



**Secretariat**

845 Sherbrooke St. West, room 313

Montreal, QC, H3A 0G4

Tel: (514) 398-3948 | Fax: (514) 398-4758

The following items arise from the Committee on Sustainability's meeting of February 2, 2022. They are presented to the Board of Governors for information.

**I. FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**1. Dashboard Report on the Climate and Sustainability Strategy [SC21-11]**

The Committee received, for information, an overview of the dashboard report detailing the progress of the Climate and Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025 for the reporting period of September 2021 to December 2021.

The Committee was informed that the overall degree of completion for the Climate and Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025 was now at 33%, having increased 11% since the last meeting. It was also highlighted that the portion of the strategy dedicated to Community Building was now completed, following the successful execution of the McGill's Bicentennial Sustainability Challenge in December 2021. In addition, the Committee learned that significant progress had been made under the Waste Management category, as funds from the Sustainability Project Fund had been used to install new waste management centers across campus and to set up composting collection in several campus buildings. The Committee was also informed that a new section had been added to the dashboard report to track progress on LEED certification for all eligible projects.

**2. Community Engagement Report [SC21-12]**

The Committee received, for information, the Community Engagement Report, which was created to provide an overview of the ways in which McGill students, faculty and staff are engaged to work and learn together to create and realize a shared vision of Sustainability at McGill.

The report incorporated data derived from focus groups, a sustainability survey, and the overall performance of engagement initiatives within the McGill community. The Committee discussed ways to enhance awareness of McGill sustainability initiatives..

**3. 2021 Sustainability Survey Results [SC21-13]**

The Committee received, for information, the results of the third annual Sustainability Survey, which was created to assess and understand community perception and awareness of, and interest in, the University's sustainability efforts. Additionally, the 2021 survey

sought to assess the community's commuting habits in an effort to inform the annual calculation of the institution's greenhouse gas emissions.

The Committee was informed that the 2021 Sustainability Survey was distributed to McGill students, staff, and faculty between October 20 and November 22, 2021, and received a response rate of 20%.

The Committee discussed how to improve student engagement with sustainability efforts, noting that it might be beneficial to add follow-up questions to the survey to better understand the low interest in certain initiatives. It was noted that high-profile, on-campus initiatives and increased social media coverage would help to engage more students, moving forward.

**4. Implementing McGill's Sustainability Strategy: Initiatives under the Category of Travel and Commuting** [SC21-14]

The Committee received, for information, a presentation on the Travel and Commuting category of the Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025, including a presentation of the action plan to improve bike infrastructure at McGill.

The Committee was informed that a number of strategic initiatives were in development in relation to the Travel and Commuting category, including the improvement of electric vehicle charging infrastructure on campus, consideration of OPUS corporate program subsidies for McGill employees, and a campaign to raise awareness about the environmental impact of air travel. In particular, a proposed initiative for improving McGill's bike infrastructure was highlighted for the Committee.

The Committee agreed that improvements to McGill's current bike infrastructure would help to increase the number of people who cycle to campus, providing both environmental and health benefits. The Committee discussed improvements to campus bike infrastructure and agreed that it would be best to start by increasing the number of outdoor parking spots and repair stations, as this could be done quickly with good return on investment.

**5. Update on AASHE Sustainability Index** [SC21-08]

The Committee received, for information, the 2021 Sustainable Campus Index, published annually by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

Every three years McGill submits a comprehensive report 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. Currently, over 1,000 colleges and universities – mostly in North America – use the STARS reporting tool. As outlined in the Climate & Sustainability Strategy

2020-2025, McGill aims to attain a platinum STARS sustainability rating by 2030. The University's current rating is gold.

**6. Communications Platform Analysis Report for the Office of Sustainability [SC21-09]**

The Committee received, for information, a report with a detailed analysis of the Office of Sustainability's communication platforms, which was generated to assess which content was most engaging across the five platforms used (its website and newsletter, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter).

The main takeaway from the analysis was that, overall, the McGill community is receptive to getting involved in sustainability on campus.

**7. 2021 Report on Sustainable Development Goals [SC21-10]**

The Committee received, for information, the 2021 McGill University Sustainable Development Goals Report, which outlined the University's contributions to the 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that form a comprehensive action plan to create a more inclusive, prosperous, sustainable future by 2030. The report reflects the collective efforts of many McGill students, staff, faculty members, and alumni over the course of the past several years.

It was noted that, moving forward, it would be beneficial to organize the report to indicate which McGill's SDG initiatives are new, and which are ongoing.

**END**

**February 2022**