

Secretariat

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The following items arise from the Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility (CSSR) meeting of November 24, 2023. They are presented to the Board of Governors for its consideration.

I. FOR APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**1. Report to the Board of Governors on Review of SRI Practices** [SR23-11]

On April 20, 2023, the Board of Governors approved a motion, pursuant to the Chair of the Board's consultation with the senior administration, the Investment Committee, and CAMSR, to authorize CAMSR to accelerate the 2025 review of SRI practices to take place effective immediately and on the understanding that CAMSR would submit a report, with any recommendations that stem from this review to the Board of Governors by the end of the calendar year of 2023.

The report of the CSSR, following the review of SRI practices conducted by the former CAMSR and the CSSR, is attached as Appendix A and is accompanied by one appendix.

Be it resolved that the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility, approve the proposed 2023 commitments, described in Appendix A, for implementation by the University administration and the Investment Committee of the Board of Governors.

2. Proposed Revisions to the Sustainability Policy [SR23-13]

The CSSR reviewed a recommendation to approve a revised *Sustainability Policy*. The same recommendation was reviewed and approved by Senate at its meeting of December 6, 2023.

Minor revisions are necessary to update the Policy to reflect the introduction of McGill's Climate and Sustainability Strategy (approved in 2020) and to reinforce the sustainability considerations contained in McGill's Strategic Academic Plan. These additions to the Policy will contribute positively to McGill's STARS sustainability rating. The University aims to reach a STARS Platinum rating by 2030.

Be it resolved that the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility, approve the proposed revisions to the Sustainability Policy, as presented in Appendix B.

II. FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- 1. Report to the Board of Governors on Expression of Concern** [SR23-12]
An expression of concern was received by the Secretary-General on March 16, 2023. Following a review of the submission by the Committee to Advise on Matter of Social Responsibility (CAMSR) and the Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility (CSSR), CSSR approved the submission of the Committee’s Report regarding the expression of concern, titled, “Implicated Holdings in the Uyghur Genocide” to the Board of Governors, for information.
- 2. SRI Achievements & Peer Universities Comparison** [SR23-10]
A comparison of McGill’s SRI achievements relative to peer universities was presented to CSSR for information, as requested by the Committee. The analysis also offered insights into McGill’s prospective position relative to peers, taking into account the proposed revised commitments. This ensures that McGill remains at the forefront of the field, maintaining its leadership role.
- 3. Annual Report on McGill Sustainability and Climate Initiatives** [SR23-14]
The Committee on Sustainability received a request to approve the submission of the Climate & Sustainability Annual Report 2022-2023 to the Board of Governors.
The Annual Report is presented in line with the University’s commitment to sustainability and in compliance with the reporting requirements of the Sustainability Policy (2018). It presents content in the context of the eight categories identified in the McGill University Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025. As in previous versions, the report also provides an overview of achievements related to the University’s flagship Sustainability Projects Fund and connects the University’s achievements to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by highlighting the most relevant SDGs to each category, as well as a high-level summary of key statistics for each of those categories.
The Committee approved the Report for submission to the Board of Governors. The Report is attached as Appendix D.
- 4. Other Updates and Reports**
The Committee received the following reports and updates for information:

 - Sustainability Projects Fund Annual Report FY2023 [SR23-09]

END

December 2023



COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

REVIEW OF SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT PRACTICES

DECEMBER 2023

INTRODUCTION

The 2022 Investment Committee Report on Socially Responsible Investing presented to the Board of Governors on April 20, 2023, highlighted that the University had achieved the performance targets set out in the SRI strategy a full two years ahead of schedule. In response to a request to accelerate the SRI review planned for 2025 and to build on important progress achieved to date, the Board agreed to accelerate the SRI review timeline. To that end, the Board authorized the Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility¹ to review progress and to present any additional recommendations for the Board’s consideration at its December 2023 meeting. The Committee’s 2023 review led to the recommendations that the Board is asked to approve in each of the eight areas of focus of the 2019 review. The full list of recommendations is available in Appendix A.

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility (“the Committee”) assists the Board of Governors in setting and achieving institutional priorities and goals, and in monitoring progress in the area of sustainability. Taking due regard of the University’s mission and the fiduciary duties of the Board, the Committee also advises the Board on matters concerning social responsibility related to University investments within the mandate of the Investment Committee of the Board. In the course of its review, the Committee held six meetings, including special meetings and consultation sessions. The Committee developed key questions to guide the SRI review.

SRI REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An important focus of the SRI strategy has been to significantly divest holdings in the world’s most carbon-intensive companies and industries, including fossil fuel producers, cement and steel manufacturers, coal and gas-fired electricity generators and others that drive global fossil fuel consumption and demand. As noted in the 2022 SRI annual report, less than one per cent of the McGill Investment Pool (MIP) now includes exposure to the fossil fuel companies listed in the

¹ The Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility (CSSR) is a new committee of the Board. The SRI review was initiated when the Committee’s responsibilities were under the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility (CAMSR), which has been dissolved.

Carbon Underground 200 (CU200)². Expressed differently, in less than three years, the University's efforts have led to an almost total divestment (99.1%) of the MIP from the CU200 holdings.

Considering the results of the last review, the Committee's objective for the current exercise was to determine meaningful ways to build on the strong achievements to date in order to further support the University's leadership role in the transition to a more sustainable future. As such, the Committee was seeking to establish a comprehensive, multi-pronged strategy that balances the need to prudently support the policy objective to secure a dependable source of income for future beneficiaries with the need to take bold action in order to respond to the climate crisis, which is top of mind for members of the community and the University.

With this in mind, the Committee directed the Office of Investments to study options for enhancing the University's current SRI commitments, including a potential divestment commitment, while conducting a corresponding cost-benefit analysis. The Office of Investments explored peer universities' strategies with the objective of providing possible commitment options that aligned with industry best practices and allowed McGill to sustain its leadership role among its peers.

Based on the work conducted by the Office of Investments, the Committee carefully reviewed the advantages, disadvantages and cost implications of possible commitments. Notably, to understand and assess the operational implications and limitations of a divestment strategy, the Committee considered the direct and indirect exposure of the McGill Investment Pool (MIP) to the CU200 and evaluated the anticipated outcomes and potential impact on performance. The Committee also considered potential commitments in each of the other seven categories of the 2019 review, with a view to increasing institutional commitments to even more ambitious levels. Among the considerations discussed was the potential for an enhanced allocation of the MIP towards sustainable investments, and recommendations to update the University's Statement of Investment Policy to reflect new Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations.

Considering McGill's ambition to maintain a leadership role in sustainability, while having due regard to the portfolio's risk and return objectives, the Committee recommends that the Board of

² The CU200 is composed of the top 100 publicly traded coal companies and the top 100 publicly traded oil and gas companies.

Governors approve the eight new SRI commitments included in Appendix A, among which is a recommendation to expand the decarbonization target and to proceed with a divestment commitment. With respect to decarbonization, the Committee is recommending a commitment to sustain a carbon footprint 33% below the benchmark by 2029, but not only for the MIP's listed equities as was established in 2019, but for corporate fixed income, using scope 1 and 2 emissions. With respect to divestment, the Committee's recommendation is to divest from all remaining direct investments (0.5% of assets or approximately \$9.5M) in the CU200 by 2025. The decarbonization and divestment recommendations are accompanied by seven additional recommendations in areas related to sustainable investments, active stewardship through investor engagement, ESG integration and leadership to name a few.

The overall maximum estimated costs of implementing the proposed commitments include a one-time execution fee of \$170,000 and annual fees of \$350,000 for service providers and additional resources for the Office of Investments. The estimated potential maximum annual impact on performance represents a value at risk of approximately \$3.7 million. Based on feedback from the Investment Committee, the Committee believes that, while divestment may impact returns negatively, the recommended actions are not expected to have an unduly adverse effect on the endowment investment structure and long-term performance.

The Committee is confident that the recommended strategy supports McGill's priorities in socially responsible investing and sustainability. It has confidence that the recommendations align with industry best practices and will allow McGill to sustain its leadership role among its peers. Further, the Committee believes the new recommendations are consistent with the sound governance and trusteeship of the University's endowment.

Be it resolved that the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility, approve the proposed 2023 commitments, described in Appendix A, for implementation by the University administration and the Investment Committee of the Board of Governors.



McGill



**Recommendations arising from the
2023 SRI Review**

CSSR's recommended commitments for the 2023 SRI review

Decarbonization & CU200 Divestment

2019 Commitments

- Sustain a carbon footprint **33% below** the benchmark by **2025** for the MIP's listed equities (Scope 1 & 2)

2023 Commitments

- Sustain a carbon footprint **33% below** the benchmark by **2029** for the MIP's listed equities and **corporate fixed income** (Scope 1 & 2)
- **Divest** all of the MIP's **direct** investments in the **CU200 by 2025**

Sustainable Investments

- Allocate **5%** of the MIP towards "**Impact Investments**" by **2025**

- Allocate **10%** of the MIP towards "**Sustainable Investment Strategies**" by **2029**

Engagement

- Exercise, to the extent possible, **active stewardship** through investor **engagement** opportunities with investment managers

- Add "**Social**" and "**Governance**" topics to existing engagement program with SHARE
- Promote the adoption of **ESG-conscious proxy voting policies** whenever feasible

ESG Integration

- Review the Statement of Investment Policy of the MIP to **reflect ESG goals and objectives**, including modifying the Investment Objective section to consider ESG commitments

- Review the Statement of Investment Policy of the MIP to **reflect new ESG goals**
- Integrate **proprietary ESG scoring system** within manager monitoring processes
- Integrate **third-party ESG risk metrics** within the manager monitoring process

CSSR's recommended commitments for the 2023 SRI review (Cont.)

Negative Screening

2019 Commitments

- Increase amounts invested in the Fossil Fuel Free (FFF) Fund and promote it among the donor community

2023 Commitments

- Continue to promote the Fossil Fuel Free Fund (the green Century Fund) among the donor community
(Commitment for McGill's University Advancement team)

Reporting

- Annually publish a report on SRI that is presented to the Board that includes the % of assets managed by managers with an ESG policy and/or as signatories of the UNPRI, MIP carbon emission absolute and relative measures, impact investment exposures

- Annually publish a report on SRI that is presented to the Board that includes updates on the strategies and **TCFD¹-aligned disclosures**

Institutional Leadership

- Take a leadership role to evaluate and promote, through collaboration with peer universities, SRI policies and best practices

- Maintain a leadership role to evaluate and promote, through collaboration with peer universities, SRI policies and best practices
- **Improve McGill's UNPRI score**

Review of SRI Practices

- Review SRI practices regularly on a 5-year basis

- Review SRI practices regularly on a 5-year basis

¹TCFD (Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures)



POLICY NAME	McGill University Sustainability Policy
Approving Body	Senate Board of Governors
Initial Approval Date	May 25, 2010 – Board of Governors
Date of last review	Senate - December 5, 2018 Board of Governors - December 13, 2018
Date of next review	2023
Executive Sponsor	Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance)
Related Documents	Vision2020 Sustainability Strategy (approved 2014) McGill Climate and Sustainability Action Plan (approved 2017) McGill Climate & Sustainability Strategy (approved 2020)

PART I – PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 PURPOSE

- 1.1.1. As institutions committed to the advancement of knowledge and solutions-based inquiry, universities have a unique role to play in the face of complex environmental, social and economic issues. Through research, education, daily operations and interactions with the broader community, universities can be effective contributors to policy and attitudinal change needed to create a sustainable future.

McGill University is committed to achieve the highest possible standards of sustainability. We strive to be a leader in research and education, creating and communicating the knowledge required for humans to live sustainably at the local, regional and global scales. In our operations, we will meet or exceed governmental standards of sustainability for educational institutions and the norms of sustainability achieved by our comparator universities. Our goal is to become an institutional model of sustainability for society as we pursue our academic mission. In order to achieve this, the University will leverage the talent and ingenuity of its students, faculty and staff to transition towards a more sustainable, low carbon future.

1.2. SCOPE

- 1.2.1 This Policy applies to all students, faculty and staff across academic practices, facilities and operations.

PART II –POLICY STATEMENT, ~~ACTION PLANNING~~STRATEGY & REPORTING

2.1 POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1.1 The objectives of the Policy are as follows:

- a) Undertake the activities and operations of the University, including through University advancement, in a manner that strikes an appropriate balance between the needs and aspirations of current and future generations of the McGill and broader communities;
- b) Foster inquiry into sustainability through teaching, learning, research and the university experience, with the expectation that students will graduate with an understanding of sustainability and the ability to address sustainability challenges in a global context;
- c) Share knowledge to stimulate innovation, raise awareness and ensure effective participation of the McGill community in the implementation of sustainable practices;
- d) Encourage economic efficiencies in the University's operations that are consistent with social equity and respect for the environment;
- e) Promote a healthy, safe and productive work and learning environment for the McGill community;
- f) Advance individual and collective efforts and accountabilities throughout the McGill community to make sustainability a priority in the life of the University;
- g) Identify and conserve the cultural and natural heritage of McGill University, including properties, buildings, landscapes, traditions and knowledge, taking their intrinsic rarity and fragility into account;
- h) Minimize the use and consumption of energy, water and material resources in recognition of the finite capacity of the biosphere to accommodate human activities;
- i) Consider the economic, environmental and social impacts of the activities carried out by or on behalf of the University in order to guide decision-making; and-
- j) Comply with regional, national and international declarations and accords of which McGill is a signatory, -notably the [Talloires Declaration](#) and the [Halifax Declaration](#).

2.2. **ACTION-PLANNINGSTRATEGY**

- 2.2.1 To ensure a structured and collaborative approach in support of this Policy, the University will produce strategiesaction-plans in support ofto guide the University's climate and sustainability initiatives that involve all relevant university stakeholders. These action-plansstrategies will outline programs and initiatives that will move the University closer to its sustainability goals, thereby further supporting its leadership position in sustainability.

2.3. **REPORTING**

- 2.3.1 The University will report annually to its community on progress toward achieving its sustainability goals.

PART III – AUTHORITY TO APPROVE PROCEDURES

- 3.1 The Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance) has the authority to establish, approve, amend and repeal procedures which are secondary to and comply with this Policy.

PART IV – REVIEW

- 4.1. A review of this Policy shall be conducted by the Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance) every five (5) years, or may be initiated sooner by the Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance) or Board of Governors when necessary to ensure legislative or statutory compliance, or when deemed necessary to do so in the best interests of the University.



Office of
Sustainability

Bureau du
développement durable

CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

September 2022 - August 2023

Prepared by the McGill Office of Sustainability



MCGILL
SUSTAINABILITY

INTRODUCTION

The Climate & Sustainability Annual Report examines achievements, initiatives, and other sustainability-related activities that the McGill community accomplished during the 2022-2023 academic year. These highlights are presented in relation to the eight categories identified in the McGill University Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025:

-  Research & Education
-  Buildings & Utilities
-  Waste Management
-  Travel & Commuting
-  Food Systems
-  Procurement
-  Landscapes & Ecosystems, and
-  Community Building

Each category section provides an overview of key accomplishments related to the topic area. Accomplishments related directly to strategy actions are denoted with a small category icon (see icons above). Additionally, a bar indicating strategy category implementation progress¹, several key facts and metrics for the academic year (AY), fiscal year (FY) or calendar year (CY), as well as related United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are provided.

Figures included in the report are based on the most recently available data. Most At-A-Glance figures cover the 2022-2023 academic year or are as of August 2023; any exceptions are clearly indicated.

The report also provides an overview of the University's flagship Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF), an update on key performance indicators, as well as a look forward to the next academic year.

The successes described within this report reflect the efforts made by many faculties, units, groups and individuals across the McGill community.

¹The percentage of category progress is calculated based on the level of implementation of each action. Actions categorized as ongoing were not assigned a percentage and were therefore not considered when averaging the degree of completion for the overall category.

03
RESEARCH & EDUCATION

05
BUILDINGS & UTILITIES

07
WASTE MANAGEMENT

09
TRAVEL & COMMUTING

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FOOD SYSTEMS

13
PROCUREMENT

15
LANDSCAPES & ECOSYSTEMS

17
COMMUNITY BUILDING

19
SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS FUND

21
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

22
LOOKING FORWARD

23
SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS



RESEARCH & EDUCATION

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In Fall 2022, Environment and Climate Change Canada announced that it would **invest more than \$4 million in three McGill-led projects** through the Climate Awareness and Action Fund. These projects address critical data and knowledge gaps about greenhouse gas emissions and their environmental impact.

In March 2023, McGill received a **\$1.25 million gift from CIBC in support of the cross-faculty Sustainable Growth initiative (SGI)** to fund the **CIBC Office of Sustainable Finance**. This gift will expand the SGI's ability to promote sustainable finance business practices through five major activities: research-to-action, community engagement, student competitions, thought leadership, and education.

🎯 McGill's online sustainability module, **Creating a Brighter Future: Sustainability at McGill**, was launched in January 2023. Available to all McGill students, the module aims to increase awareness about sustainability and to encourage student engagement with sustainability topics and initiatives. **800 students and counting** have enrolled in the module on MyCourses.

🎯 In 2022-2023, the **Sustainability Education Fellows** program was launched. This initiative brings together faculty and students to advance sustainability in the curriculum and pedagogy at McGill. During the program, **10 Faculty Fellows from 7 faculties** (re)designed a course to infuse sustainability principles into the curriculum, pedagogical practices, and assessments.

🎯 In Fall 2022, the **Climate Crisis & Climate Actions** course was made available to all undergraduate students. The course is designed to provide students the skills necessary for individual and collective actions to address climate change.

🎯 In addition to the release of a **new Sustainable Labs Guide**, 14 McGill labs participated in the **International Freezer Challenge** engagement program in 2023. 160 lab personnel participated, and 131 cold storage units were cleaned.

CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

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

RESEARCH & EDUCATION

CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2025 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS



RESEARCH & EDUCATION AT-A-GLANCE

\$437,500
in faculty funding awarded by the Bieler School of Environment and the McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative

730
Sustainability Courses Offered in AY2021-2022

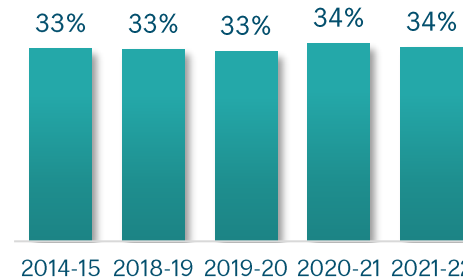
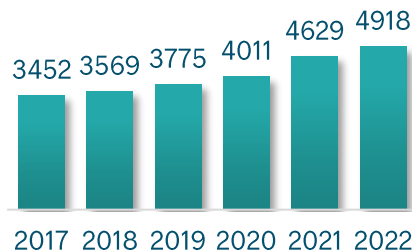
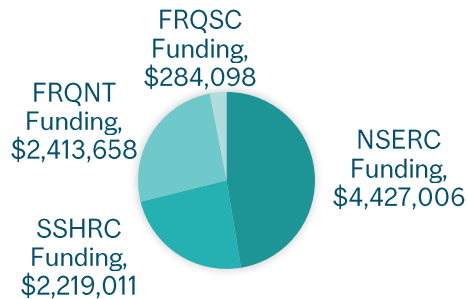
81%
of Academic Departments with Sustainability Course Offerings in AY2021-2022

\$9.3M+
for Sustainability Research in FY2022

4,918
SDG-Related Research Publications in CY2022

34%
of Students Graduated from Programs Requiring an Understanding of Sustainability in AY2021-22

KEY METRICS



NSERC, SSHRC, FRQNT, and FRQSC* Funding Allotted to Sustainability Research (FY2022)

Number of SDG-Related Research Publications by Calendar Year

% of Students Graduating from Programs that Require an Understanding of the Concept of Sustainability by Academic Year



RELATED SDGS






BUILDINGS & UTILITIES

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

-  The Alan Edwards Centre for Research on Pain was awarded **LEED® Gold certification** in August 2023. Renovations included solar shading to reduce cooling requirements, low-flow water fixtures to reduce water demand by over 40%, and the use of low-Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) materials.
 -  Progress on the project to replace the **natural gas boiler with an electric boiler** and install **heat recovery equipment** at the downtown Powerhouse continued to experience delays in 2022-2023. Despite difficulties, key work was completed on the foundation, underground infrastructure and electrical infrastructure. The boilers are set to be delivered and put into service by 2024. This project is a key part of the University's plan to become carbon neutral by 2040.
-

In 2022, building construction and renovations generated over 675 tonnes of construction and demolition waste; thanks to dedicated sustainability efforts, **93% of this waste** was diverted away from landfills.

-  The University's net emissions in 2022 were **44,659 tCO₂e**, a **decrease of 21% since 2015**. This achievement is due in part to continued decreases in university-related air travel and commuting as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, smart energy grids, and recently implemented heat recovery projects, which have counteracted emissions from increased ventilation rates throughout 2022 to combat the transmission of COVID-19.
-

CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

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



BUILDINGS & UTILITIES

CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2025 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS



↑ 9%
since 2021-2022

BUILDINGS & UTILITIES AT-A-GLANCE



-21%
in Institutional Greenhouse
Gas Emissions between
2015 and 2022



100%
Eligible new construction
built to LEED® Certification
specifications

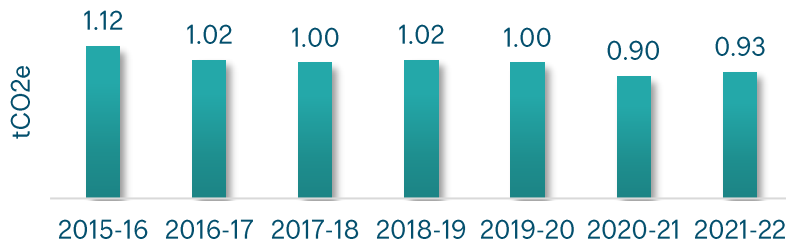


0.93 tCO₂e
Building-Related
Emissions per FTE Student
in AY2021-22

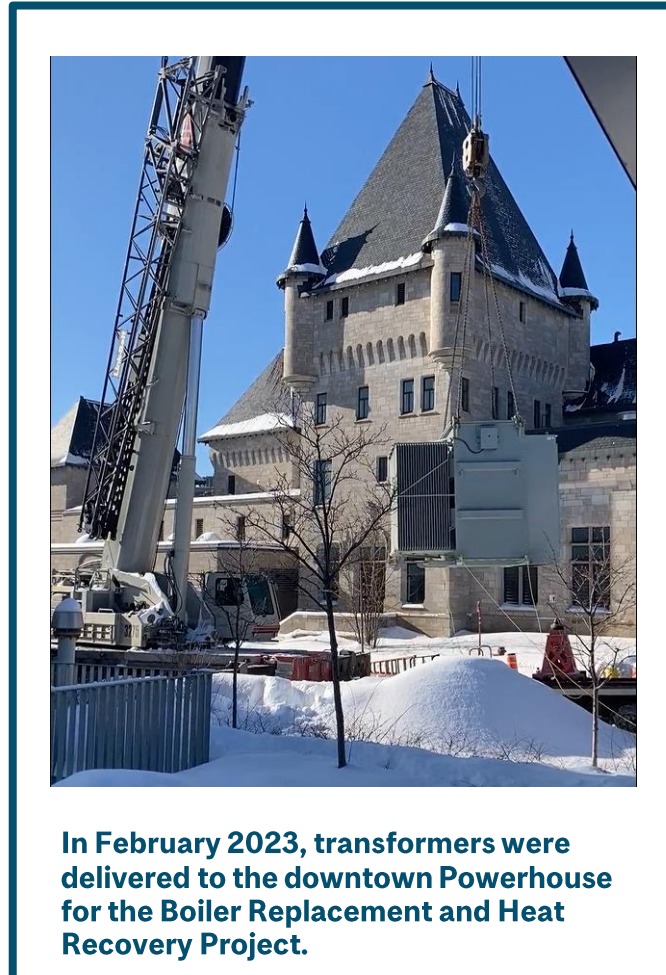


-9,000 tCO₂e
Expected Reductions from
the Boiler Replacement
and Heat Recovery Project

KEY METRICS



Building-related GHG emissions per Full-time Equivalent Student by Academic Year



In February 2023, transformers were delivered to the downtown Powerhouse for the Boiler Replacement and Heat Recovery Project.

RELATED SDGS





CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

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



WASTE MANAGEMENT

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In April 2023, McGill received recognition for its waste management practices: RECYC-QUÉBEC, the government branch responsible for sustainable waste management, **awarded McGill's downtown campus the "Performance" designation** within its ICI on recycle + certification program.



In 2022-2023, Zero-Waste Ambassadors conducted **700 hours** of tabling over the Fall and Winter terms and had over **2,700 interactions**. McGill also hired a **Zero Waste Intern** to create and disseminate a centralized suite of educational materials and resources while identifying opportunities to engage with the McGill community. Moreover, the University developed **a Zero-Waste Knowledge Base**, a resource to help members of the McGill community understand the impacts of waste, learn what McGill is doing to become zero-waste, and to rethink consumption and waste sorting habits.



Recycling was made available outdoors on campus for the first time with the installation of 40 outdoor two-stream waste bins. These replaced stand-alone trash bins in high traffic areas of the downtown campus.

A new project aimed at addressing lab waste management at McGill was awarded **close to \$400,000 by the SPF**. The project tackle systemic issues in lab waste and will be implemented over the next two years.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2025 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS



↑ **6%**
since 2021-2022

WASTE MANAGEMENT AT-A-GLANCE

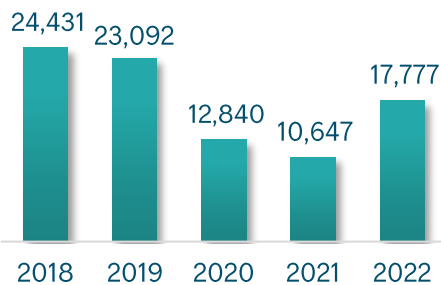
34
Student Zero-Waste Ambassadors Recruited

40
New Outdoor Multi-stream Waste Sorting Stations Installed

53%
of McGill's Waste was Diverted from the Landfill in CY2022

27%
Decrease in McGill-branded Paper Products from 2018 to 2022

KEY METRICS



Kilograms of McGill-branded Paper Products produced by Calendar Year

What is zero-waste?
STRATEGY EXPLAINED

ZERO - WASTE WEDNESDAYS
Storing your food to minimize waste

Zero-Waste Ambassadors created waste-sorting Instagram reels and received over 30,000 views. These were complemented by Zero-Waste Wednesdays graphics and explainers throughout the year.


RELATED SDGS








TRAVEL & COMMUTING

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

-  In 2023, a **new Ride & Refresh program** was launched to make it easier for McGill employees to bike to work. With access to on-campus shower and locker room facilities, participants get to enjoy an active commute and arrive at the office clean and refreshed. Moreover, **new bike racks and a repair station** were installed outside of the Currie Gymnasium to complement the program.

-  The Bayano tree plantation project team **developed a maintenance and monitoring plan** for 2023-2024 and have **expanded student research** on the project. Eight students have worked on research that includes carbon sequestration calculations, fire control, monitoring, leakage, and participants' motivations and visions for the future. Additionally, local coordinators began monitoring trees planted in 2020 with the help of McGill researchers.

-  The SPF-funded \$250,000 **Electric Vehicle Subsidy** was extended another 5 years, to 2028. This initiative provides an internal subsidy to McGill fleet vehicle managers to support the transition from conventional fuel to sustainable vehicles, defined as hybrid, plug-in hybrid and electric.

-  The SPF-funded project led by Multimedia Services to **renovate multimedia studios**, thereby providing an alternative to air travel, progressed during the academic year. The project involved creating a live-streaming studio and implementing services for McGillians to deliver lectures remotely for international conferences.

CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

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

CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2025 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS



TRAVEL & COMMUTING AT-A-GLANCE

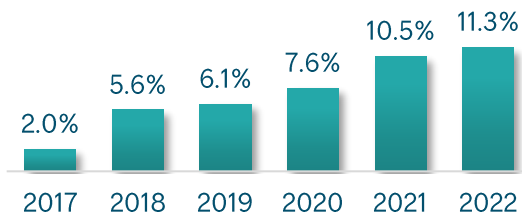
44,500
Trees Planted as part of the Bayano-McGill Reforestation Project (2020-2022)

23
Electric Vehicle Charging Heads on our Campuses

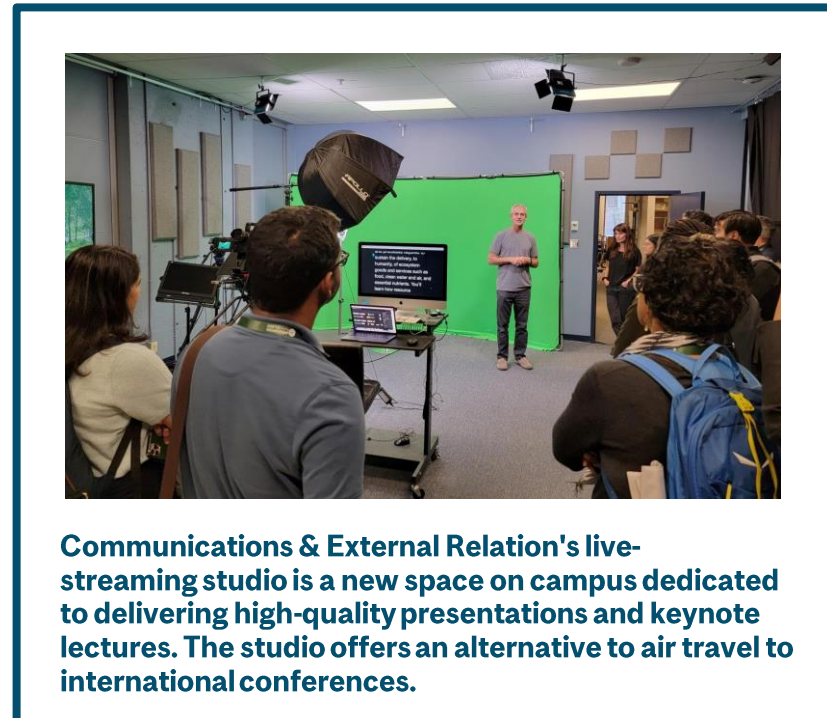
4
Bike Repair Stations Installed Downtown

14
Electric and Hybrid Vehicles in the McGill Fleet

KEY METRICS



Percentage of Electric and Hybrid Vehicles in the McGill Fleet by Calendar Year




FOOD SYSTEMS

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In March 2023, students launched the **Margaret A. Gilliam Institute for Global Food Security Student Nexus**, a new hub to advocate for global food security. Open to students in any field of study, the group's goal is to raise awareness about the topic of food security, while also giving its members a place to come together and learn from one another.

 The SPF awarded close to **\$100K in funding for a Zero-Waste Dining Halls project**. This project aims to reduce single-use items and improve waste infrastructure in campus dining halls.

 The Macdonald Campus Farm provided the downtown campus dining halls with **over 15 tonnes of fresh produce** in 2022 – a 6% increase from 2021 – including 1.4t of apples, 3.8t of onions, and 5t of tomatoes.

McGill's downtown campus renewed its **Fair Trade Campus certification** in 2022 for the **10th year in a row**. Macdonald Campus received its **5th consecutive** Fair Trade Campus certification.

CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

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

CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2025 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

32% IMPLEMENTED

↑ 3%
since 2021-2022

FOOD SYSTEMS AT-A-GLANCE



15 tonnes
of Produce Grown at Macdonald
Campus served Downtown (2022)



22%
of Food Purchases
are Plant-Based

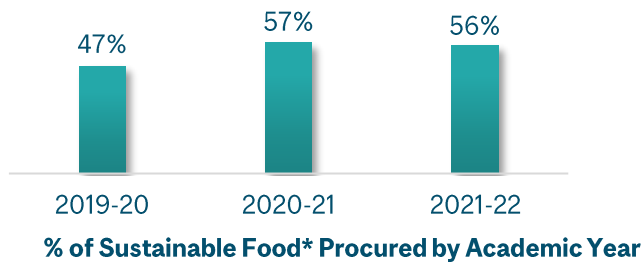


10 years
of Fair Trade Campus
Certification (since 2013)

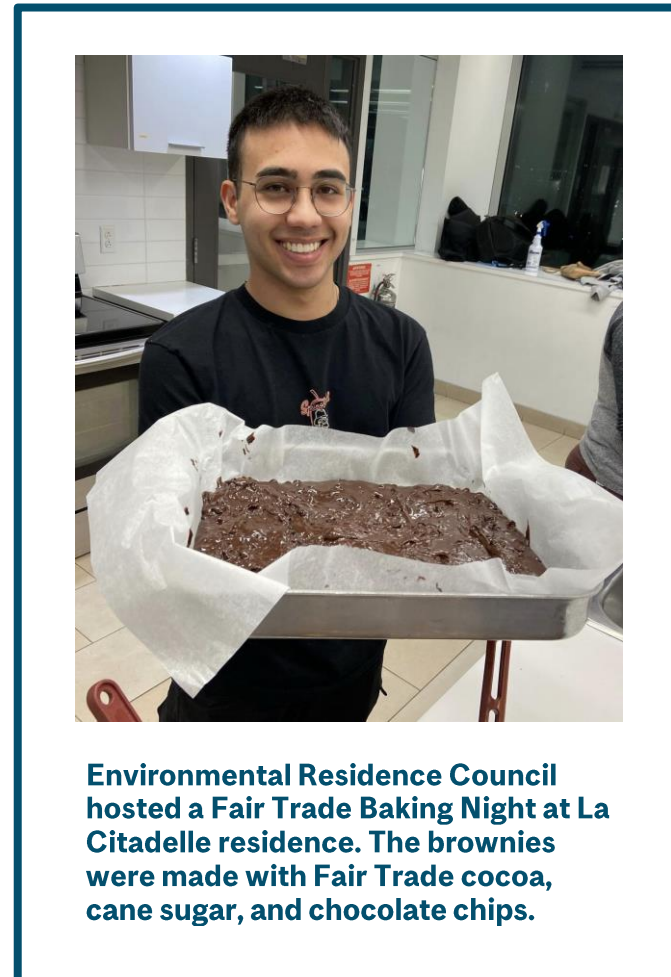


7,000L
of used cooking oil
recovered

KEY METRICS



*Sustainable (local, Fair Trade, organic, and sustainable seafood) food procured for locations managed by provider Dana Hospitality.





CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

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



PROCUREMENT

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

-  In Spring 2023, Procurement Services released a **revised Supplier Code of Conduct** that was updated in collaboration with other Québec universities and which is also gradually being adopted by other institutions. This Common Supplier Code of Conduct has been filed with the Bureau de la Coopération Interuniversitaire (BCI), and is available to all Quebec universities, with the expectation that it will continue to be updated and/or improved over time.

-  Following new asset management procedures, the SPF-supported Facilities Management project, FMAS Sustainability Push, resulted in the reuse and/or donation of **over 2,000 articles of furniture and building materials**. Similarly, more than 580 IT assets were redeployed internally or sent to our certified, non-profit, refurbishing partner, creating employment opportunities for at-risk youth.

-  Procurement Services **offered the “Sustainable Procurement 101” workshop** to 175 staff and faculty members in 2022-2023. The team also developed a more advanced Sustainable Procurement 3-hour training for its staff and offered this training to 90 people in procurement departments across all Québec universities.

- McGill **joined the Fair Labor Association** in Spring 2023 further demonstrating its commitment to fair labor conditions and upholding human rights.

PROCUREMENT

CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2025 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS



PROCUREMENT AT-A-GLANCE

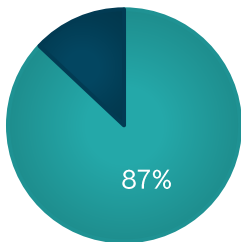
 **130+**
Indigenous and Social Economy
Businesses in McGill Marketplace

 **265**
People Trained on
Sustainable Procurement

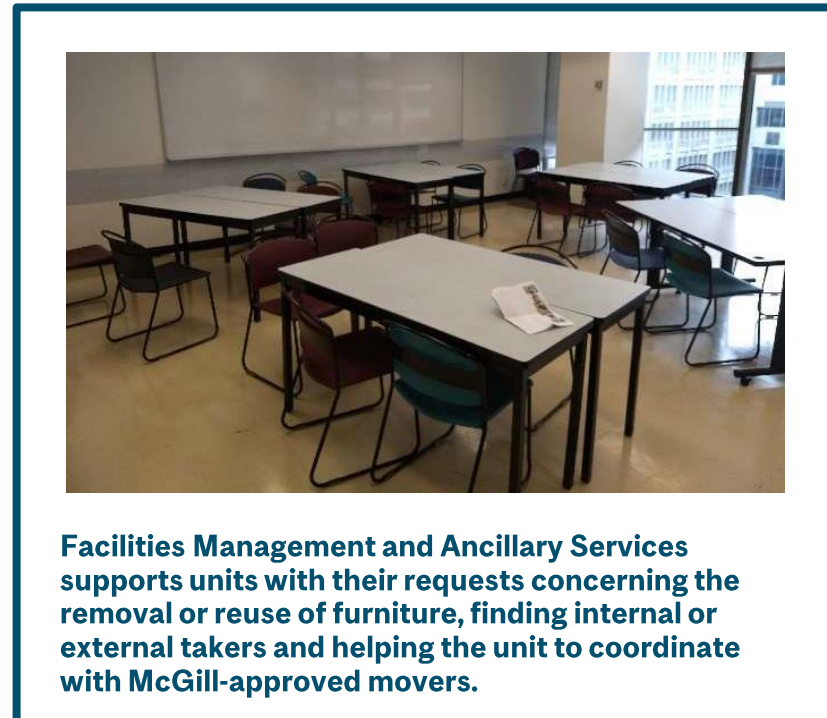
 **2,000+**
Articles of Furniture and
Building Materials Reused or Donated

 **500+**
IT Assets Sent to a Non-Profit
for At-Risk Youth

KEY METRICS



% of IT Assets that meet specific sustainability criteria (Total Spend) with Sustainability Elements Included in FY2022



RELATED SDGS





LANDSCAPES & ECOSYSTEMS

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

McGill joined a global community of universities who have **committed to the Nature Positive Pledge** in Fall 2022. Launched by the UN Environment Programme and the University of Oxford to coincide with COP15 in December 2022, the Nature Positive Pledge commits higher education institutions to taking action on biodiversity preservation. McGill is one of only 14 Canadian universities to sign the Pledge.

- ② The University **completed its first Biodiversity Plan** that identifies and promotes key initiatives in support of biodiversity on McGill's campuses. The Plan was endorsed by the University's governing bodies in Summer 2023 and will be launched the following Fall. People from 15 different units, groups, and faculties were consulted during the plan's development.
 - ② McGill undertook its **first climate risk assessment** in Winter 2023, with collaboration and input from several internal units. The results will be used to inform adaptation and resilience measures, which will be incorporated into the next Climate & Sustainability Strategy (2025-2030).
-

The **Staff Gardens urban agriculture program** was popular once again in Summer 2023. 138 individuals registered to the program, representing 32 units across campus.

7 projects focused on improving landscapes and ecosystems were approved for funding by the SPF. These included the Sanctuary for Native Medicinal Plants at McGill, The Lab Garden, and the MORSL Interfaith Peace Garden.

CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

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

LANDSCAPES & ECOSYSTEMS


CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2025 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS



↑ **53%**
since 2021-2022

LANDSCAPES & ECOSYSTEMS AT-A-GLANCE

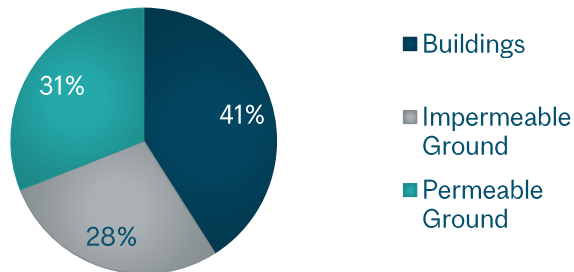
 **2,629 tCO₂e**
sequestered each year by
McGill's forests

 **520+ m²**
Total Area of Urban Agriculture
Sites on the Downtown Campus

 **2,200+ ha**
Land Owned or
Managed by McGill

 **14,164 + m²**
Area of Macdonald Student-Run
Ecological Gardens


KEY METRICS



% of Permeable Surface Type on
Downtown Campus CY2021

**MCGILL
UNIVERSITY**

**BIODIVERSITY
PLAN 2030**



McGill's Biodiversity Plan was crafted over the course of 2022 and 2023. The Plan outlines 6 key objectives to monitor, protect, and enhance biodiversity, as well as raise awareness and engage community members.

RELATED SDGS





COMMUNITY BUILDING

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



A **record number of student Sustainability Ambassadors were recruited** in the 2022-2023 academic year as part of the expanded Sustainability Ambassador Program (SAP). This program provides students with the opportunity to develop leadership skills and to introduce the McGill community to sustainability initiatives across the campuses. **57 students** chose between three SAP streams: the Sustainability Projects Fund stream, the Zero-Waste stream, and the Sustainable Events stream. Collectively, the ambassadors **volunteered over 3,400 hours**.



Over 200 staff and faculty attended 8 sustainability-themed workshops offered through Organizational Development in partnership with the McGill Office of Sustainability.



26 workplaces were certified through the Sustainable Workplace Certification program in 2022, for a cumulative total of **over 120 workplaces certified over the past five years**. McGill's Human Resources department led by example, with all seven HR units achieving bronze-level certification.



Over 95 small, medium, large in-person events and online events were certified through the Sustainable Event Certification program in 2022-2023.

Over 100 people attended the Sustainable Food System Solutions Research Fair, which was held in March 2023 as part of the University Global Coalition's SDG Action and Awareness Week. The event focused on SDG 2 Zero Hunger and its main goal was to encourage research cross-collaboration between the downtown and Macdonald campuses.

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.



COMMUNITY BUILDING

CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2025 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS



↑ **11%**
since 2021-2022

COMMUNITY BUILDING AT-A-GLANCE



460+

Certified Sustainable Events since 2017



55

Staff became Sustainable Workplace Ambassadors



120+

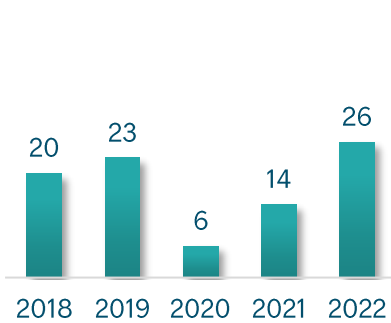
Workplaces Certified Sustainable since 2018



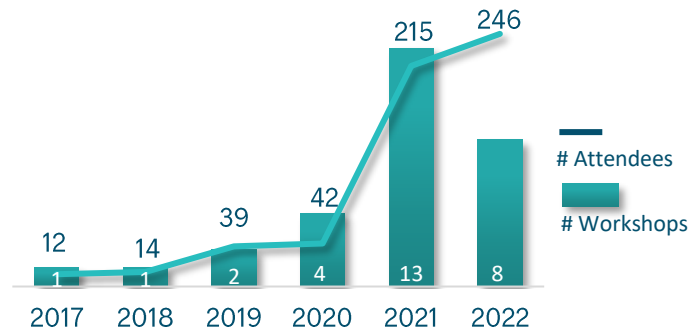
57

Student Sustainable Event Consultants, Sustainability Projects Fund Ambassadors, and Zero-Waste Ambassadors

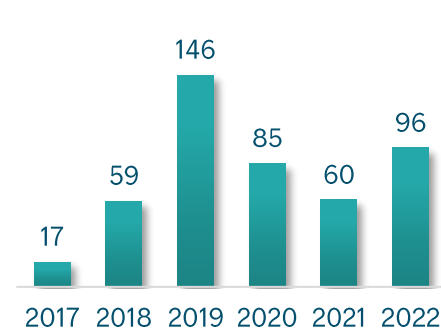
KEY METRICS



Total Number of Workplaces Certified by Calendar Year



Total Attendance and Number of Sustainability-related Staff Workshops by Calendar Year



Total Number of Certified Sustainable Events by Calendar Year

RELATED SDGS







SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS FUND

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The SPF was successfully **renewed for an additional five years** (FY2023-FY2028) at a fee of \$0.55 per credit for students, matched dollar-for-dollar by the University. Thanks to the support and hard work of dedicated students across campus, PGSS, SSMU, and MCSS voted to continue funding the SPF. The University also confirmed its commitment to funding its half of the SPF.

To forge fruitful partnerships and promote awareness of approved projects, the SPF hosted **two student-focused events: the Sustainability Soirée** (September 14) was hosted in collaboration with the McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative (MSSI) to showcase funded projects; and the Student Sustainability Network (SSN) brought student groups together for an evening of **networking and brainstorming potential SPF projects** (March 23).

-  The largest SPF project approved in FY23 was a Big Wave application for **“Launching Systemic Solutions to Lab Waste Management at McGill.”** The applicants will receive \$399,000 to implement systemic solutions to lab waste management challenges at McGill by developing University-level infrastructure and procedures to reduce and recycle non-hazardous waste.
 -  Other notable SPF applications approved in FY23 include a project to implement **organic waste collection in downtown McGill student residences**; a program to **support faculty in infusing sustainability** into their academic practice; and a program to encourage **sustainable commuting** to campus.
-

MANDATE

Build a culture of sustainability on McGill campuses through the development and seed-funding of interdisciplinary projects.



SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS FUND

SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS FUND AT-A-GLANCE (FY2023)



\$12M+

Allocated to Sustainability Projects since 2010



6,100+

Volunteers Mobilized since 2010



100+

Partnerships/Collaborations Developed



15,000+

People Trained through Projects since 2010



338

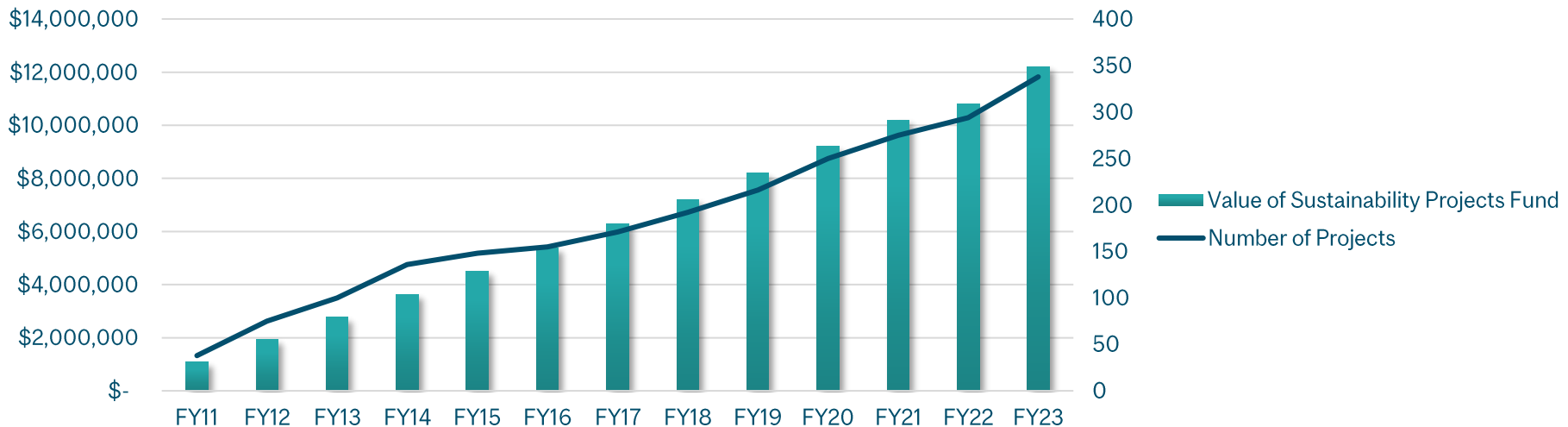
Sustainability Projects Approved since 2010



\$161K

Received by SPF Teams from other Sources of Funding

KEY METRICS



Cumulative Value of the Sustainability Projects Fund and Number of Projects Approved by the Sustainability Projects Fund

RELATED SDGS

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



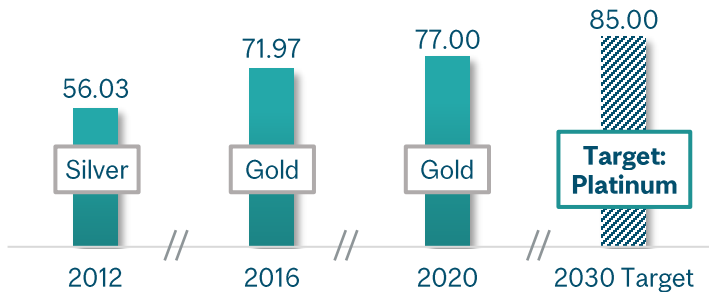
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



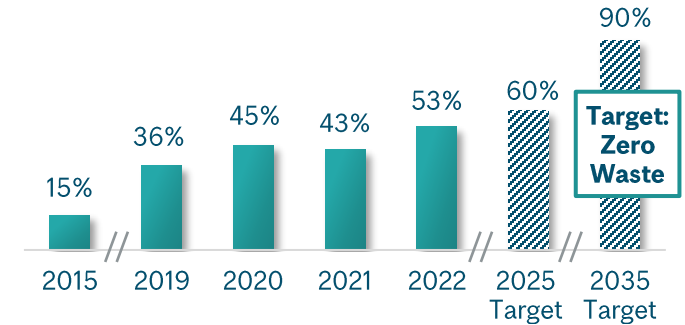
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The University tracks several key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure the implementation of the Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025, as well as its three long-term targets: to attain a platinum sustainability rating by 2030, to become a zero-waste campus by 2035, and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040. Progress on these KPIs is reported to the Board of Governors on an annual basis.

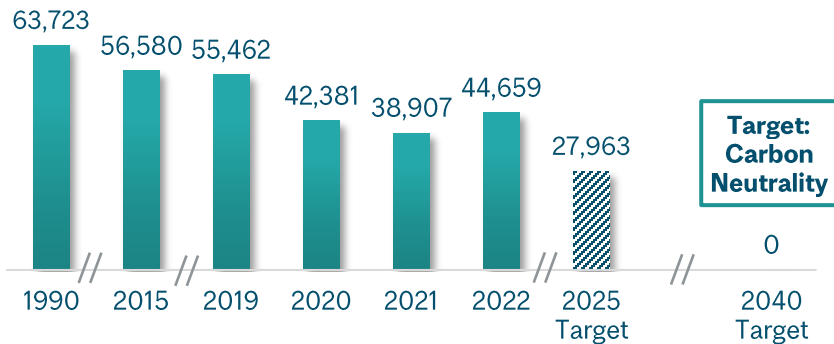
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



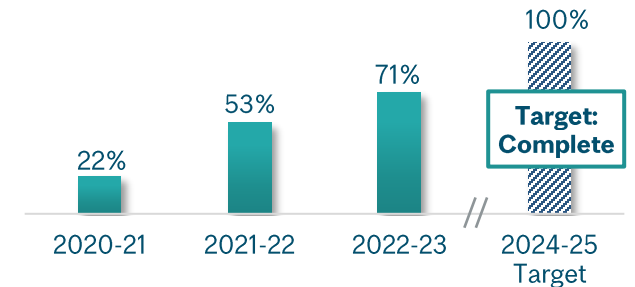
STARS® Sustainability Score and Rating by Submission Year¹



% of Waste Diverted from Landfill by Calendar Year²



Net Tonnes of Institutional Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Calendar Year



% Completion of the Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025 by Academic Year



LOOKING FORWARD

CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY (2025-2030) CONSULTATIONS

Over the next year and a half, the University will develop a new Climate & Sustainability Strategy (2025-2030) that reflects the needs of the McGill community, outlines key objectives and actions to take, and expresses the University's commitment to leadership in sustainability. The University will make the consultation process meaningful and engaging, while encouraging wide participation through in-person and online events.

NEW VIC PROJECT

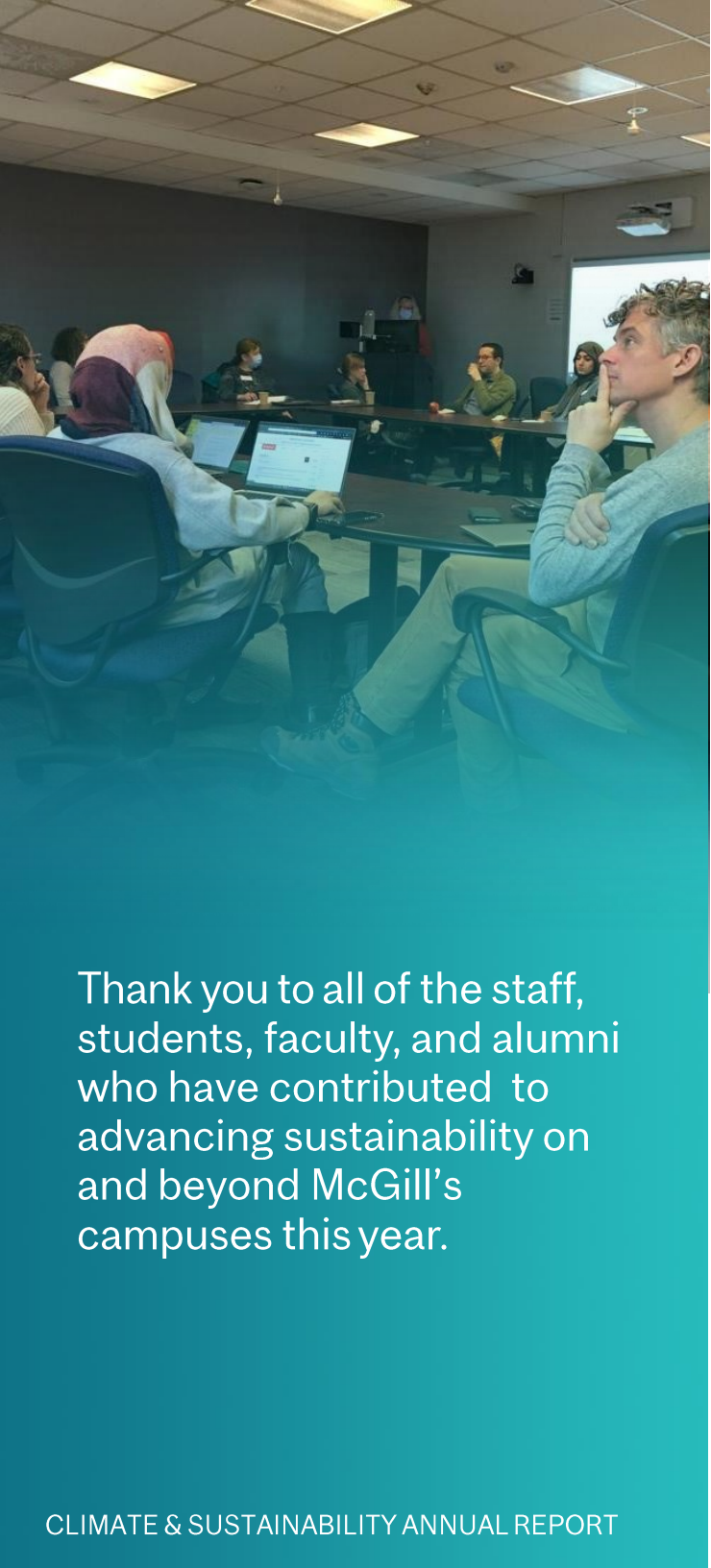
The New Vic project, which aims to revitalize a portion of the site of the former Royal-Victoria Hospital, will continue to take shape over the coming years. This state-of-the-art research, teaching, and learning hub is set to play a significant role in promoting interdisciplinary connections and research around sustainability and public policy.

STARS® REPORT SUBMISSION

In Fall 2023, McGill will submit a Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS®) report to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). Produced every three years, the report captures a full picture of sustainability progress at McGill. As many actions in the Climate & Sustainability Strategy (2020-2025) were aligned to best practices in STARS®, the University expects an improved score, in alignment with its goal to attain a Platinum sustainability rating by 2030, one of the University's Key Performance Indicators.

SUSTAINABLE LAB CERTIFICATION LAUNCH

In the 2023-2024 academic year, the University will launch a new Sustainable Labs Certification program that will catalyze and incentivize sustainability in labs. The lab certification builds on the successful workplace and events programs and responds to requests for institutional support from the lab community.



SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS

Groups, units, and departments whose efforts have greatly contributed to McGill's sustainability-related achievements include, but are not limited to:

- Buildings and Grounds
- Campus Planning & Development Office
- Communications and External Relations
- Design Services
- Environmental Health & Safety
- Equity Office
- Faculty Froshes
- Gault Nature Reserve
- Green Labs at McGill
- Office of Indigenous Initiatives
- Human Resources
- Internal Audit
- Macdonald Campus Sustainability Committee
- McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative
- New Vic Project Office
- Office of the Principal and Vice-Chancellor
- Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)
- Office of the Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance)
- Office of the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation)
- Office of Analysis, Planning, and Budget
- Organizational Development
- Parking & Transportation Services
- Procurement Services
- Redpath Museum
- SDG Student Hub
- Secretariat
- Student Housing & Hospitality Services
- Student Societies (SSMU, MCSS, PGSS)
- Teaching & Learning Services
- University Advancement
- Utilities & Energy Management

Thank you to all of the staff, students, faculty, and alumni who have contributed to advancing sustainability on and beyond McGill's campuses this year.