



Secretariat

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The following items arise from the Committee on Sustainability's meeting of February 1, 2022. They are presented to the Board of Governors for information.

I. FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1. Implementing McGill's Sustainability Strategy: Initiatives under the Category of Waste Management [SC22-12]

The Committee received, for information, a presentation on the Waste Management category of the Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025, including details on recent progress that has been made on the complementary action, "Complete the implementation of the Waste Reduction and Diversion Strategy (2018-2025)". Some key action items highlighted were the creation of communications materials related to waste management, waste reduction in food service locations, and the expansion of compost collection on McGill campuses. The presentation also highlighted the creation of a zero-waste zone, a designated site on campus to provide education on waste management initiatives and to present a vision for a zero-waste McGill.

In addition, the presentation provided the results of waste audits that were performed in 2022 to monitor the impact of Waste Management category actions on McGill's waste diversion rate, and key insights derived from the exercise.

2. McGill's Anticipated 2023 Sustainability Rating [SC22-13]

The Committee received an update on McGill's anticipated sustainability rating for the University's 2023 submission to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), an organization that oversees the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS).

STARS is a self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. McGill's current Gold STARS rating will expire in 2024, so data collection for the 2023 is underway. The Committee was informed of several point increases secured by the University for its upcoming submission, including the implementation of a Sustainability Literacy Assessment, a reduction in waste from the 2014 baseline, and LEED-compliant construction and renovation on campus.

The University is anticipating to maintain the Gold rating in 2023 and reach a Platinum STARS rating in 2030.

3. McGill Presence at COP15

[SC22-08]

The Committee received, for information, an overview of McGill’s participation in the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15), held in Montreal from December 7th – 19th, 2022.

The Committee was informed that McGill students, staff, and faculty attended COP15 as observers, with ten graduate students hired to work at an information booth providing updates on sustainability and biodiversity projects at the University. McGill also engaged with conference attendees through biodiversity walking tours on campus, and by signing the Nature Positive Pledge, a commitment from higher education institutions to prioritize ecological restoration.

The Committee agreed that the conference was an excellent opportunity to demonstrate student engagement with sustainability actions and discussed ways to maximize interest during next year’s event.

4. Other Updates and Reports

The Committee received the following reports and updates for information:

- Dashboard Report on the Climate and Sustainability Strategy [SC22-11]
- Update on Student Ambassador Program Volunteers [SC22-10]
- McGill Office of Sustainability Key Accomplishments 2022 [SC22-09]

END

February 2023