESIRED TREND

Decrease landfill tonnage

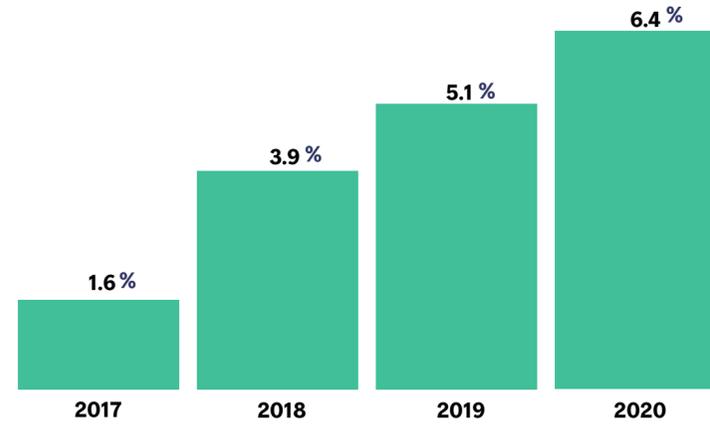
ALIGNMENT WITH LONG-TERM TARGETS

- Platinum sustainability rating by 2030
- Zero-waste by 2035
- Carbon neutrality by 2040



TRAVEL & COMMUTING

Percentage of electric and hybrid vehicles in the McGill Fleet



CONTEXT

This metric represents the percentage of electric and hybrid vehicles in the McGill Fleet.

ANALYSIS

The number of electrical vehicles in McGill’s fleet has significantly increased due to the development of major financial initiatives like the Electric Vehicle Subsidy. The Electric Vehicle Subsidy was developed with the financial support of the Sustainability Projects Fund.

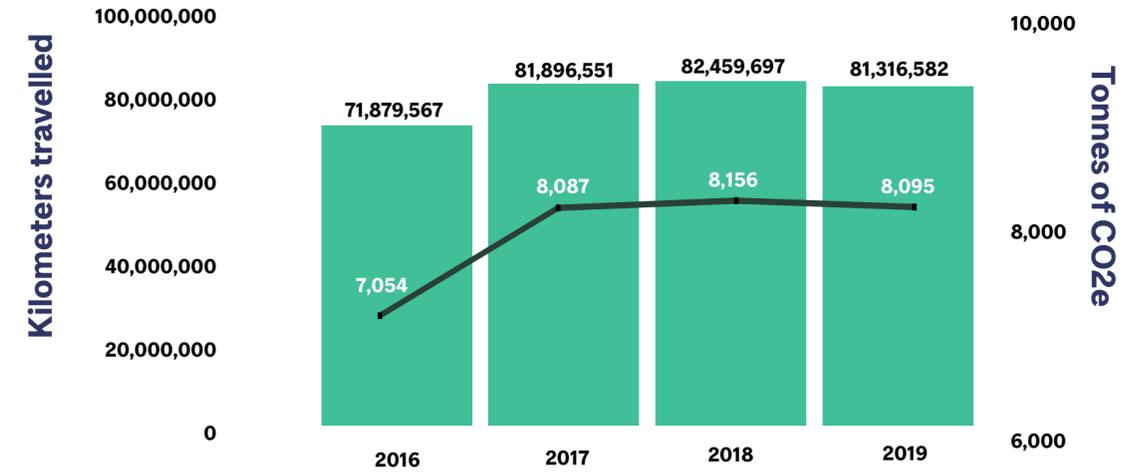
CAVEAT

Data for the years prior to 2019 does not consider decommissioned vehicles. The accuracy of the graph could be slightly affected.

DESIRED TREND

Increase

Number of kilometers travelled by directly funded air travel and associated greenhouse gas emissions



CONTEXT

This metric illustrates both the total number of kilometers traveled by plane (reimbursed through an expense report), and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

ANALYSIS

Recently launched documentation such as the Sustainable Travel and Mobility Guide have created awareness on the impact of air travel emissions on the University’s overall carbon footprint.

CAVEAT

Air travel data was sourced from McGill’s expense reporting system, which does not currently request details related to flight origin (only a destination field is included), route, multiple legs or class of travel. Assumptions were made to account for these gaps in data. Flight class was assumed “average” for all flights in absence of information.

DESIRED TREND

Decrease

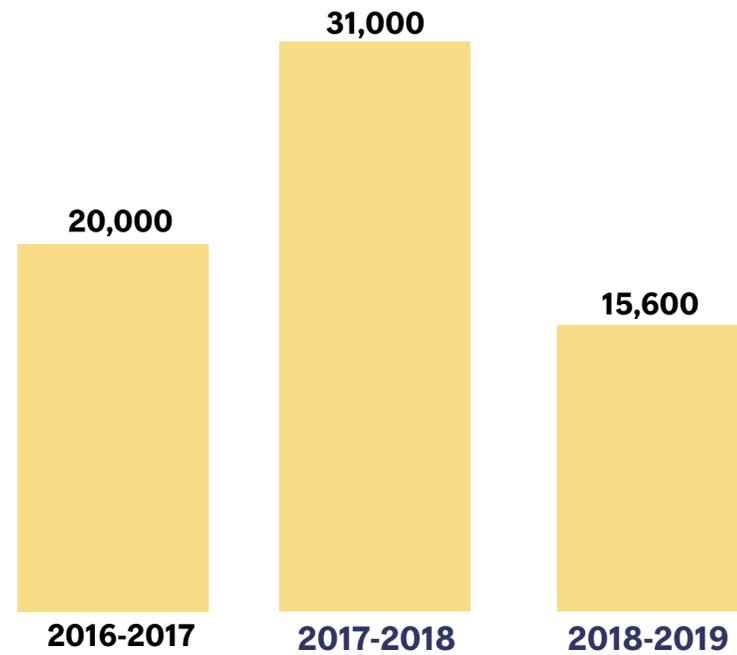
ALIGNMENT WITH LONG-TERM TARGETS

- Platinum sustainability rating by 2030
- Zero-waste by 2035
- Carbon neutrality by 2040



FOOD SYSTEMS

Macdonald Campus Produce Served in McGill Dining Halls (kg)



CONTEXT

This metric represents the total amount of produce from the Macdonald Campus Farm served in the McGill Dining Halls.

ANALYSIS

Since 2010, the horticultural research station on the Macdonald Campus, about 30 minutes from downtown, has been supplying produce, eggs and ground beef to Student Housing & Hospitality Services.

CAVEAT

None

DESIRED TREND

Maintain or increase

ALIGNMENT WITH LONG-TERM TARGETS

- Platinum sustainability rating by 2030
- Zero-waste by 2035
- Carbon neutrality by 2040



PROCUREMENT

Total value of contracts awarded with specific sustainability criteria

**174 MILLION
IN 2019**

ALIGNMENT WITH LONG-TERM TARGETS

- Platinum sustainability rating by 2030
- Zero-waste by 2035
- Carbon neutrality by 2040

CONTEXT

This metric assesses the total value of contracts awarded with a specific sustainability criteria.

ANALYSIS

Further tracking of this metric will allow for analysis.

CAVEAT

This absolute value only accounts for contracts of over \$100,000. Any contract below this amount is not captured in this metric.

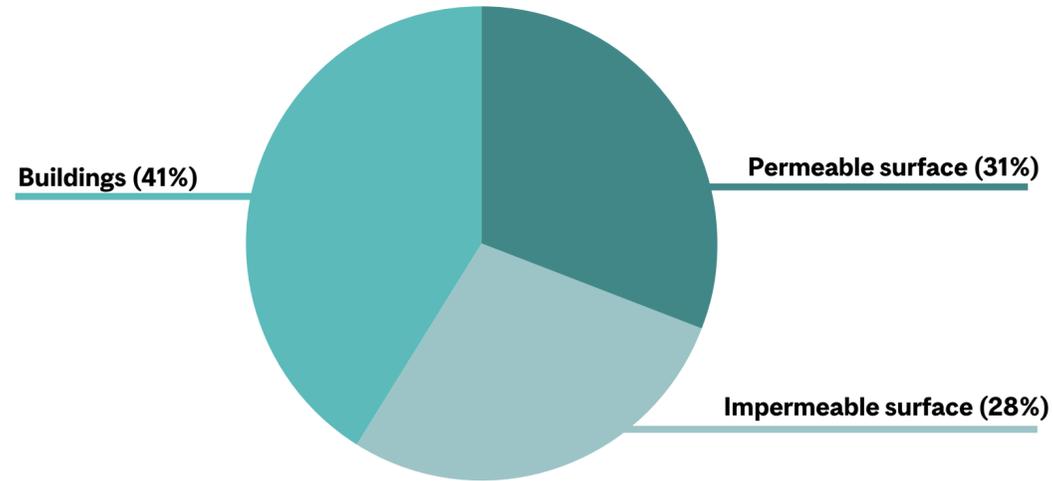
DESIRED TREND

Increase



LANDSCAPE & ECOSYSTEMS

Percentage of surface type on the downtown campus (2019)



CONTEXT

This metric shows the percentage of permeable versus impermeable surfaces at the downtown campus.

ANALYSIS

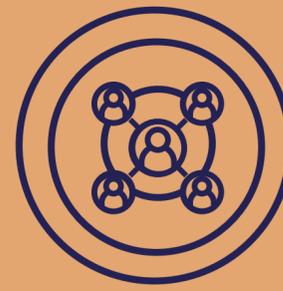
Further tracking of this metric will allow for analysis.

CAVEAT

The progress of this metric will be reflected by slow incremental changes.

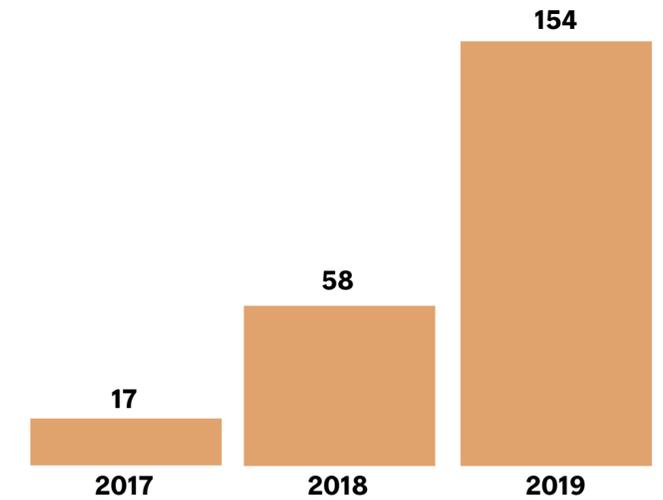
DESIRED TREND

Maintain or increase



COMMUNITY BUILDING

Number of sustainable certified events



CONTEXT

This metric demonstrates the total number of sustainable events held by the McGill community.

ANALYSIS

Since its creation in 2017, the number of sustainable certified events has been increasing thanks to the involvement of student volunteers.

CAVEAT

None

DESIRED TREND

Increase

ALIGNMENT WITH LONG-TERM TARGETS

- Platinum sustainability rating by 2030
- Zero-waste by 2035
- Carbon neutrality by 2040

ALIGNMENT WITH LONG-TERM TARGETS

- Platinum sustainability rating by 2030
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- Carbon neutrality by 2040

THANK YOU

The McGill University Climate & Sustainability Strategy would have not been possible without the contribution of countless students, staff, and faculty. Thank you for your time, innovative ideas, and commitment to building a sustainable future for McGill.

MCGILL DEPARTMENTS, GROUPS, AND UNITS INVOLVED IN THE CRAFTING OF THE STRATEGY:

Buildings and Grounds
Campus Planning & Development Office
Design Services
Environmental Health & Safety
Equity Office
First Peoples' House & Special Advisor, Indigenous Initiatives
Human Resources
McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative
Office for Students with Disabilities
Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)
Office of Sustainability
Office of the Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance)
Office of the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation)
Office of Analysis, Planning, and Budget
Parking & Transportation Services
Procurement Services
Project Management
Student Housing & Hospitality Services
Sustainable Labs Working Group
Student associations (SSMU, MCSS, PGSS)
Utilities & Energy Management

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF THE STUDENTS WHO BROUGHT THIS STRATEGY TO LIFE

Strategy Development & Consultation Coordination: **Erin Wen**
Document Design: **Roelle Santa Maria**
Photographs: **Benjamin Joppke, Mâche,** and **Monica Allaby**
Conceptual Images: **Sahil Adnan** and **Fabrice Grenier Arellano**
And all of the Office of Sustainability Interns: **Samantha Ling,**
Miranda Roseland, Laurianne Debanné, and **Aspen Murray.**

APPENDIX 1: THE NEW VIC PROJECT

As we strive towards a sustainable, just and equitable future for all, the New Vic Project is an opportunity to embed and embody all these principles.

Built around two academic pillars – sustainability systems and public policy – this historic building will become a leading research hub for tackling some of the world’s most complex challenges like climate change and sustainable development.

From daily operations to pedagogy, the New Vic Project will call upon innovative technologies to minimize its ecological footprint while focusing on the well-being of the community. In short, the built form of the project will be the realization of a sustainability strategy that focuses on anticipating what a world-leading sustainable research institute at a world-class university will look like in 2028. Seven key themes will provide the foundation of the project’s sustainability strategy: Carbon & Energy, Water, Material & Waste, Location & Transport, Health & Wellness, Living Lab & Occupant Engagement, Resilience & Adaptability. These themes will be mapped onto the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Home to an anticipated 150 professors, 300 staff, 900 graduate students, 1100 lecture seats for undergraduates, four state-of-the-art research, measurement and fabrication facilities, as well as many active and informal learning spaces, the New Vic Project will become McGill’s beacon of sustainability.



Preliminary design image - subject to approval. Diamond Schmitt Lemay Michaud Architects

APPENDIX 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS RELATED TO THE CATEGORIES

Developed by the United Nations and adopted in 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) comprise 17 interconnected goals that provide a blueprint to achieve a more equitable and sustainable future for all. The SDGs represent a call to action for all nations in order to address the global challenges facing humankind. For each of the eight categories of the Strategy, the interconnections are highlighted with the relevant SDGs. As a higher education institution, McGill holds a responsibility in promoting and contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

Research & Education



Food Systems



Buildings & Utilities



Procurement



Waste Management



Landscapes & Ecosystems



Travel & Commuting



Community Building



SDGs 1, 5, and 16 – Ending Poverty, Gender Equality, and Peace Justice and Strong Institutions – have not been included since they are being addressed in other areas of the University’s activities.

APPENDIX 3: LINKS BETWEEN TRANSVERSAL THEMES AND ACTION ITEMS

RESEARCH & EDUCATION

CLIMATE CHANGE
MITIGATION &
ADAPTATION

EQUITY,
DIVERSITY &
INCLUSION

RE1 Implement a sustainability online module available to all students, staff, and faculty members.	●	
RE2 Bolster the visibility of MSSl and continue to develop new research themes that tackle global sustainability and climate issues.	●	
RE3 Use the campus as a living lab for applied student research in climate and sustainability.	●	
RE4 Develop and implement opportunities to support Indigenous-led research strategies and initiatives by researchers.		●
RE5 Launch a McGill-wide course in sustainability for all students.	●	
RE6 Develop a University-wide sustainability minor.	●	
RE7 Design workshops to support instructors in embedding sustainability into their curricula.	●	●
RE8 Launch a Sustainable Lab Certification Program.	●	
RE9 Embed sustainability and climate components in the onboarding and training material of faculty members.	●	
RE10 Create a platform to facilitate the sharing and reuse of research assets.	●	

BUILDINGS & UTILITIES

CLIMATE CHANGE
MITIGATION &
ADAPTATION

EQUITY,
DIVERSITY &
INCLUSION

BU1 All new construction and major renovation projects to be, at minimum, LEED Gold certified.	●	
BU2 Integrate health, well-being, and accessibility considerations to the existing building design standards aligned with the WELL certification.	●	●
BU3 Develop social and environmental requirements in calls for tenders pertaining to construction, engineering, architecture, and planning projects.	●	●
BU4 Implement the new Energy Management Plan with particular attention to energy conversion projects, geothermal exchange projects, smart energy grids, and peak power demand management.	●	
BU5 Incorporate natural ventilation strategies to reduce HVAC energy consumption and improve occupant well-being.	●	●

APPENDIX 3: LINKS BETWEEN TRANSVERSAL THEMES AND ACTION ITEMS

WASTE MANAGEMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE
MITIGATION &
ADAPTATION

EQUITY,
DIVERSITY &
INCLUSION

WM1 Implement a zero-waste zone on campus.	●	
WM2 Create a zero-waste brigade to promote best practices throughout the University.	●	
WM3 Complete the implementation of the Waste Reduction and Diversion Strategy (2018-2025).	●	
WM4 Launch a campus-wide initiative to encourage units to go paperless.	●	
WM5 Install integrated sorting stations in multiple key areas of the campus.	●	
WM6 Deploy a campus-wide compost collection system.	●	
WM7 Evaluate the implementation of in situ compost treatment sites.	●	

TRAVEL & COMMUTING

CLIMATE CHANGE
MITIGATION &
ADAPTATION

EQUITY,
DIVERSITY &
INCLUSION

TC1 Develop a carbon offsetting program to mitigate the environmental impacts of travelling.	●	
TC2 Expand the number of charging stations for electric vehicles.	●	
TC3 Enhance the quality and increase the quantity of biking infrastructure.	●	
TC4 Develop programs to encourage the use of sustainable and accessible transportation.	●	●
TC5 Raise awareness about the environmental impact of air travel.	●	
TC6 Promote teleconferencing options to replace air travel whenever possible.	●	●
TC7 Implement the Vehicle Asset Management procedure which mandates units to electrify their vehicles when possible.	●	

APPENDIX 3: LINKS BETWEEN TRANSVERSAL THEMES AND ACTION ITEMS

FOOD SYSTEMS

CLIMATE CHANGE
MITIGATION &
ADAPTATION

EQUITY,
DIVERSITY &
INCLUSION

FS1 Explore the use of green roofs to grow food.	●	
FS2 Increase the percentage of third-party certified food and plant-based options in food locations.	●	
FS3 Increase the amount of food produced at the Macdonald Campus and served in food locations.	●	
FS4 Ensure that environmental and social considerations are factored into food service contracts and that supplier performance is monitored.	●	●
FS5 Expand food options on campus that meet the cultural and religious needs of the McGill community.		●
FS6 Support and promote student-led food-related initiatives, such as the McGill Farmers' Market.	●	
FS7 Optimize the coordination of urban agriculture initiatives and foster relationships with external groups.	●	
FS8 Collaborate with food suppliers and internal stakeholders to reduce single-use items and food packaging while considering accessibility needs.	●	
FS9 Promote partnerships to distribute surplus food to local organizations.	●	

PROCUREMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE
MITIGATION &
ADAPTATION

EQUITY,
DIVERSITY &
INCLUSION

PR1 Increase the amount of goods and services purchased from social economy businesses and Indigenous businesses.		●
PR2 Work with buyers to increase the proportion of calls for tenders with specific sustainability criteria.	●	
PR3 Make Sustainable Procurement 101 training one of the mandatory activities for the Sustainable Workplace Certification.	●	
PR4 Develop and communicate guidelines for purchasing from social economy businesses and Indigenous businesses.		●
PR5 Encourage suppliers to provide information about the environmental and climate footprint of their products.	●	
PR6 Prioritize goods and services that are aligned with the University's carbon reduction target.	●	
PR7 Develop an overarching Asset Management Policy and associated procedures in order to optimize the lifecycle management of University assets.	●	
PR8 Develop platforms to facilitate the sharing and reuse of University assets across faculties and units.	●	
PR9 Collaborate with other universities to support asset reuse, where possible.	●	

APPENDIX 3: LINKS BETWEEN TRANSVERSAL THEMES AND ACTION ITEMS

LANDSCAPES & ECOSYSTEMS

CLIMATE CHANGE
MITIGATION &
ADAPTATION

EQUITY,
DIVERSITY &
INCLUSION

LE1 Ensure that vegetation initiatives increase canopy coverage and maximize local carbon sequestration.	●	
LE2 Use best practices for ecological design of exterior spaces that will lead to SITES-certified landscapes.	●	●
LE3 Create a plan for campus biodiversity that emphasizes native, adaptive, and edible species.	●	
LE4 Assess key climate risks for the University and define mitigation options.	●	
LE5 Evaluate the inclusion of climate resilient infrastructure, such as green roofs, on new and existing buildings.	●	
LE6 Leverage landscaping projects to reduce the amount of impermeable surfaces.	●	
LE7 Integrate rainwater retention features, where feasible.	●	

COMMUNITY BUILDING

CLIMATE CHANGE
MITIGATION &
ADAPTATION

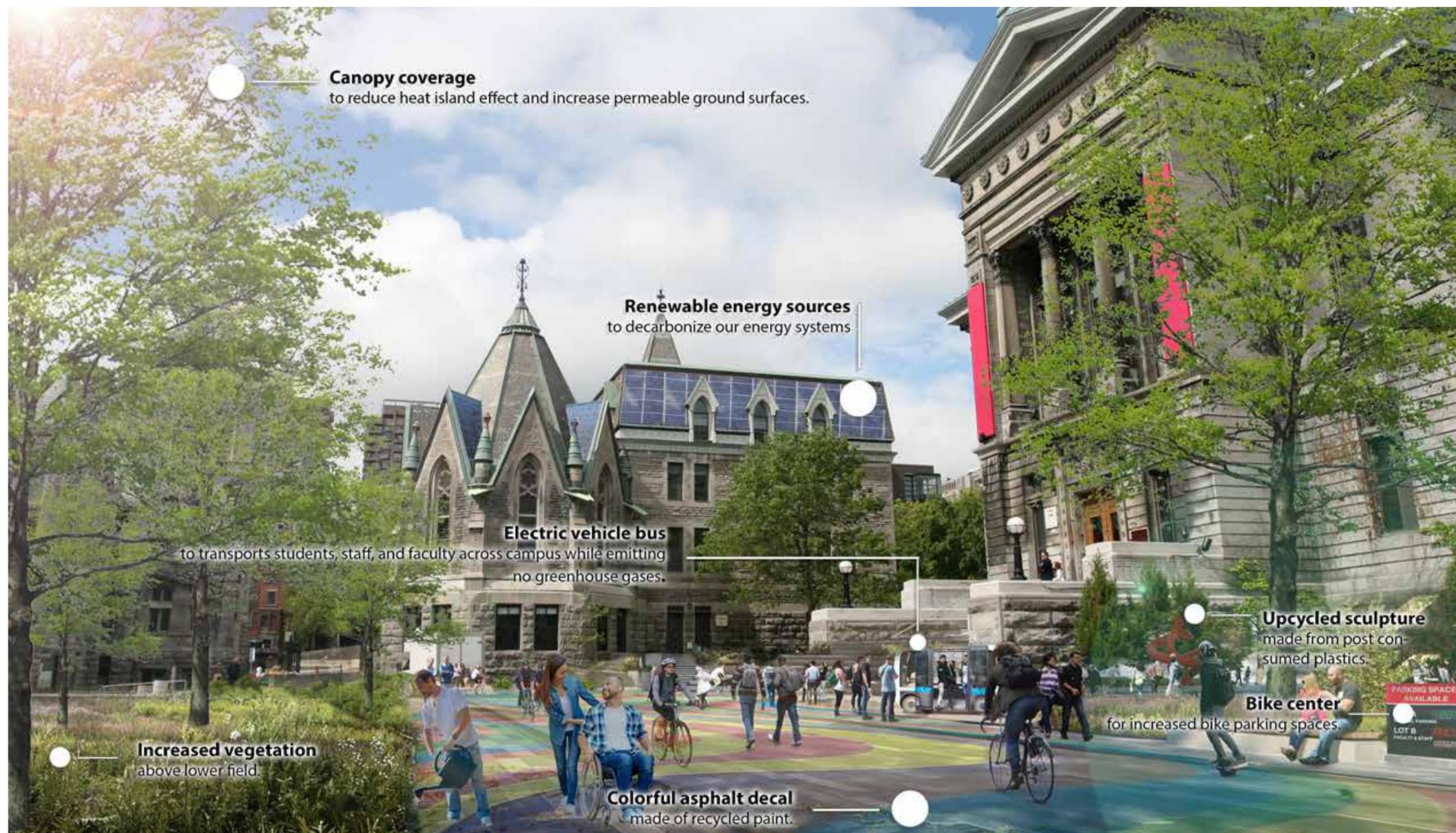
EQUITY,
DIVERSITY &
INCLUSION

CB1 Implement a Bicentennial Student Sustainability Challenge.	●	●
CB2 Represent Black and Indigenous presence throughout the campuses' physical space.		●
CB3 Provide ceremonial spaces for cultural practices such as smudging and burning of ceremonial medicine.		●
CB4 Identify new naming opportunities on campus.		●
CB5 Support the implementation of key initiatives under My Healthy Workplace.		●
CB6 Designate accessible spaces for activities promoting mental and emotional wellness.		●
CB7 Embed sustainability and climate components in the staff onboarding and training material.	●	
CB8 Expand existing engagement programs in sustainability.	●	

APPENDIX 4: ENVISIONING SUSTAINABILITY AT MCGILL

Envisioning sustainability at McGill is an exercise that requires both creativity and innovation. As the Climate & Sustainability Strategy looks ahead to 2025, it is important to project ourselves beyond this date and imagine what a sustainable future might look like.

To do this, McGill collaborated with students from the School of Architecture to create high-quality conceptual images that offer an artistic representation of a possible future McGill. With guidance from a multidisciplinary group of stakeholders, the students reimagined our campuses to reflect how sustainability might evolve into the future.



A Sustainable Future at the Downtown Campus envisions renewable energy systems, colorful and vibrant artwork, increased canopy coverage and low carbon commuting options.

APPENDIX 4: ENVISIONING SUSTAINABILITY AT MCGILL



A Sustainable Future at the Downtown Campus reimagines a space where no landfill waste is produced, recycled waste is transformed into outdoor furniture and artwork, and rainwater is sustainably managed.

APPENDIX 4: ENVISIONING SUSTAINABILITY AT MCGILL



Living lab campus
where the campus is used as an experiential learning and research space.

Wooden footbridge
made of carbon sequestering materials.

Water retention zone
to effectively manage storm water on campus.

Resilient plant species
with dense root systems that help enhance soil permeability.

Sustainable Water Retention and the Three Bares highlights a water retention zone to sustainably manage storm water on campus and create space for the community to learn more about these practices.

APPENDIX 4: ENVISIONING SUSTAINABILITY AT MCGILL



Sitting Area
made of carbon sequestering materials.

Outdoor classroom
to use the campus as a living lab and explore
the benefit of outdoor learning.

High-rise gardens
for people with reduced mobility.

Urban Agriculture
beds to enhance the connection to local food systems.

Burnside Agriculture Hub reimagines a space entirely dedicated to the advancement and research of local urban food systems. Through welcoming and accessible infrastructure, it fosters a sense of social cohesion.

APPENDIX 4: ENVISIONING SUSTAINABILITY AT MCGILL



Sitting area
to increase interactions and
use of space by the McGill
community.

Solitary beehive
to provide habitat for
endemic and non-endemic
pollinators.

Green wall
to reduce overall building
temperature and increase
rainwater capture.

Edible plants
to increase urban agriculture
on campus.

McIntyre Green Roof showcases a climate resilient infrastructure where urban agriculture and endemic pollinators are at the forefront.

APPENDIX 4: ENVISIONING SUSTAINABILITY AT MCGILL



Upcycled artwork
made from post consumed water bottles.

Infographics
to create awareness around McGill's zero-waste target

Refill station
providing a variety of items in bulk
to the McGill community.

Vertical garden
to increase well-being and provide local
herbs.

Multi-stream bins
where no landfill material is collected, only
compostable and recyclable items.

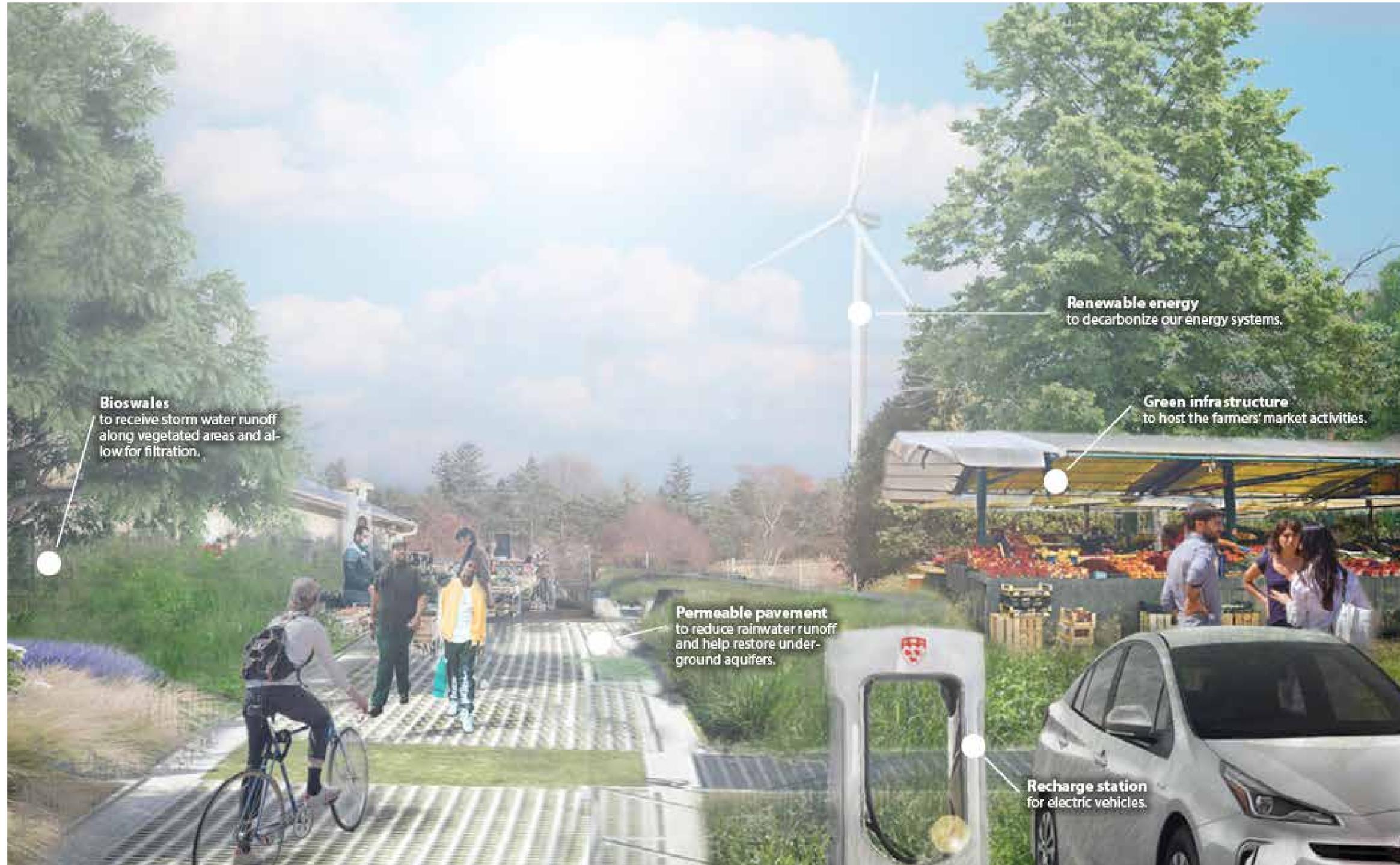
Zero-Waste Zone is a vibrant and welcoming educational space where no landfill waste is produced.

APPENDIX 4: ENVISIONING SUSTAINABILITY AT MCGILL



A Sustainable Future at Mac Campus features regenerative agriculture, increased connectivity, and renewable energy sources.

APPENDIX 4: ENVISIONING SUSTAINABILITY AT MCGILL



Eco parking at Macdonald Campus showcases low-impact development techniques that incorporate natural and built features, such as bioswales and permeable pavement, to sustainably manage rainwater.