

Secretariat

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The following items arise from the Committee on Sustainability's meeting of February 4, 2021. They are presented to the Board of Governors for information.

I. FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**1. Confirmation of Compliance with Declarations and Accords [SC20-06]**

In accordance with its mandate, the Committee received a report on the University's compliance with regional, national and international declarations and accords, to which the University is a signatory.

The Committee reviewed a report which outlined the results of a compliance exercise undertaken by the McGill Office of Sustainability (MOOS) and which verified the University's compliance with two declarations, notably the Talloires and Halifax Declarations.

2. Final Report on the Vision 2020 Climate and Sustainability Action Plan [SC20-07]

The Committee received the final report on the achievement of McGill University's Vision 2020 Climate and Sustainability Action Plan.

The Climate and Sustainability Action Plan (2017-2020) was launched in December 2017. The plan consisted of 22 priority actions organized into five categories: Research, Education, Connectivity, Operations, and Governance & Administration. It also identified two long-term targets: attain a STARS® Platinum sustainability rating by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2040.

The final report, which is available [here](#), outlines the degree of completion and key facts for each action, notably: 28 deliverables are complete, 6 are in progress, and 11 are recurring deliveries. On average, the University accomplished 94% of the 2017-2020 Action Plan.

3. Dashboard Report on the Climate and Sustainability Strategy [SC20-08]

The Committee received the first dashboard report tracking the progress of the Climate and Sustainability Strategy (2020-2025).

At its meeting of December 10, 2020, the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Committee on Sustainability, endorsed the [Climate and Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025](#). The Committee's Report to the Board noted that progress would be measured, monitored, and reported periodically to both the Committee and the Board. The dashboard, which will be presented to the Committee at every meeting, tracks the overall progress of the Strategy to date, as well as the level of implementation of action items for each key category, singling out, in particular, the implementation of the flagship action items.

Appendix A presents the dashboard for the reporting period of December 2020 to January 2021.

4. Presentation & Discussion: Closing the Gap to Achieve a Platinum Sustainability Rating by 2030 [SC20-09]

The Committee received a presentation on the University's plan to attain a STARS Platinum sustainability rating by 2030, one of the three long-term targets set out in the Climate and Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025.

The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) is a program of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. It measures sustainability over five categories: academic, engagement, operations, planning and administration, and innovation and leadership. McGill's 2020 STARS rating was Gold. The presentation provided context regarding the current STARS score, key achievements, and how McGill ranked in comparison with its peer universities.

The Committee was informed that the Climate and Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025 was designed to address the gaps in the current rating and identify actions that would enable the University to attain a Platinum rating.

5. Other Updates and Reports

The Committee received the following update for information:

- Update on Board Approval of Committee Items

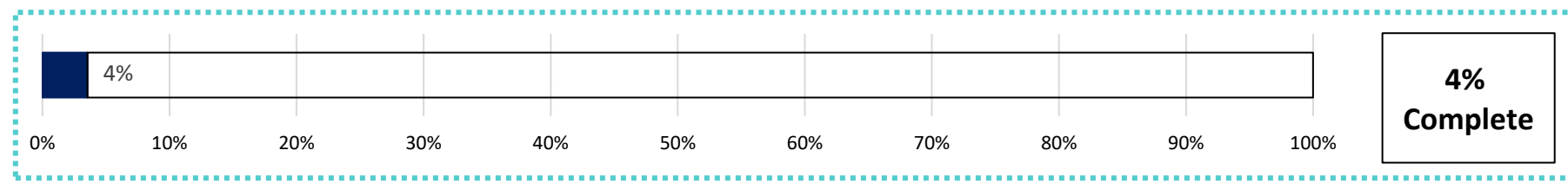
END

February 2021

Overall Strategy Progress

CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Degree of Completion ●



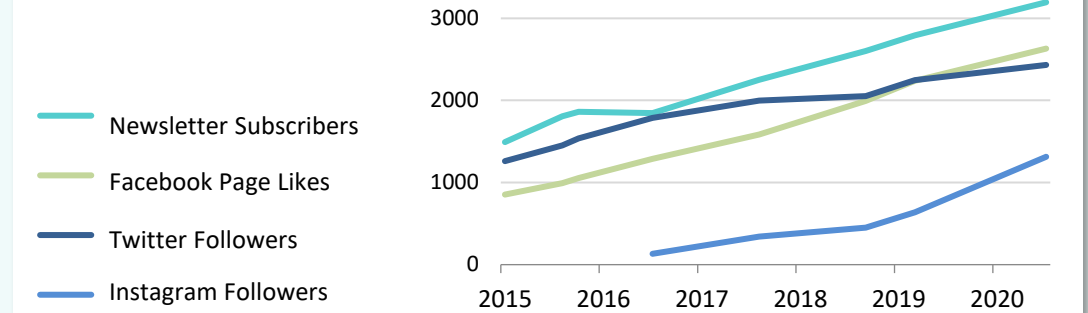
News Related to the Strategy:

- A comprehensive communications plan has been developed and launched.
- The Office of Sustainability is hosting three, strategy-focused, interactive panel events that feature expert staff/faculty members as well as students.
- The Office of Sustainability is preparing a series of presentations to key units involved in implementation of the Strategy.

Engagement

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNICATIONS

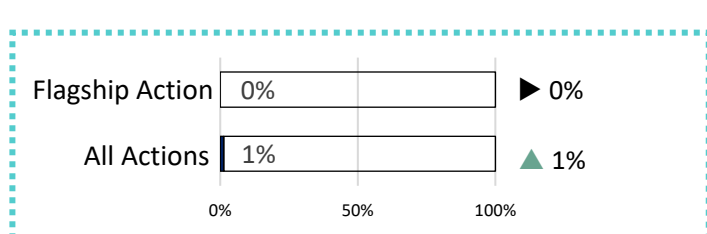
Communications ●
Reach by Medium



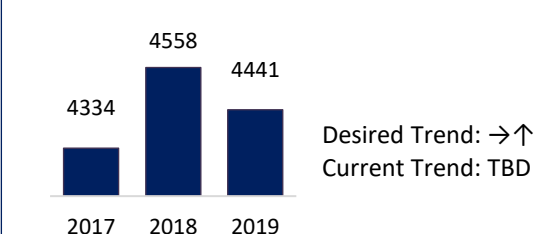
Category Progress

RESEARCH & EDUCATION

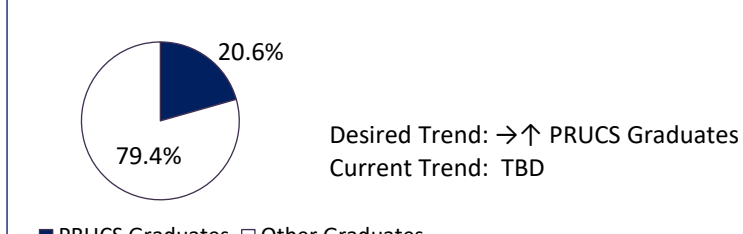
Degree of Completion ●



SDG-Related Publications ●



% Students Graduating from PRUCS ●

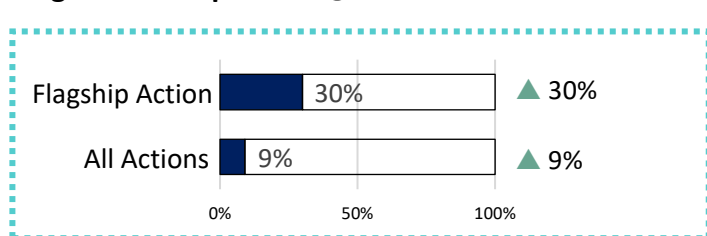


Key Achievements During Reporting Period:

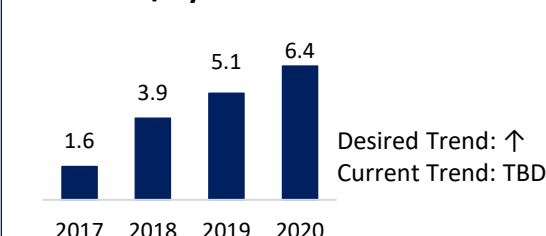
- A draft Terms of Reference document for a Sustainability Curriculum Committee has been produced and is being reviewed. (RE7)

TRAVEL & COMMUTING

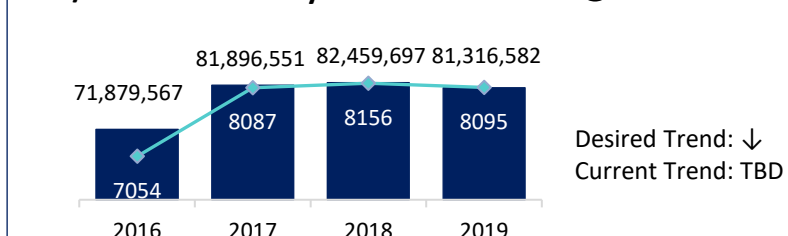
Degree of Completion ●



% Electric/Hybrid Fleet Vehicles ●



KM/GHGe for Directly-funded Air Travel ●



Key Achievements During Reporting Period:

- **Flagship Action:** The carbon offsetting project with communities in Panama planted over 25,000 native tree seedlings in 2020. (TC1)
- A working committee has been created to oversee the implementation of new charging stations for electric vehicles. (TC2)
- A call for tenders has been prepared for two electrical ice resurfacers ("Zambonis") utilizing the Vehicle Asset Management procedure. (TC7)

LEGEND

Status:

- Stable
- Requires Attention
- Requires Action

Data Updates:

Indicates enclosed data has been updated since previous period

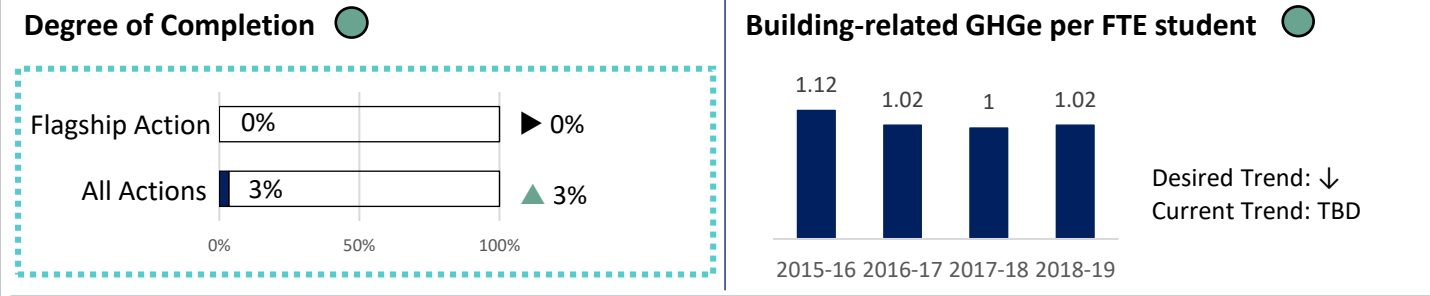
Desired Trends:

- ↑ Increase
- ↓ Decrease
- Maintain



Category Progress - Continued

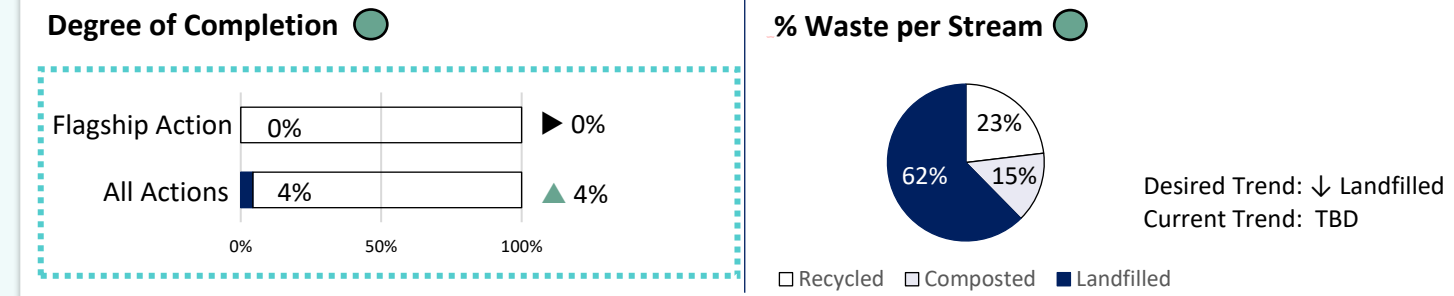
BUILDINGS & UTILITIES



Key Achievements During Reporting Period:

- A budget increase was approved for the Smart Energy Grid Project, an energy recovery loop on downtown campus. (BU4)
- The replacement of a natural gas boiler with an electric boiler at the downtown power house is proceeding. (BU4)

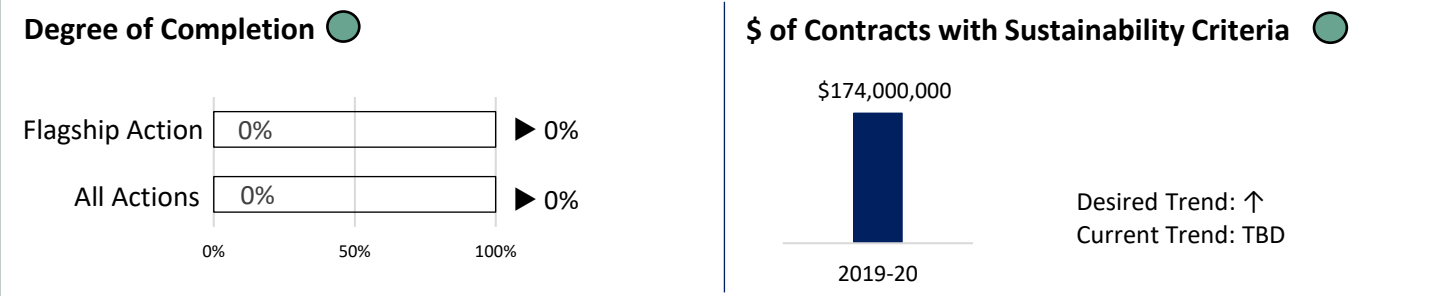
WASTE MANAGEMENT



Key Achievements During Reporting Period:

- A funding request was submitted to Recyc-Québec for the implementation of a compost collection system. (WM6)
- 472 waste stations are being installed in 75% of academic buildings downtown now through mid-February. (WM5)

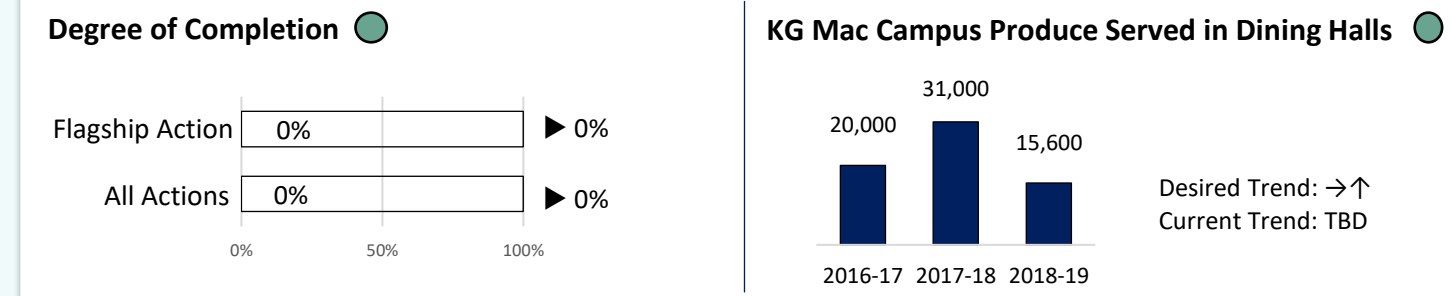
PROCUREMENT



Key Achievements During Reporting Period:

- N/A

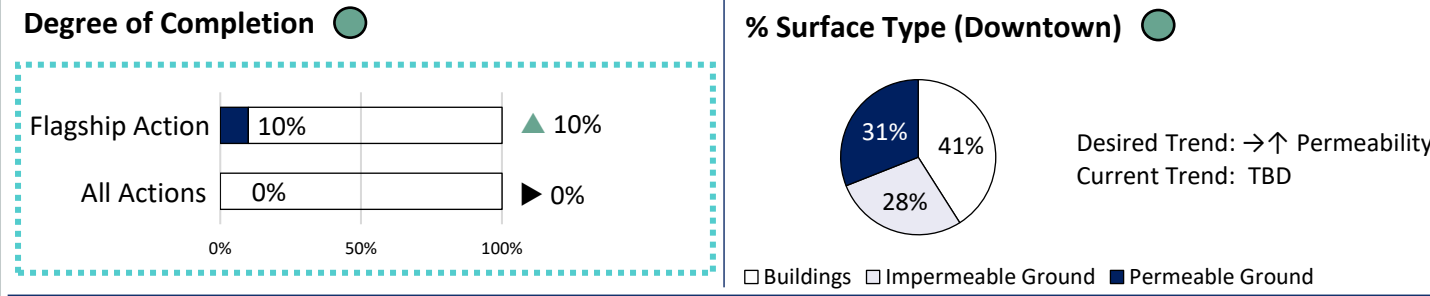
FOOD SYSTEMS



Key Achievements During Reporting Period:

- N/A

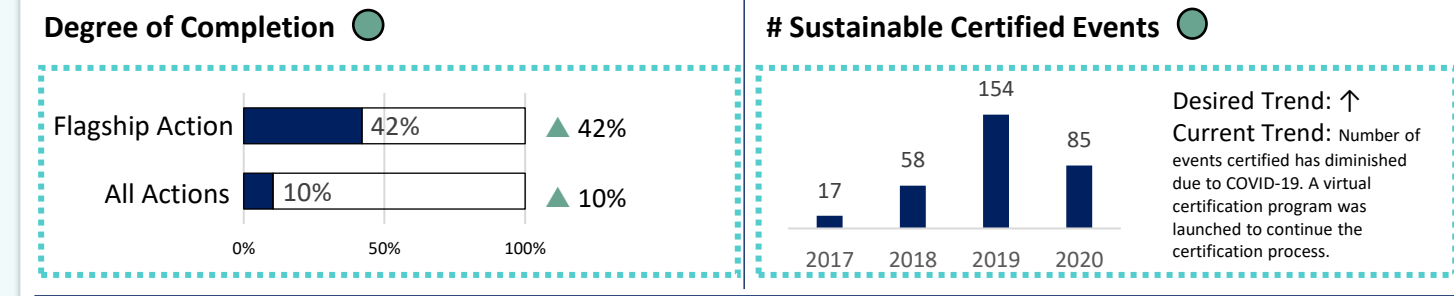
LANDSCAPES & ECOSYSTEMS



Key Achievements During Reporting Period:

- **Flagship:** A tree plantation project was initiated at the Macdonald Campus with support from the SPF. (LE1)
- A green roof project for Solin Hall is undergoing a feasibility study. (LE5)

COMMUNITY BUILDING



Key Achievements During Reporting Period:

- **Flagship:** The Bicentennial Student Sustainability Challenge has reviewed applications and selected semi-finalists. (CB1)
- A Sustainability Ambassadors Program launched in 2020 and welcomed 12 students from different faculties. (CB8)

Reference

CATEGORY	FLAGSHIP ACTION
Research & Education	Implement a sustainability online module available to all students, staff, and faculty members.
Travel & Commuting	Develop a carbon offsetting program to mitigate the environmental impacts of traveling.
Buildings & Utilities	All new construction and major renovation projects to be, at minimum, LEED Gold certified.
Waste Management	Implement a zero-waste zone on campus.
Food Systems	Explore the use of green roofs to grow food.
Procurement	Increase the amount of goods and services purchased from social economy businesses and Indigenous businesses.
Landscapes & Ecosystems	Ensure that vegetation initiatives increase canopy coverage and maximize local carbon sequestration.
Community Building	Implement a Bicentennial Student Sustainability Challenge.

The full Climate & Sustainability Strategy document can be accessed [here](#).