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The following item arises from the Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility (CSSR) meetings of November 7, November 22, and December 9, 2024. It is presented to the Board of Governors for its consideration.

**I. FOR ENDORSEMENT BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS****1. Climate and Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030** [SR24-14]

The Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility received a request to endorse the 2025-2030 Climate and Sustainability Strategy, and to recommend its endorsement to the Board of Governors.

The 2025-2030 Climate and Sustainability Strategy, which will follow the current [2020-2025 Climate and Sustainability Strategy](#), aims to continue McGill's efforts to address environmental challenges. Its development included an extensive stakeholder consultation process, undertaken by McGill's Office of Sustainability, which included students, staff, faculty and governance members.

The 2025-2030 strategy is structured around 4 key categories: (i) learning and research; (ii) physical environment; (iii) resource management; and (iv) community building.

Like the current strategy, the 2025-2030 Climate and Sustainability Strategy remains focused on McGill's sustainability long-term commitments, including two new commitments to:

- Increase Climate Resilience
- Become a Nature Positive University

Progress toward each target will be measured, monitored and periodically reported to the Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility. The Board of Governors will also receive progress reports on the status of the strategy.

The Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility endorsed the Climate and Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030, as presented in Appendix A, and recommended its endorsement to the Board of Governors.

*Be it resolved that the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Committee on Sustainability, endorse the Climate and Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025, as presented in Appendix A.*

## **II. FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

### **1. Report Regarding the Review of the Expression of Concern [SR24-11][SR24-12]**

An expression of concern was received by the Secretary-General on June 25, 2024. Following a review of the submission by the Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility (CSSR), the CSSR approved the submission of the Committee's Report regarding the expression of concern to the Board of Governors for information. The report is attached as Appendix B.

### **2. Annual Report on McGill Sustainability and Climate Initiatives [SR24-15]**

The Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility received a request to approve the submission of the Climate & Sustainability Annual Report 2023-2024 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](#). 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 C.

### **3. CSSR Mandate from the Board [SR24-10] [SR24-13]**

The Committee continued its work pertaining to the CSSR mandate approved by the Board at its special meeting of July 8, 2024. The Committee concluded its consultations, which included input from the community and two subject matter experts. The Committee deliberations are proceeding, and it is anticipated that the Committee will submit its report to the Board at its meeting of February 8, 2025.

### **4. Other Updates and Reports**

The Committee received the following reports and updates for information:

- 2024 Sustainability Key Performance Indicators [SR24-16]

**END**

**December 2024**

# CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY

STRATEGY  
2025-2030



McGill



DÉVELOPPEMENT  
DURABLE  
MCGILL  
SUSTAINABILITY



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Photographer: Ben Joppke

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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 solidify 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 the next seven generations and, by extension, all 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.

### LOOKING AHEAD

While this strategy looks ahead to 2030, 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.



McGill Pow Wow 2023  
Photographer: Allen McInnis



# *From our* LEADERSHIP

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members of the McGill community,

In these uncertain times, the importance of sustainability has never been more certain. From the threat of climate change and its widespread impacts on populations, to the alarming depletion of our natural resources, the world as we know it stands at a crossroads. At this juncture, we are called upon to take bold, decisive action to mitigate these challenges and to pave the way forward toward a more resilient and equitable future.

McGill University is steadfast in its commitment to excellence in sustainability. The University's recent Platinum sustainability rating is a testament to the important headway we have made in this area, as well as to the outstanding work and dedication of our community. At the same time, this milestone reminds us that we cannot be complacent: we must continue to advance our priorities in sustainability together, with unwavering commitment and a strong sense of accountability.

Indeed, effectively centering sustainability in all that we do requires the collective effort of every member of our community—students, faculty, staff and alumni—all coming together to drive significant change. While each of us has a role to play, this responsibility also resides at the institutional level. McGill University's Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030 outlines various pathways for further integrating sustainability into the University's operations, research and teaching. It also suggests ways in which McGillians can actively participate in achieving the goals outlined in the Strategy and make meaningful contributions for a more sustainable future.

As we chart our course forward, let us take this opportunity to reaffirm our ongoing commitment to sustainability across McGill's campuses. Together, through our actions, both big and small, we can build a brighter future for generations to come.

“

McGill University is steadfast in its commitment to excellence in sustainability.



**PROF. DEEP SAINI**  
President & Vice-Chancellor,  
McGill University



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear members of the McGill community,

As Chair of the Board Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility, I am proud to endorse McGill's latest Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030. Building on McGill's longstanding commitment to sustainability, this strategy reinforces our goals and provides a structured approach for accountability through concrete, impactful actions.

Developed in alignment with McGill's Sustainability Policy, this strategy sets out defined objectives and a strategic path to address today's urgent environmental challenges. The very existence of our Board Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility underscores McGill's commitment to leading in

this domain and our responsibility to drive meaningful change on campus and beyond.

On behalf of the Committee, I express our full support and enthusiasm for partnering with the University to bring this vision to life. By following the roadmap outlined in the strategy, we continue to strengthen McGill's contributions—not only to our community – but also to the wider societies we serve in Montreal, Quebec, and across Canada.

Together, let us continue to implement the best practices of sustainability and social responsibility, ensuring that McGill remains at the forefront of progress and innovation. I invite every McGillian to join in this effort, as we work toward a more sustainable and enduring future.

“

I invite every McGillian to join in this effort, as we work toward a more sustainable and enduring future.



**ALAN DESNOYERS**  
Chair, Board Committee  
on Sustainability and  
Social Responsibility





# Sustainability AT MCGILL

## WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

McGill adheres to the definition of sustainability set forward in the [Brundtland Report](#) (1987), which states that sustainable development “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

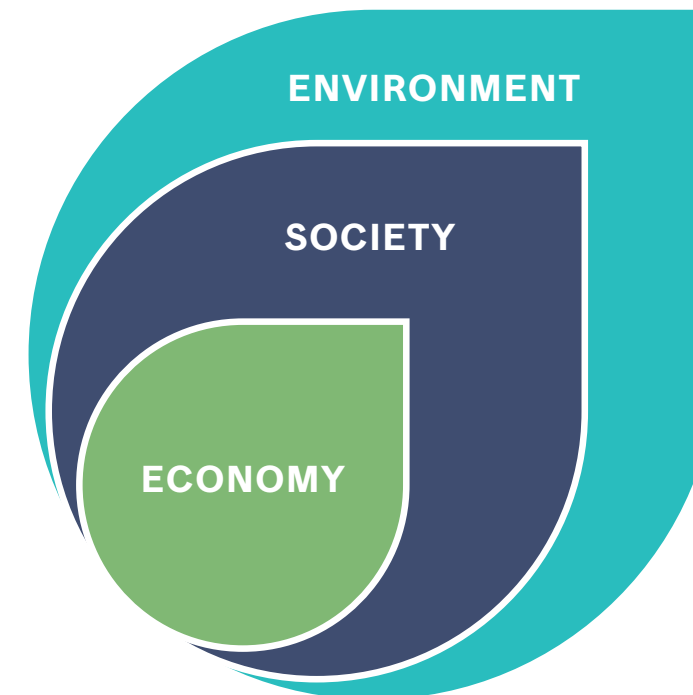
Over the years, the concept of sustainability has evolved beyond its initial focus on development, expanding into an interdisciplinary

dialogue that encompasses society, the economy and the environment (Figure 1).

In 2015, the global community reaffirmed its commitment to sustainability with the adoption of the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). These 17 interconnected goals provide a blueprint to achieve a more equitable and sustainable future by 2030.

“

Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



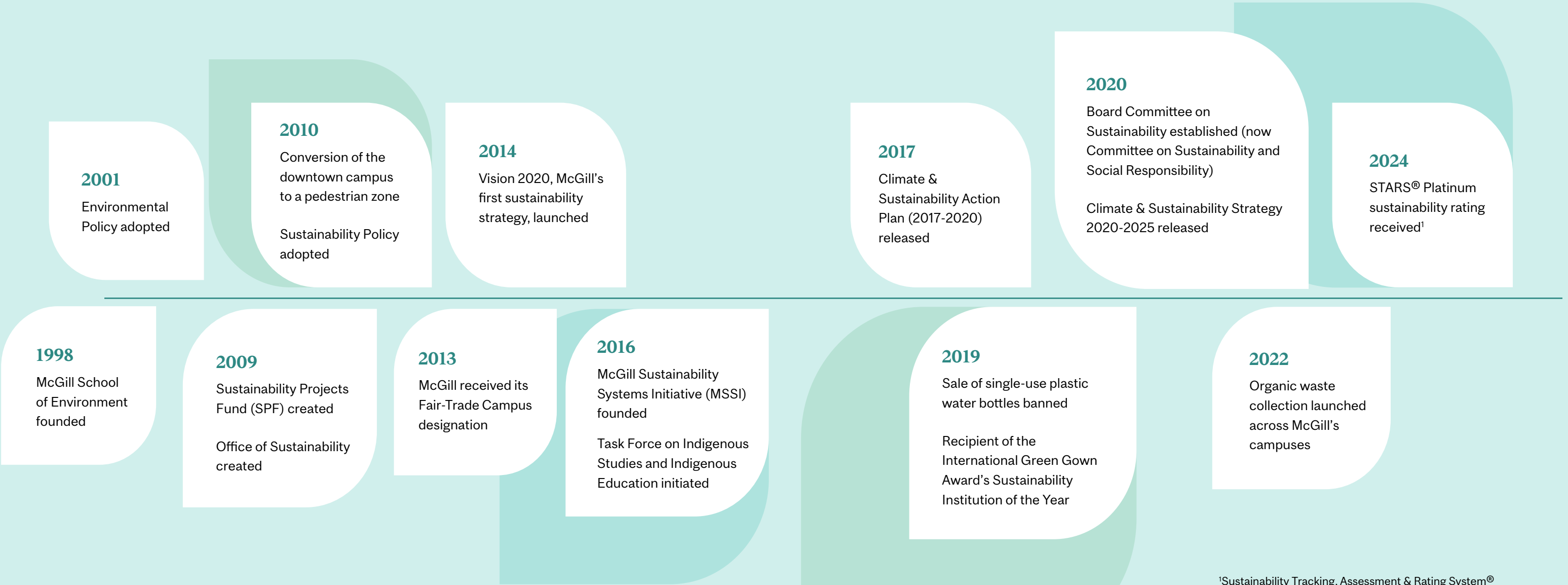
**FIGURE 1:**

The “nested model” of sustainability emphasizes that each dimension is dependent on the next



# McGILL'S SUSTAINABILITY JOURNEY

McGill's journey in embedding climate and sustainability considerations into the University's activities is marked by numerous milestones that span decades. With the release of its fourth Climate & Sustainability Strategy (Figure 2), the University continues to exemplify its long-term commitment to sustainability by outlining clear objectives and priorities that have progressively elevated the profile of sustainability at McGill.



<sup>1</sup>Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System®

# MCGILL'S SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES OVER TIME



**FIGURE 2:**  
McGill's sustainability strategies over time





Renditions of the New Vic's exterior  
Diamond Schmitt Lemay Michaud Architects

## A LEAP FORWARD: THE NEW VIC

To tackle global sustainability challenges, we need to unite researchers and learners around the problems they are addressing, rather than the disciplines in which they specialize. In line with this vision, McGill University is revitalizing a portion of the former Royal Victoria Hospital to create a state-of-the-art research, teaching and learning hub dedicated to sustainability systems and public policy.

[The New Vic Project](#) will catalyze a new model of university education and research—one that breaks down traditional disciplinary boundaries so that researchers and learners can pursue shared goals that benefit humanity.

By adopting a systems approach—a holistic way of understanding and solving complex problems—the New Vic recognizes the interconnectedness of sustainability challenges and the need for coordinated, multidisciplinary action. As the embodiment of McGill's sustainability vision, the New Vic will elevate the University's research, teaching and policy efforts by creating a cutting-edge hub that fosters collaboration and drives innovation.

To tackle global sustainability challenges, we need to unite researchers and learners around the problems they are addressing, rather than the disciplines in which they specialize.





# Developing THE STRATEGY

## CONTRIBUTING TO A BETTER WORLD

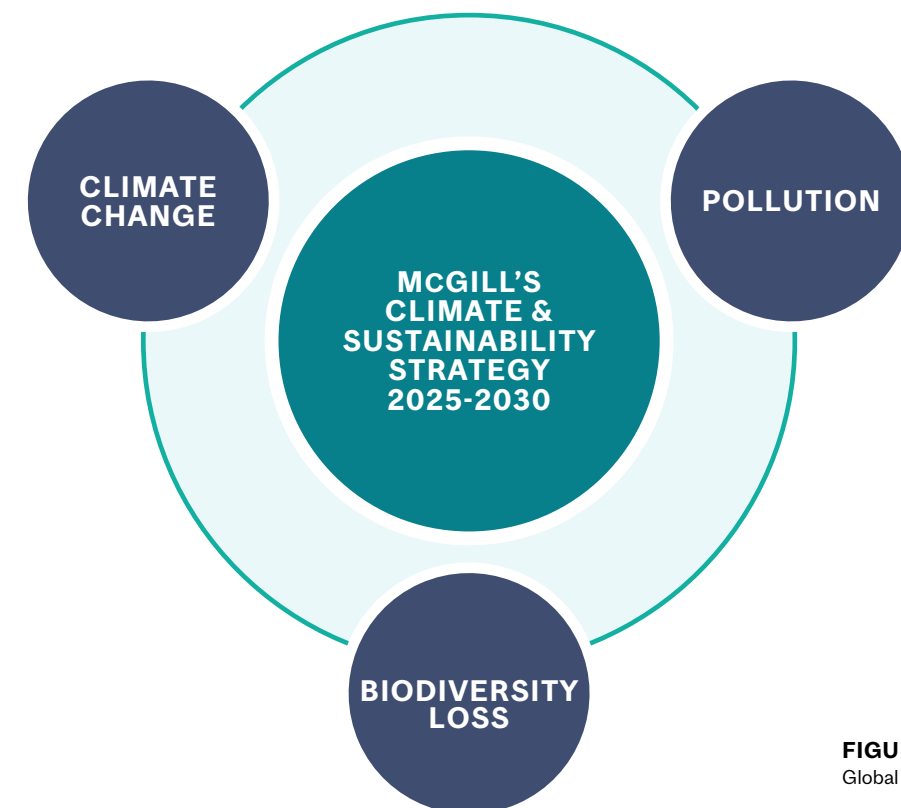
The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has identified a **triple planetary crisis** that humanity currently faces: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

**Climate change** refers to long-term alterations in Earth's climate patterns, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas. These actions accelerate changes in the atmosphere, leading to consequences such as more frequent droughts, fires, flooding and extreme weather events.

**Biodiversity loss** refers to the decline in the variety and abundance of life on Earth, spanning ecosystems, species and genetic diversity. Key drivers include habitat destruction, invasive species, climate change and pollution.

**Pollution** is the introduction of harmful substances or contaminants into the environment that affect air, soil and water. While pollution can result from various factors, it is most commonly driven by human activities such as improper waste management.

Given the interconnected nature of these crises, addressing them requires coordinated global action. The global sustainability priorities identified by the UNFCCC form the foundation of McGill's Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030, guiding the University's commitments and actions as it works toward a more sustainable future for the McGill community and the world at large.



**FIGURE 3:**  
Global Sustainability Priorities





**FIGURE 4:**  
Flow chart of strategy inputs

## STRATEGY CONSULTATIONS

From summer 2023 to autumn 2024, McGill's Office of Sustainability led an extensive community consultation process to develop the Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030. The process was structured around three main pillars: research & benchmarking, university-wide outreach and targeted consultations (Figure 4). Special care was taken to engage a diverse cross-section of McGill stakeholders, including students, staff, faculty and governance members. Supported by the Sustainability Projects Fund, these consultations allowed for broad community engagement. Collectively, over 1,200 people contributed valuable insights during the process.

As part of the community consultations, McGillians were asked to share their vision for a more sustainable future at the University. The responses highlighted a strong call for concrete actions—both large and small—that collectively signify substantial progress toward sustainability. The strategy is designed to reflect the community's vision by capturing the essence of these ideas, ensuring it aligns with McGillians' aspirations for a more sustainable institution. See Figure 5 for a visual representation of the community's input.



**FIGURE 5:**  
Graphic representation of community consultations held in autumn 2023 and winter 2024





## ENSURING ALIGNMENT

The actions outlined in McGill's Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030 are carefully aligned with the University's other plans, policies and strategies. Together, these guiding documents provide a cohesive approach to embedding sustainability throughout the institution.

### Select complementary plans, policies and strategies

- [McGill University Mission](#)
- [Strategic Research Plan](#)
- [Strategic Academic Plan](#)
- [Sustainability Policy](#)
- [Sustainable Procurement Policy](#)
- [Energy Management Plan](#)
- [Waste Reduction & Diversion Strategy](#)
- [Campus Master Plan](#)

## A COMMITMENT TO EQUITY

The definition of sustainability includes three dimensions: environmental, social and economic. In line with this understanding, the Climate & Sustainability Strategy takes equity concerns into consideration, such as ensuring engagement-related actions are accessible to all. Several institutional documents also complement the work of the Climate & Sustainability Strategy:

- [Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Strategic Plan](#)
- [Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism](#)
- [Provost's Task Force: Final report on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education](#)

It is only through the mindful incorporation of equity that the University can begin to address interconnections between environmental, social and economic challenges. This commitment to equity not only helps foster a more sustainable institution, but also contributes to the creation of a more just and equitable world for present and future generations.



# STRUCTURE OF THE STRATEGY

Informed by the triple planetary crisis, the strategy begins by detailing McGill’s five long-term sustainability commitments, which extend beyond the strategy’s timeframe. Each commitment includes a target for 2030, aligning with the strategy timeline.

Following this, the strategy presents an action plan detailing how the 2030 targets will be achieved. The actions are categorized into four key areas: learning & research, physical environment, resource management and community building. Each category highlights its alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring that a global perspective is integrated into McGill’s efforts.

Each category includes a flagship action. These flagship actions stand out for their level of ambition, their potential to engage multiple stakeholders, and their significant contributions to achieving the category objectives.

Finally, the strategy concludes with a section on implementation, which outlines how progress will be tracked and reported, how the McGill community can actively engage with the strategy, and how projects will be supported.



**FIGURE 6:**  
Outline of McGill's Climate & Sustainability Strategy  
2025-2030



# UNIVERSITY-WIDE OUTREACH



McGill community members contributing to the Climate & Sustainability Strategy consultation process



# Commitments & TARGETS

The Bayano-McGill reforestation project in Panama has resulted in the planting of 44,500 trees, which capture 925 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year





# ACHIEVE CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2040

Global sustainability priority: climate change



Newly installed electric boilers will reduce McGill's greenhouse gas emissions by 9,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent annually

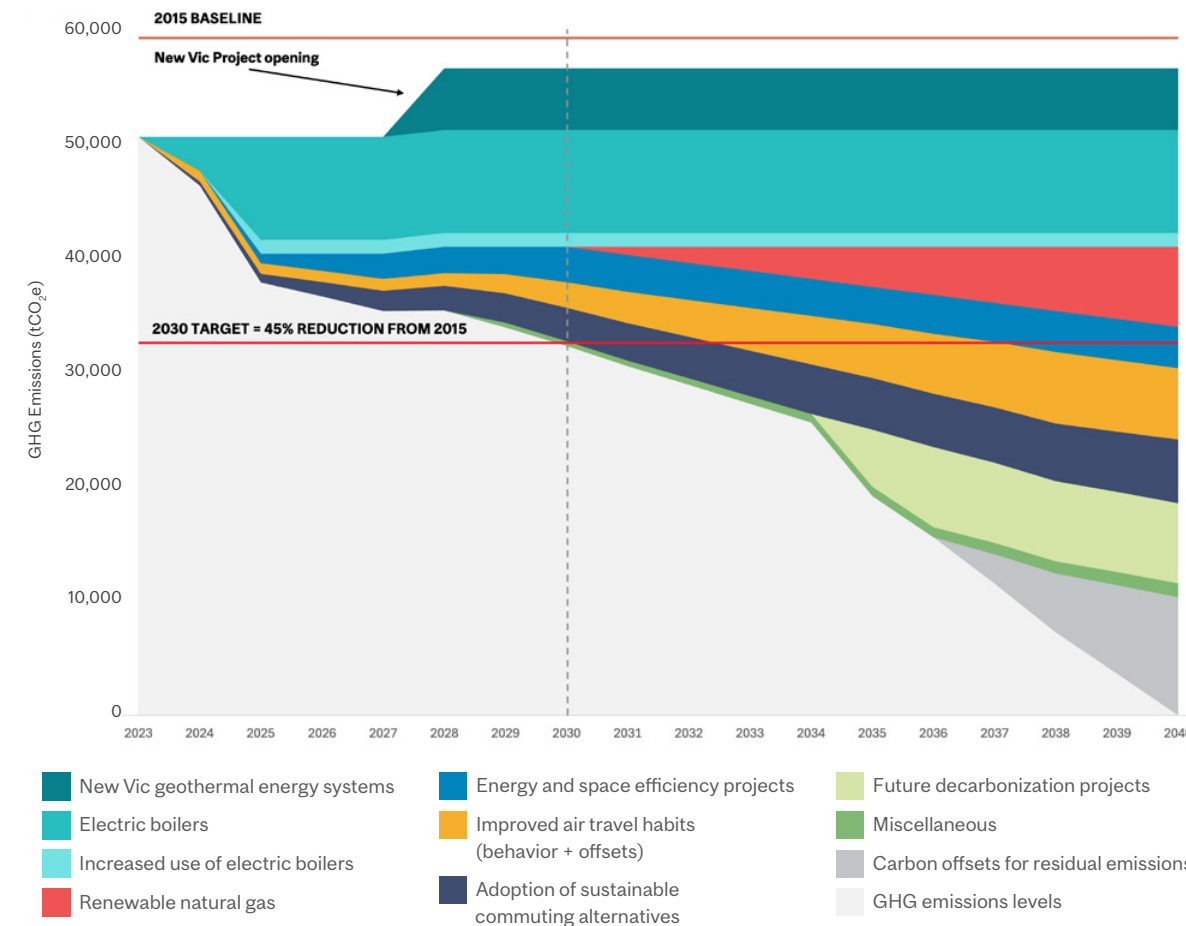
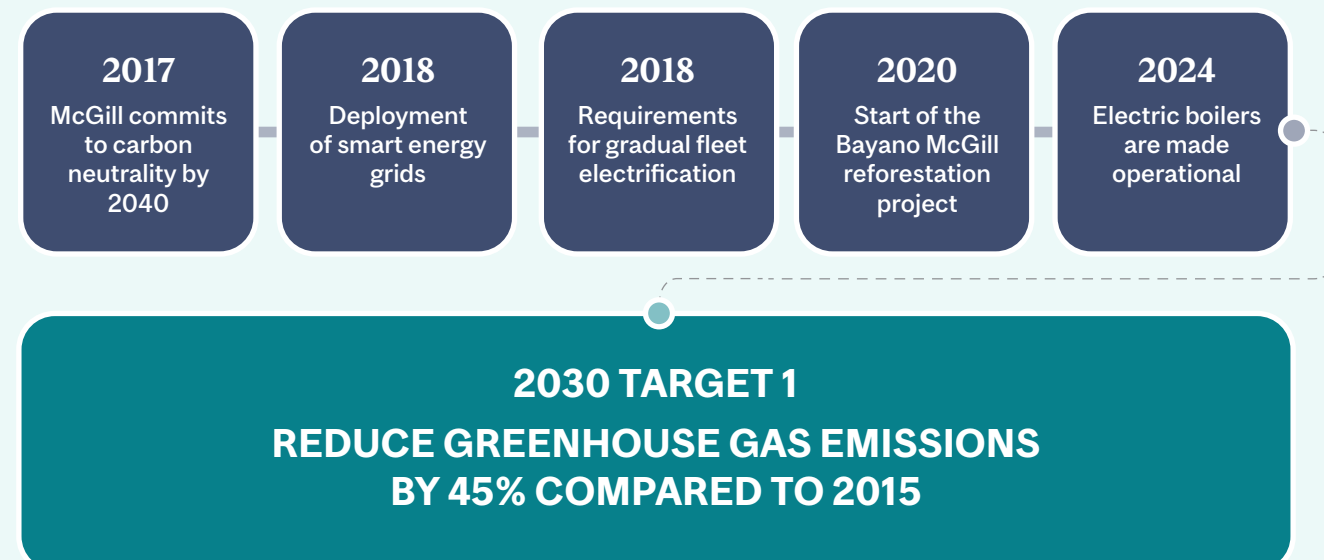
In 2017, McGill confirmed its commitment to climate mitigation by pledging to achieve **carbon neutrality** by 2040. A distinctive characteristic of this commitment lies in its level of ambition. McGill is one of a few universities in the world to include selected Scope 3 emissions, such as air travel and

commuting, in its carbon neutrality goal. In 2023, McGill's net emissions stood at 50,566 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e), mostly coming from building-related energy use (Figure 8).

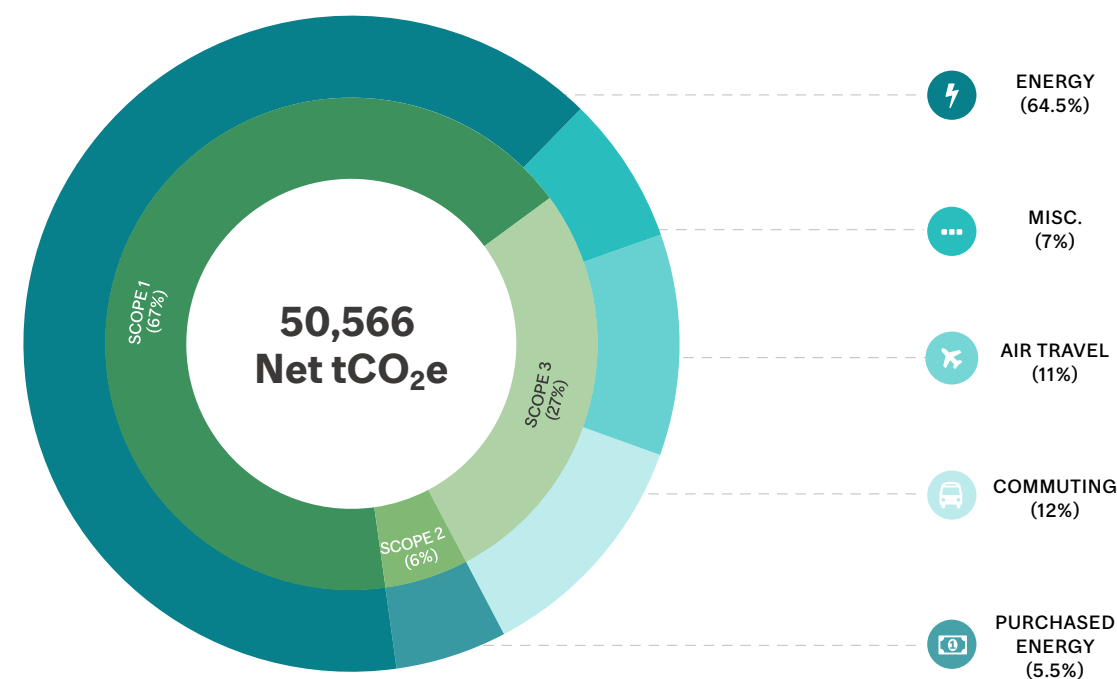
To achieve carbon neutrality, three types of measures are being implemented, listed in order of priority: greenhouse gas reduction initiatives, carbon sequestration (or the storage of carbon dioxide in vegetation and soil) and carbon offsets, the latter of which involves investing in projects that reduce, avoid or remove emissions elsewhere.

Key progress to date includes replacing natural gas boilers with electric boilers (-9,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/year), quantifying the amount of carbon sequestered on McGill's forested lands (-2,629 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/year), and supporting a **reforestation project** in Panama (-925 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/year).

Figure 7 highlights key projects to be undertaken in the coming years to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040.

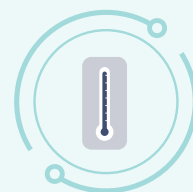


**FIGURE 7:** Overview of the emission reduction pathways to attain carbon neutrality by 2040



**FIGURE 8:** McGill's 2023 greenhouse gas emissions breakdown by key activity

\*Miscellaneous includes emissions from: livestock & fertilizers, refrigerants & insulating gas, vehicle fleet and other sources. Scope 1 refers to direct emissions. Scope 2 refers to emissions from purchased energy. Scope 3 refers to indirect emissions such as business-related travel and commuting.



# INCREASE CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Global sustainability priority: climate change



Water retention infrastructure being installed as part of McGill's reconstruction of the upper main road

Across the globe, nations, organizations, communities and individuals are experiencing the impacts of climate change, and these impacts are likely to intensify in severity and scale over the next few decades. In Montreal, an increase in annual temperature is already being felt and measured. McGill's operations and community have been, and will continue to be, affected by the changing climate.

In response to these changes, McGill conducted a climate risk assessment in 2023 to identify the top climate-related risks facing the University. The assessment revealed five critical risks that require attention (Figure 9), in line with McGill's Enterprise Risk Management framework. These critical risks are associated with prolonged heat waves and extreme precipitation (Figure 10).

McGill has already begun implementing climate adaptation measures across its campuses, predominantly in infrastructure projects. Furthermore, as part of the Montreal Climate Summit (2024), McGill partnered with seven other Montreal universities to jointly assess shared climate vulnerabilities and to develop their respective climate adaptation plans.

McGill will further pursue climate adaptation measures in its upcoming projects (including at its Outaouais and Gault campuses). It will also develop processes and programs to help prepare its community for a changing climate.

2020

Climate adaptation is a transversal theme in the Climate & Sustainability strategy

2023

McGill completes a climate risk assessment

2024

Montreal Climate Summit: joint multi-university effort

2030 TARGET 2

ADDRESS 100% OF MCGILL'S CRITICAL CLIMATE RISKS

**RISK A - Heat waves on physical and mental health and working conditions**

Strategy actions

PE5: Cooling centres for McGillians  
PE7: Plant 500+ trees  
CB1: Climate adaptation in existing policies and programs  
CB6: Extreme weather event awareness

**RISK B - Heat waves on buildings**

Strategy actions

PE10: Design standards adapted to new climate reality

**RISK C - Heat waves on the natural environment and landscapes**

Strategy actions

PE1: Differentiated space management plan  
PE7: Plant 500+ trees  
PE10: Design standards adapted to new climate reality

**RISK D - Heat waves on the delivery of education and research**

Strategy actions

CB1: Climate adaptation in existing policies and programs  
CB6: Extreme weather event awareness

**RISK E - Extreme precipitation and storms on physical and mental health and working conditions**

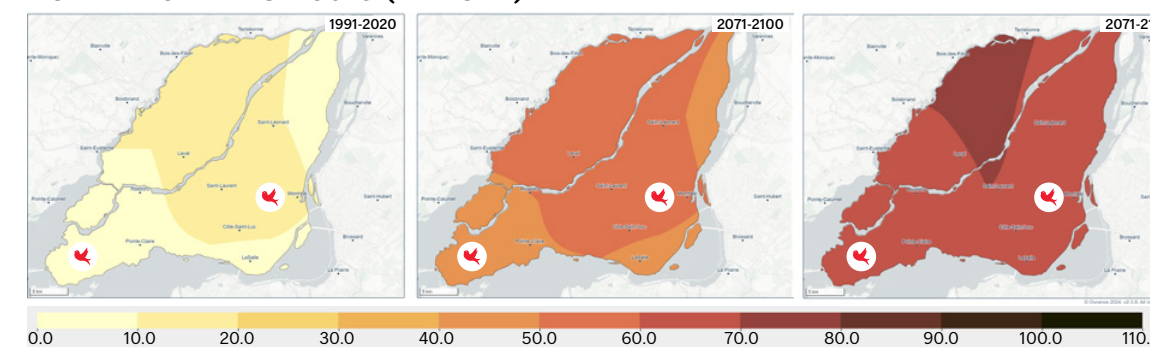
Strategy actions

PE8: Water retention measures  
CB1: Climate adaptation in existing policies and programs  
CB6: Extreme weather event awareness

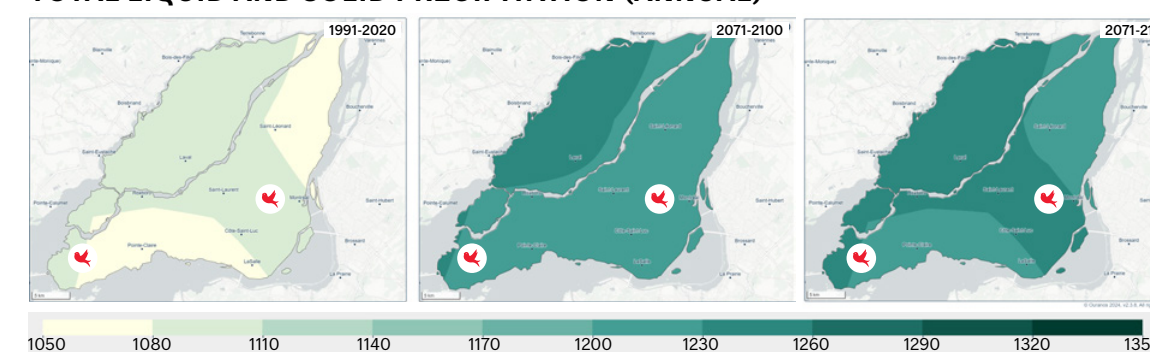


**FIGURE 9:** Impact of strategy action items on McGill's critical climate risks

## NUMBER OF DAYS > 30°C (ANNUAL)



## TOTAL LIQUID AND SOLID PRECIPITATION (ANNUAL)



**FIGURE 10:** Current climate (1991-2020) compared with future climate (2071-2100), 50th percentile, CMIP6. High (SSP3-7.0) and very-high (SSP5-8.5) emissions scenarios

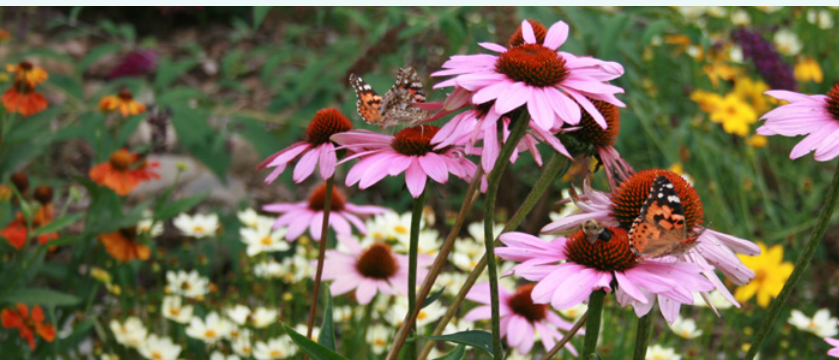
\*Ouranos. (n.d.). Ouranos climate portraits: Montreal/Laval. Retrieved October 31, 2024, from <https://portraits.ouranos.ca/>





# BECOME A NATURE POSITIVE UNIVERSITY

Global sustainability priority: biodiversity loss

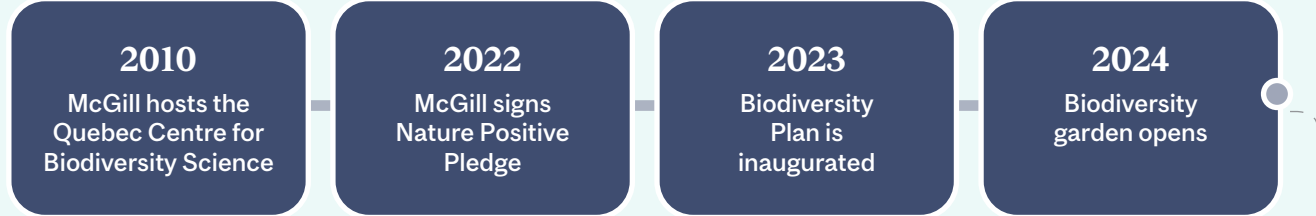


Butterfly and pollinator gardens at the Macdonald Campus.  
Photographer: Caroline Begg

As a research institution, McGill plays a unique role in fostering biodiversity, particularly through its various properties, which support a wide variety of species. With McGill’s downtown campus nestled against Mount Royal, the University also contributes to ecological corridors, which allow species to move and disperse in the surrounding areas (Figure 12). The University also boasts numerous groups and activities that support biodiversity, ranging from research networks and staff and student clubs to organized workshops and events.

Recognizing the impact of this role, in December 2022, ahead of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15), McGill joined hundreds of universities in signing the [Nature Positive Pledge](#). The pledge is a commitment to start a nature-positive journey by establishing a biodiversity baseline, deciding on targets, taking action and reporting annually. Ultimately, it’s a commitment to address the impacts and influence of an institution on nature. Subsequently, in 2023, McGill launched its inaugural [Biodiversity Plan](#), which marked a milestone in the University’s commitment to biodiversity. The plan sets out the University’s goals to monitor, protect and enhance biodiversity.

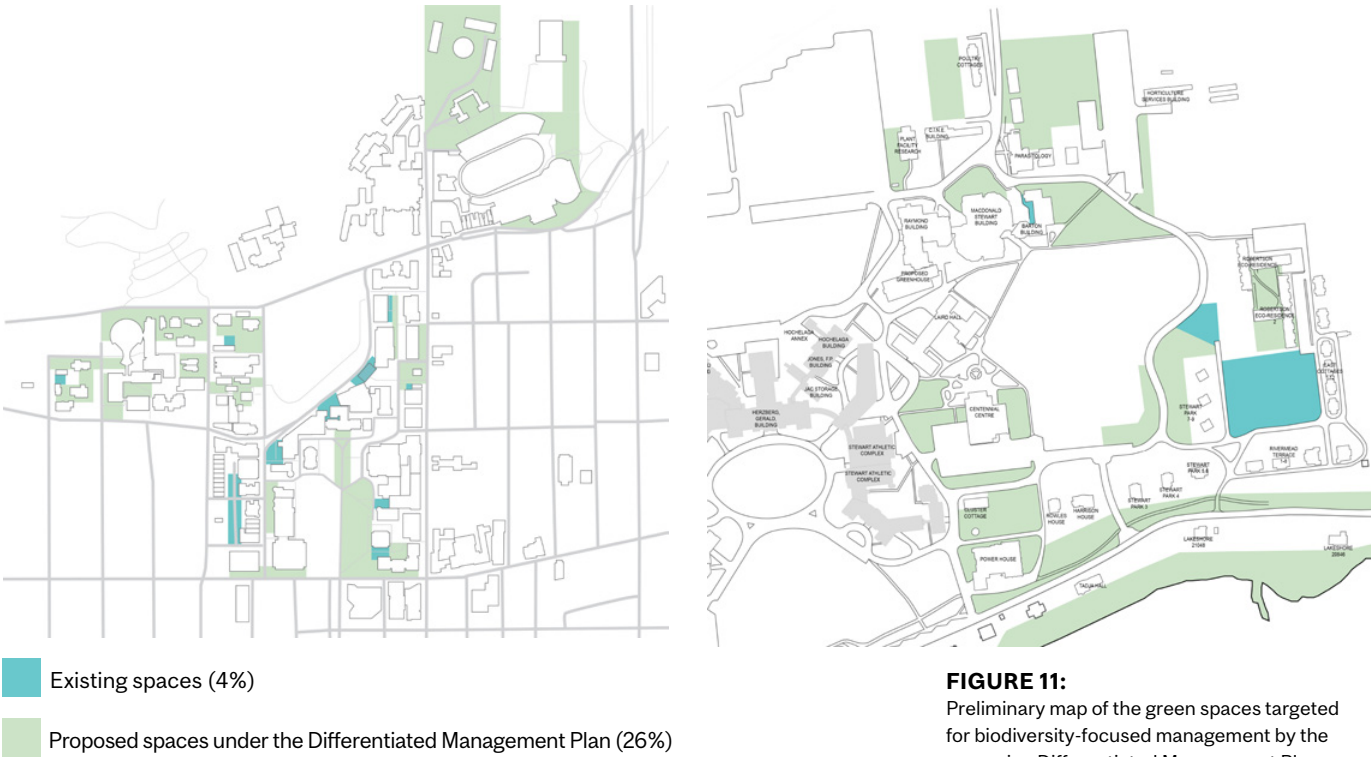
To continue fostering biodiversity on its campuses, McGill will increasingly rely on a differentiated space management approach for its exterior spaces (Figure 11). Differentiated management reallocates landscaping efforts to optimize the maintenance of green spaces in a manner that is appropriate to each space’s use. This includes, for example, adapting mowing frequency, targeted invasive species control and added planting.



**2030 TARGET 3**

**MANAGE 30% OF MCGILL’S GREEN SPACE TO FOSTER BIODIVERSITY\***

\*The target covers vegetated spaces to which the McGill community currently has access and which isn’t already dedicated to conservation (such as Gault and the Morgan Arboretum) or production (such as pastures and agricultural fields at the Macdonald campus).



**FIGURE 11:** Preliminary map of the green spaces targeted for biodiversity-focused management by the upcoming Differentiated Management Plan on McGill University’s downtown campus (left) and Macdonald campus (right)



**FIGURE 12:** Depiction of the potential to connect biodiversity between Mount Royal, the downtown campus and green spaces in Montreal



McCall MacBain Arts Building,  
lit in green to celebrate McGill's  
Platinum sustainability rating







## BECOME ZERO-WASTE BY 2035

*Global sustainability priority: pollution*

McGill University's extensive operations and the daily activities of the campus community generate substantial waste. Combined with waste from deliveries, construction and electronics, this makes reducing landfilled materials a complex challenge for the University.

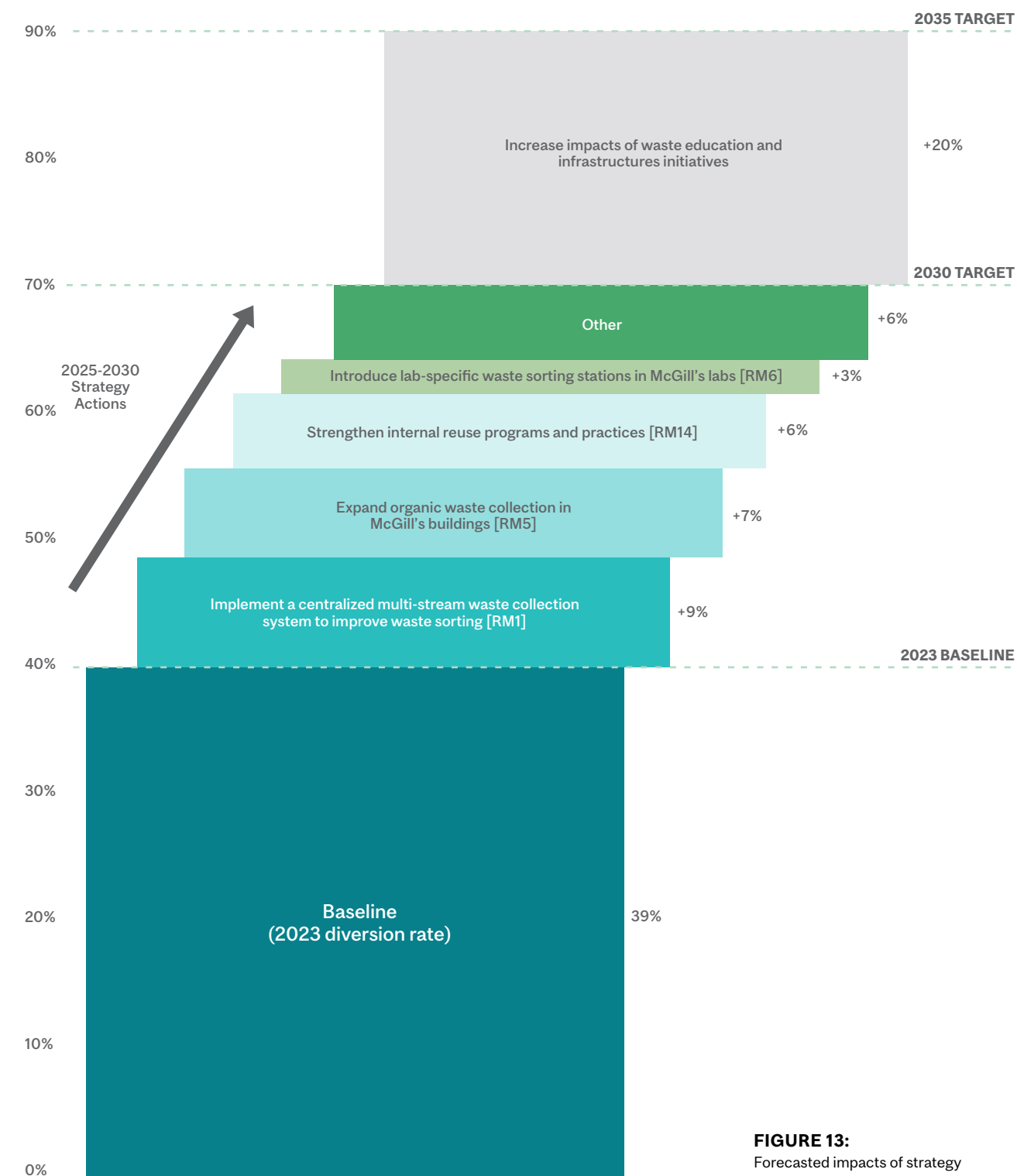
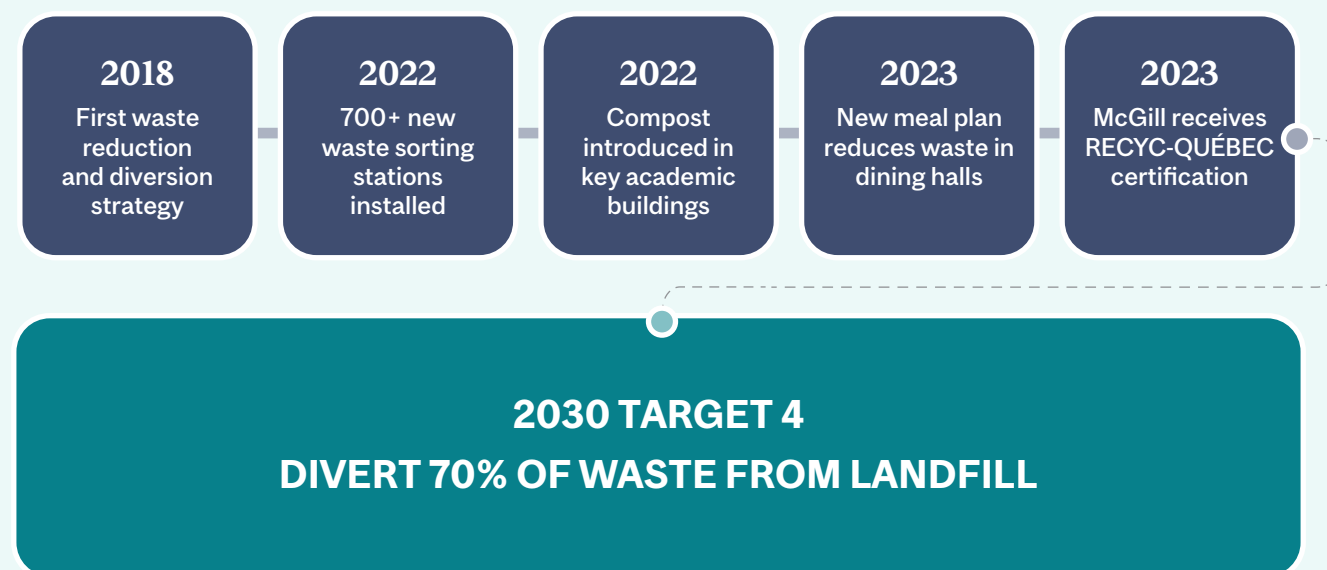
In 2020, McGill committed to becoming a **zero-waste** university by 2035, which entails diverting 90% of materials collected from landfill. In 2023, the University's diversion rate was 39% (Figure 14) and the total waste was 3,087 metric tonnes (Figure 15). Achieving a 90% diversion rate would therefore significantly reduce McGill's environmental impact.

Recent efforts to support the University's zero-waste goal include installing over 700 multi-stream sorting stations, expanding compost collection across 27 academic buildings and all residences, creating standardized signage, and developing educational

materials and outreach programs. A pilot project was also launched to recycle personal protective equipment (PPE) in selected McGill labs.

As McGill progresses towards its zero-waste target, additional interventions will include reducing the volume of items entering McGill's waste stream and improving sorting practices, thereby reducing the contamination rate in each stream (Figure 13). Strategically eliminating single-use items, along with materials that contaminate other waste streams, will also help to reduce the volume of landfill waste. Another important intervention will be identifying key areas for tailored approaches, as McGill has already begun with its laboratories.

These interventions must be complemented by robust waste education and behaviour change campaigns, emphasizing each community member's role in waste reduction and **proper waste disposal**.

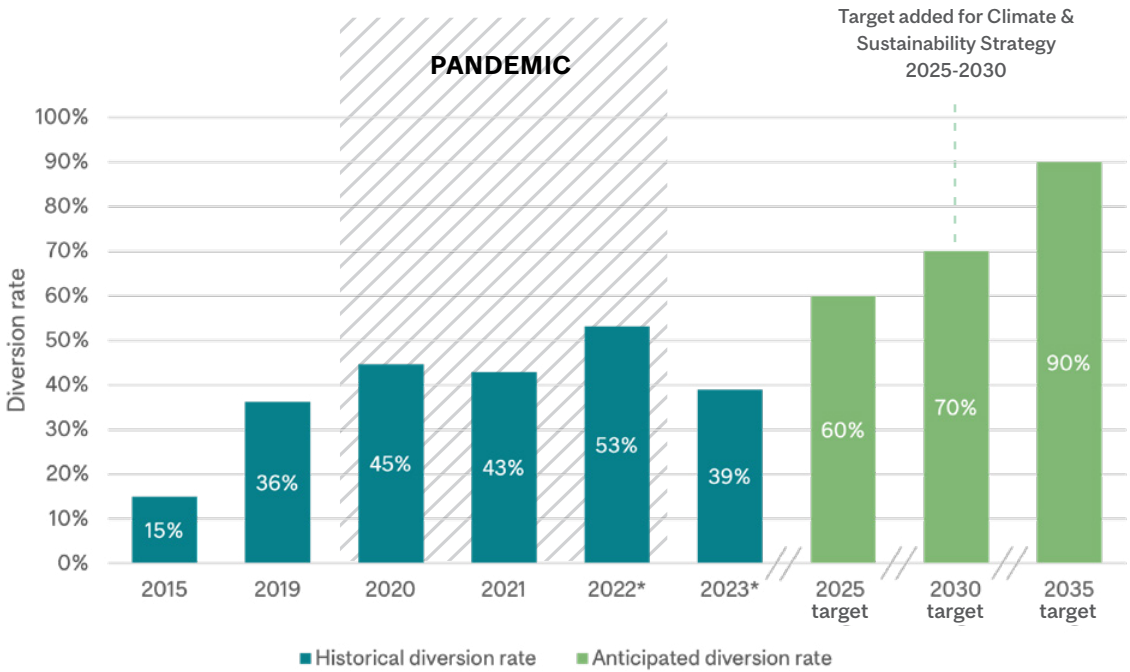


**FIGURE 13:**  
Forecasted impacts of strategy actions on waste diversion rate



**FIGURE 14:**  
Percentage of McGill's waste diverted from landfill since 2015, with anticipated diversion rate in 2030 and reaching zero-waste (90% diversion) by 2035

\*Construction and demolition waste was included in addition to day-to-day waste in calendar years 2022 and 2023; this will continue in future reporting



Between 2020 and 2022, over 700 new multi-stream waste stations were installed to improve the University's diversion rate



**FIGURE 15:**  
Comparison between McGill's total waste tonnage in 2023 (3,087 MT) and the average weight of adult Canadians



Water station to reduce the use of plastic water bottles during exterior events





## MAINTAIN THE UNIVERSITY'S PLATINUM SUSTAINABILITY RATING

*Global sustainability priorities: climate change, biodiversity & pollution*

**Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS®)**, a program developed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), is a “transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance.” This framework assesses sustainability in the University’s activities across five categories: academics, engagement, operations, planning & administration and innovation & leadership. There are five rating levels (Reporter, Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum) and submissions are valid for three years.

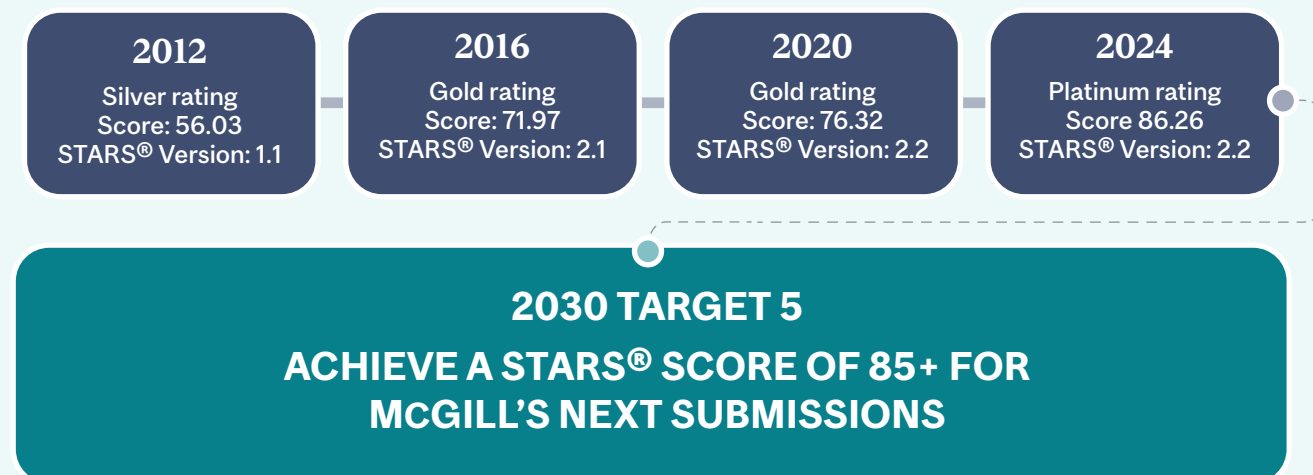
McGill submitted its first STARS® report in 2012 and obtained a Silver rating. Since this initial assessment, McGill has made significant improvements to its sustainability performance and data collection process. These improvements resulted in a Gold rating in both 2016 and 2020.

In 2024, McGill achieved a STARS® **Platinum rating**, obtaining more than 85% of available points, which is the highest achievement under the framework

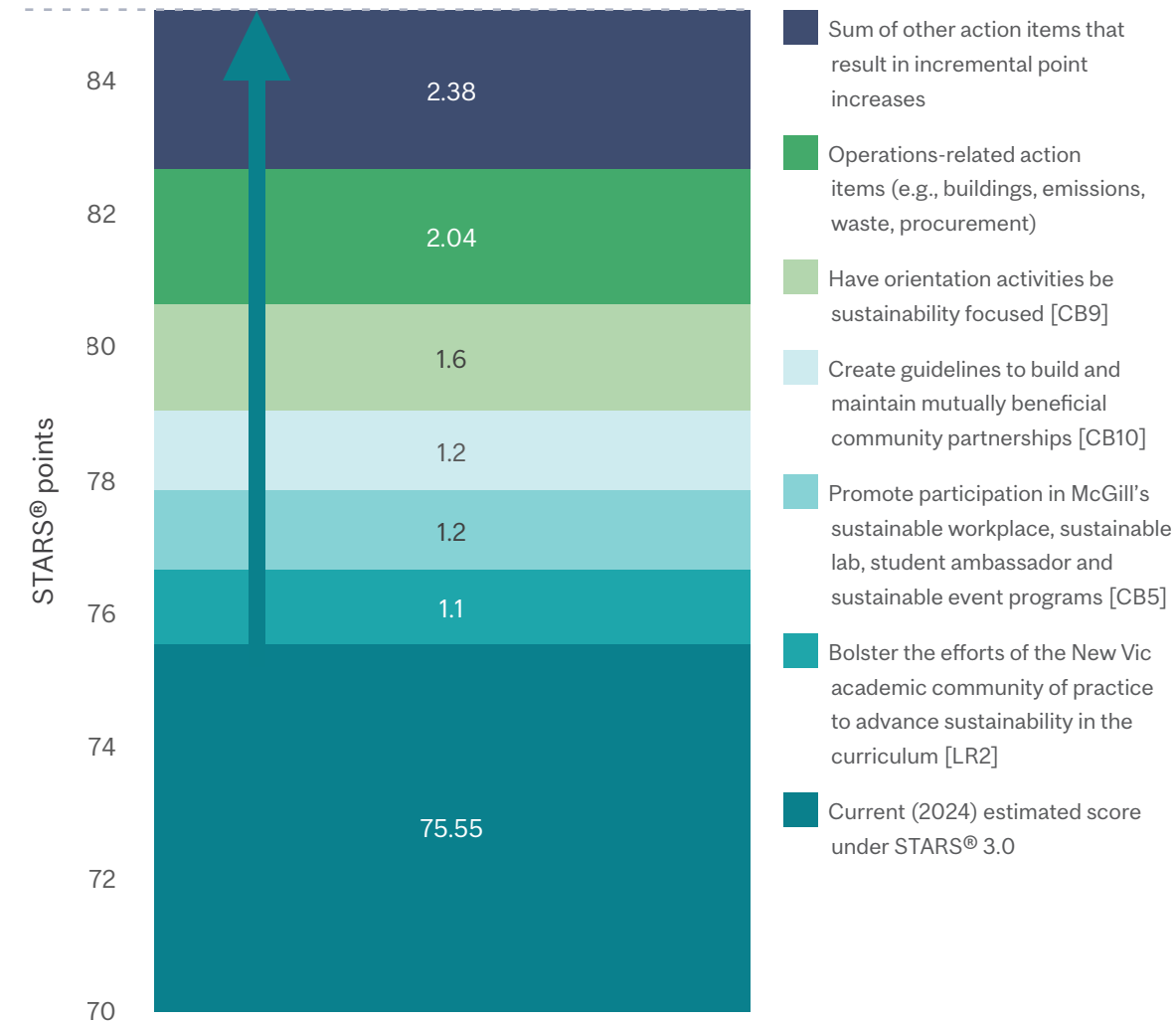
(Figure 17). As of November 2024, only five Canadian universities, including McGill, had reached the Platinum level. McGill reported notable achievements in construction waste diversion, green building standards, responsible investment practices and sustainability learning, among others.

As the STARS® framework is periodically reviewed and new iterations are released, achieving the highest rating will become increasingly difficult. Therefore, McGill’s commitment to a Platinum sustainability rating will require ongoing effort to embed sustainability in all areas and at every level in the University. Since McGill’s Platinum achievement, a new iteration of the STARS® framework (version 3.0) has been released. Under this new version, McGill’s data points from its recent submission would result in a Gold rating—75.55, representing a 9.45-point gap to Platinum. This forecasted gap will be addressed through the implementation of the 2025-2030 Climate & Sustainability Strategy (Figure 16).

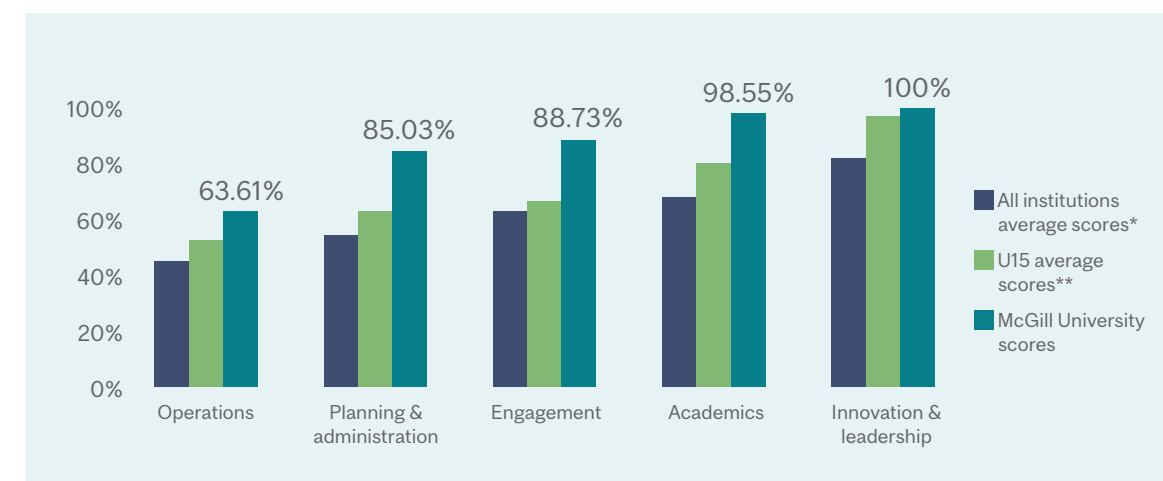
### MCGILL STARS® PERFORMANCE TIMELINE



Platinum level



**FIGURE 16:** Forecasted impacts of strategy actions on McGill's sustainability rating submissions in 2027 and 2030



**FIGURE 17:** McGill's 2024 STARS® Report: Category performance benchmark

\*Average scores from all US and Canadian institutions reporting under STARS® v2.2

\*\*Average scores of the eight U15 institutions reporting under STARS® v2.2



# *Action plan* CATEGORIES



McGill employee participating  
in staff gardens program



# LEARNING AND RESEARCH

*McGill's core mission*



The Centre for Innovative Medicine receives Platinum certification in the Sustainable Labs Program

At McGill, we strive to be a leader in teaching, learning and research, creating and communicating the knowledge required for humanity to live sustainably at the local, regional and global levels. To tackle today's sustainability challenges, we need innovative solutions and empowered global citizens. Here, some of the brightest minds are gathering to learn, research and engage with the McGill community and are using sustainability as a valuable lens for academic discourse.

### RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Royal Victoria Hospital is slated for transformation into a state-of-the-art hub for teaching and research devoted to sustainability and public policy.
- Online sustainability modules for students, staff and faculty were launched in 2023, providing a basic understanding of sustainability as well as ways to engage and take action at McGill.
- A new course, 'FSCI 198: Climate Crisis and Climate Actions,' introduces students across all undergraduate programs to a wide range of knowledge and experiences of climate change.
- A Sustainability Education Fellows program was developed to provide support to instructors in (re) designing courses to incorporate sustainability.

- A university-wide Sustainable Labs Certification program was implemented to help laboratories mitigate their environmental impacts.
- The McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative (MSSI) was founded in 2016 to provide opportunities for researchers from different disciplines to interact and co-design projects that address complex issues from a variety of perspectives.

### A SHARED VISION

*McGill is a leader in sustainability learning and research*

- The University's sustainability research is being fostered, performed responsibly and shared. Solutions made at McGill stimulate innovation locally, nationally and internationally.
- The McGill community is learning about and engaging with sustainability, both formally through the curriculum and informally through modules, workshops and trainings.
- The McGill community has opportunities to engage further with sustainability as a topic and feels empowered to act on what it has learned.

### LEARN MORE

- Explore sustainability in McGill's [Strategic Academic Plan](#)
- Learn more about the [McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative](#)
- Read the [EDI Strategic Plan](#) and [EDI Annual Reports](#)

### TAKE ACTION

- Take McGill's [online sustainability modules](#)
- Use a McGill campus as a [living lab](#)
- Become a [Sustainability Education Fellow](#)
- Check out McGill's [Sustainable Travel Guide and other resources](#)

## FLAGSHIP ACTION

RELATED TO 2030 TARGETS 1 & 5

Create a voluntary responsible travel contribution program to offset unavoidable emissions from directly-financed air travel [LR1]

In 2023, McGillians traveled over **56 million km** by plane, which represents **11%** of the University's overall greenhouse gas emissions. At a research-intensive institution like McGill, some emissions are unavoidable as travel is essential to research activities and the dissemination of knowledge. However, a procedure to voluntarily offset McGillians' work-related travel emissions will be developed. The University will concurrently promote awareness of travel-related emissions and alternatives to air travel. The University will also continue encouraging mitigating emissions by providing support for virtual conferencing, as well as encouraging bundling and limiting trips when possible.

### TRACKED METRIC:

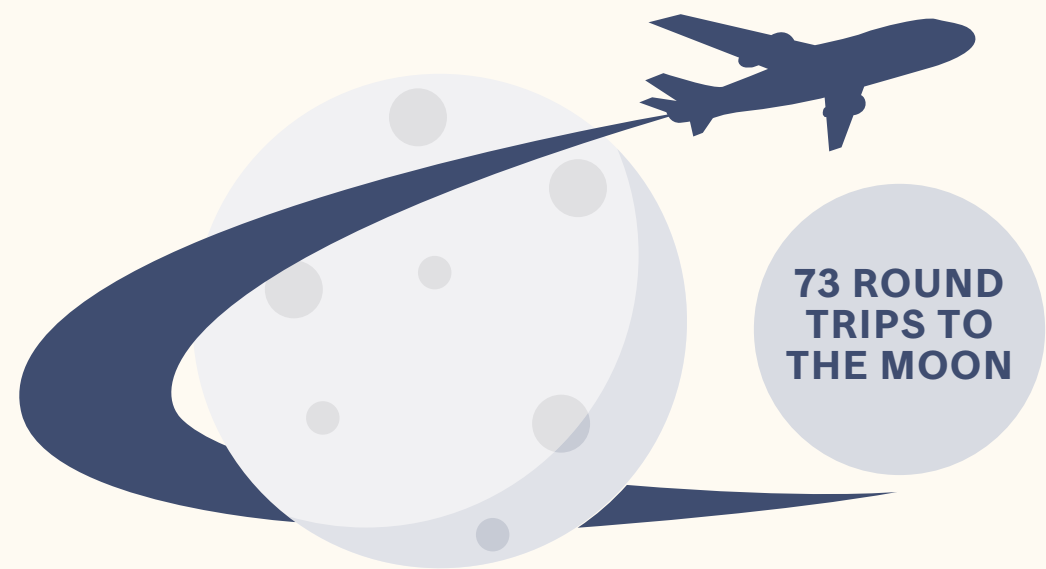
- Number of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e offset through the program



**FIGURE 18:**  
Cost to offset the carbon emissions of a round-trip Montreal - Paris flight (0.99 tonnes) at \$30/tonne compared to the cost of a checked bag



**FIGURE 19:**  
McGillians traveled 56 million kilometers by plane in 2023, which is equivalent to 73 round trips to the moon



ACTION		RELATED 2030 TARGETS	TRACKED METRICS
LEARNING			
LR2	Bolster the efforts of the New Vic academic community of practice to advance sustainability in the curriculum	5	Status
LR3	Provide support for faculty members to incorporate sustainability into their courses	5	# of professors trained
LR4	Increase Campus as a Living Lab (CLL) opportunities for students	3 & 5	# CLL projects
LR5	Promote sustainability programs and course offerings	5	% of faculties that publish a program and course list
RESEARCH			
LR6	Boost the profile of sustainability research at McGill	5	# of Reporter articles
LR7	Launch a campaign for McGillians to join the Million Advocates for Sustainable Science	5	# of McGill signatories

**LEGEND: 2030 TARGETS**

- 1: Climate mitigation
- 2: Climate adaptation
- 3: Biodiversity
- 4: Waste
- 5: STARS® rating

**RELATED SDGS**





# PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

*Where we work, study, research and connect*



McGill's pollinator patch, one of the spaces currently managed to foster biodiversity on the downtown campus

The University's buildings, campuses and lands are places where McGillians come together to make connections, build relationships, and advance learning and knowledge. Over the years, sustainability has been a cross-cutting and driving theme in the management of our natural and built environments. Guided by the Campus Master Plan, Biodiversity Plan 2030 and Design Standards, McGill's work in this area carefully considers the unique environments at each of its campuses and on its protected lands.

### RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- McGill committed to obtaining LEED Gold certification in all of its eligible new construction and renovation projects.
- McGill signed the Nature Positive Pledge and subsequently launched its first Biodiversity Plan.
- Renovation plans for the Upper Main Road include increasing permeable surfaces and greenery (by over 500 square metres), as well as creating an underground reservoir for water retention.
- The renovation of the Leacock terrace in 2022 replaced large paved areas with trees, shrubs and perennial plants, increasing the green space by 15%.

- The New Vic project won a Canadian Architectural Award of Excellence for its design.
- The replacement of a natural gas boiler with electric ones at the downtown powerhouse significantly reduced institutional greenhouse gas emissions.
- The University organized a biodiversity festival that featured booths, guided tours and other activities on the downtown, Macdonald and Gault campuses.
- The University's Design Standards include rainwater management practices in line with LEED certification standards.

### A SHARED VISION

***McGill's campuses and properties reflect its commitment to sustainability***

- McGill's buildings and infrastructure are made as sustainably as possible, adhering to best practices in sustainable design, renovation and construction.
- The University's lands are managed sustainably, resulting in improved nature and biodiversity across McGill landscapes.
- All McGill campuses are better prepared for climate hazards thanks to the implementation of key adaptation measures.

### LEARN MORE

- Explore McGill's [Biodiversity Plan 2030](#)
- Find out more about sustainability in the [Campus Master Plan](#)
- Discover [sustainability features](#) of McGill's buildings

### TAKE ACTION

- Document your observations of campus biodiversity on the [iNaturalist](#) platform
- Visit McGill's [Gault Nature Reserve](#)
- Get involved in one of McGill's [urban agriculture](#) initiatives

## FLAGSHIP ACTION

RELATED TO 2030 TARGETS 2 & 3

# Develop and implement a differentiated space management plan to foster biodiversity [PE1]

Considering the amount of land the University stewards, McGill can actively address biodiversity loss—a global crisis that threatens the stability and functioning of ecosystems. Enhancing biodiversity on campus not only helps preserve species and increase resilience; it also helps engage the community in appreciating and protecting natural spaces.

To that end, the University will develop a differentiated space management plan—a strategy for managing different areas on campus in varied ways to support biodiversity. This plan will identify zones in which reducing certain interventions—such as mowing, watering, weeding and using pesticides or fertilizers—would benefit biodiversity, while also considering the needs of the vegetation and the intended use of each space. Implementing this plan will result in more resilient and ecologically diverse areas on campus.

### TRACKED METRIC:

- Area (hectares) managed for biodiversity enhancement



ACTION		RELATED 2030 TARGETS	TRACKED METRICS
INDOOR SPACES			
PE2	Ensure that all new, eligible construction and renovations achieve LEED Gold certification	5	# LEED-certified projects
PE3	Optimize the use of the electric boilers to reduce the carbon footprint of McGill's buildings	1	Status
PE4	Optimize the utilization of interior spaces, which will impact greenhouse gas emissions	1 & 5	GHG emissions from leased spaces
PE5	Create cooling centres for McGillians to use during heat waves	2	Status
OUTDOOR SPACES			
PE6	Encourage sustainable commuting practices through infrastructure projects (e.g., EV charging stations, bicycle parking, etc.) and incentives	1 & 5	Status
PE7	Plant 500+ additional trees on McGill campuses	2, 3 & 5	# trees planted
PE8	Increase water retention through nature-based solutions	2, 3 & 5	# of solutions
ALL SPACES			
PE9	Prioritize equity and accessibility considerations in space planning and design	5	Status
PE10	Adapt McGill's design standards to new climate reality	2	Status

LEGEND: 2030 TARGETS

1: Climate mitigation

2: Climate adaptation

3: Biodiversity

4: Waste

5: STARS® rating

RELATED SDGS



Bicycle parking at downtown campus



# RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

*Resources used for work, study and research*



McGill Athletics and Buildings & Grounds purchased an electric Zamboni and an electric waste collection truck through the University's Electric Vehicle Subsidy program

McGill acknowledges that the University must minimize its consumption of energy, water and material resources in recognition of the finite capacity of the biosphere. While the University cannot eliminate its need to acquire goods and services, it can reduce its consumption, carefully manage its assets, and rethink how it researches, works and studies.

## RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The University established a new Policy for the Management of Moveable Assets, along with internal reuse programs, which will help as McGill continues to work on recovering and repurposing existing items.
- McGill expanded waste infrastructure and services, installing over 700 multi-stream sorting bins and offering compost collection in key academic buildings across campus.

- McGill's downtown campus became the first Silver Certified Fair Trade campus in Quebec.
- The University committed to purchasing electronics that are Gold-level certified by the Global Electronics Council.

## A SHARED VISION

***McGill's circular approach to resource use minimizes its negative environmental impacts***

- The University's use of natural resources and new materials are minimal, subsequently reducing waste and emissions.
- McGill's procurement practices prioritize sustainability and are good for both the community and the environment.
- McGillians feel empowered to share, redistribute and repurpose assets.

## LEARN MORE

- Learn about McGill's [waste diversion strategy](#)
- Choose [sustainable dining options](#) at McGill
- Learn about McGill's [sustainable procurement practices](#)

## TAKE ACTION

- Host a zero-waste [sustainable certified event](#)
- Discover your options to [source sustainable furniture](#)
- Reduce your laboratory's resource use by following the [Sustainable Labs Guide](#)

## FLAGSHIP ACTION

RELATED TO 2030 TARGETS 4 & 5

### Implement a centralized multi-stream waste collection system to improve waste sorting <sup>[RM1]</sup>

Improper sorting of waste streams is a major contributing factor to landfill material and, by extension, pollution. Research shows that centralized, multi-stream waste stations increase the quality of sorting, decrease contamination and improve diversion rates while also reducing operating costs.

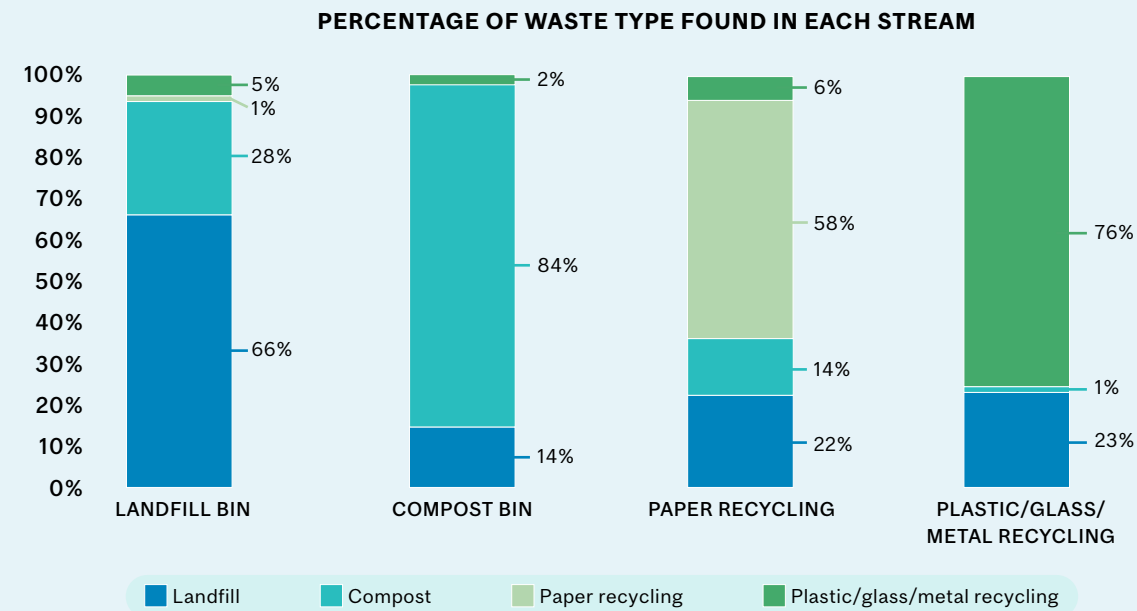
Inspired by best practices, desk-side bins will be removed from most individual offices, allowing users to sort their waste more effectively at central waste collection units with separate bins for different types of materials. The University will also develop a communications campaign to educate McGillians on how this new system contributes towards the University's zero-waste target.

#### Tracked metric:

- Number of buildings covered by new waste collection system



**FIGURE 20:**  
Results from the 2022 McGill waste audit indicate the percentages of landfill, compost and recycling found in each waste stream, revealing levels of contamination



Multi-stream waste stations in Macdonald Harrington Building



ACTION		RELATED 2030 TARGETS	TRACKED METRICS
WASTE			
RM2	Remove stand-alone landfill bins from outdoor spaces and replace with multi-stream stations	4 & 5	# of multi-stream stations installed
RM3	Install a smart waste bin in a high-profile area	4	Status
RM4	Mandate all major events to be zero-waste	4	Status
RM5	Expand organic waste collection in McGill's buildings	4 & 5	# of bins added
RM6	Introduce lab-specific waste sorting stations in McGill's labs	4	# of stations installed
RM7	Reduce the use of single-use items on campus	4 & 5	Status
PROCUREMENT			
RM8	Include requirements and incentives in contracts that support McGill's sustainability objectives	4 & 5	% of contracts with sustainability criteria
RM9	Implement supplier sustainability due diligence process for high-risk markets	5	Status of disclosure
RM10	Collect data for selected Scope 3 emissions attributed to institutional purchasing	1 & 5	Status
RM11	Require that major contracted suppliers have a sustainability strategy and report on GHG reduction efforts	1	Status
CARBON SOBRIETY			
RM12	Complete selected energy conversion and efficiency projects	1	Scope 1 & 2 emissions
RM13	Increase proportion of deliveries with electric vehicles	1	# of contracts
RM14	Increase the share of electric vehicles in McGill's fleet	1 & 5	# of EVs
OTHER			
RM15	Strengthen practices aimed at internal reuse of assets	4	Status

**LEGEND: 2030 TARGETS**

- 1: Climate mitigation
- 2: Climate adaptation
- 3: Biodiversity
- 4: Waste
- 5: STARS® rating

**RELATED SDGS**





# COMMUNITY BUILDING

*Getting the McGill community involved*



1998 Montreal ice storm

McGill is committed to fostering a sustainable campus community by providing students, staff and faculty with meaningful opportunities to engage in sustainability initiatives. The University's community-building activities in sustainability ensure that all McGillians have the chance to contribute to a better McGill and a better world in ways that makes sense for them. Through these efforts, McGill can build an informed and engaged community ready to make a positive impact both on and off campus.

## RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- McGill's flagship Sustainability Projects Fund, the largest of its kind in Canada, has funded over 375 collaborative projects on campus.
- McGill's Bicentennial celebration centred sustainability throughout its activities and included Impact200, a student sustainability challenge.
- The McGill Sustainable Workplace Certification program was recognized with a Quality and Productivity Award from the Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO).

- McGill's Sustainability Ambassadors Program recruits students to provide them with the opportunity to develop leadership skills while introducing the McGill community to sustainability initiatives across campus.

## A SHARED VISION

*McGill's commitment to sustainability is embedded in all areas of the institution and people feel part of a collective movement.*

- The McGill community knows that sustainability is an important part of its institutional values and that the University is acting in line with the research it produces.
- The University's sustainability movement is accessible to all McGillians with many points of entry for participation.
- McGill's sustainability efforts are transparent and trackable, and progress is clearly communicated.

## LEARN MORE

- Explore [sustainability governance](#) at McGill
- Learn about McGill's [sustainability progress](#) over the years

## TAKE ACTION

- Discover McGill's [Sustainability Projects Fund](#)
- Engage with [sustainability at McGill](#)
- Reduce and properly sort your waste by using McGill's [zero-waste knowledge base](#)

## FLAGSHIP ACTION

RELATED TO 2030 TARGET 2

Embed climate adaptation solutions in policies and programs to increase and support the resilience of the McGill community <sup>[CB1]</sup>

The McGill community will increasingly face the impacts of climate change, especially those associated with prolonged heat waves and extreme precipitation. In the long term, these impacts will affect both the wellbeing of students, staff and faculty, and the University's ability to run its day-to-day operations. To address these climate risks, an in-depth analysis will be conducted to identify and develop strategies and guidelines to support the McGill community's adaptation to the evolving climate reality.

## TRACKED METRIC:

- Number of initiatives to increase climate resiliency



ACTION		RELATED 2030 TARGETS	TRACKED METRICS
TRAINING			
CB2	Develop a tailored sustainability training for university governance committee members	5	Status
CB3	Offer eco-anxiety workshops to McGill community members	5	# of workshops
CAMPAIGNS			
CB4	Improve knowledge and engagement with biodiversity at McGill by hosting an annual bioblitz	3	# of iNaturalist observations
CB5	Promote participation in McGill's sustainable workplace, sustainable lab, student ambassador and sustainable event programs	5	# of participants in engagement programs
CB6	Expand awareness around extreme weather event safety	2	Status
CB7	Strengthen waste sorting education to improve McGill's diversion rate	4	Status
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT			
CB8	Offer community service opportunities for McGill staff to increase civic engagement and support McGill's sustainability initiatives	5	Status
CB9	Have orientation activities be sustainability focused	5	Status
CB10	Create guidelines to build and maintain mutually beneficial community partnerships	5	Status

LEGEND: 2030 TARGETS

- 1: Climate mitigation
- 2: Climate adaptation
- 3: Biodiversity
- 4: Waste
- 5: STARS® rating

RELATED SDGS



McGill Waste Educators talking with students about proper waste sorting



# Implementation & REPORTING

## DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

### OVERVIEW

The successful implementation of McGill’s Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030 relies on distributed leadership across the University, ensuring ongoing collaboration from the entire McGill community. This model is underpinned by supportive and effective governance, ensuring the strategy remains a priority of McGill and the broader community. Annual progress reports will help maintain transparency, foster continuous improvement and ensure accountability. Ultimately, McGill’s Climate & Sustainability Strategy is an evolving document, continuously shaped by the voices and perspectives of students, staff and faculty.

### DISTRIBUTED LEADERSHIP

To create meaningful, lasting change on campus, McGillians must actively contribute to implementing the Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030. This effort is not limited to the University; partnerships with the Montreal community are equally vital in driving the process.

The [Board Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility](#) (CSSR) plays a vital role in guiding the implementation of the strategy. The CSSR supports the Board of Governors by adopting institutional sustainability goals and closely monitoring progress.

Figure 21 illustrates how different members of the community can contribute to the strategy’s success. The Office of Sustainability will also work with McGill’s senior leadership team to establish unit priorities that connect to McGill’s 2030 sustainability targets.

STUDENTS	STAFF	FACULTY
<b>In the classroom</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Take sustainability courses and consider completing a student research project in support of sustainability objectives</li></ul>	<b>Heads of administrative units</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Set unit goals that contribute to McGill’s Climate and Sustainability Strategy implementation</li></ul>	<b>Chairs &amp; Deans</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reflect on how your department / faculty can demonstrate leadership in sustainability and climate action</li></ul>
<b>Outside the classroom</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Discuss the content of the Strategy with peers and consider how you can advance the different objectives</li><li>Join sustainability clubs and organizations</li></ul>	<b>Admin and support staff</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Factor in climate and sustainability considerations in new projects or initiatives</li><li>Integrate sustainability-related objectives in your performance dialogue</li></ul>	<b>Faculty members</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Integrate sustainability into your courses</li><li>Incorporate sustainability into your research practices</li></ul>

**FIGURE 21:**  
Ways to contribute to the Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030



SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS FUND

The Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) will support certain actions to realize the Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030. 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 of, and seed-funding for, interdisciplinary projects.



REPORTING FRAMEWORK

OVERVIEW

An essential part of McGill’s Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030 is regular reporting on progress to ensure transparency. Achievements will be shared widely through annual reports, a sustainability dashboard and key performance indicators (KPIs). More information about the various reports can be found below.

ANNUAL REPORT	SUSTAINABILITY DASHBOARD	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs)
The Climate & Sustainability Annual Report examines the University community’s achievements, initiatives and other sustainability-related activities over the previous academic year.	Biannually, a detailed dashboard shares insights on how the tracked metrics associated with the Strategy actions are progressing.	KPIs track the University’s progress in achieving its long-term commitments. Selected sustainability KPIs are included in McGill’s annual report. More detail can be found in the public reporting timeline below.

TASK FORCES

For each long-term commitment, a task force composed of students, staff and faculty will be created to monitor progress and keep efforts on track toward achieving the 2030 targets.

PUBLIC REPORTING TIMELINE FOR LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS

REPORTING METRICS	LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS					
Progress on strategy implementation	●	●	●	●	●	●
Greenhouse gas emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)*	●	●	●	●	●	● Carbon neutral by 2040
% of climate risks treated		●		●		● Increase climate resilience
% of green space that fosters biodiversity			●			● Become a Nature Positive University
McGill’s overall diversion rate*		●		●		● Zero-waste by 2035
Sustainability rating (STARS® score)*			●			● Maintain the University’s Platinum sustainability rating
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030

\*Sustainability Board KPIs



# Special THANKS

Crafting 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.

The McGill Office of Sustainability led the development of the Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030, with significant contributions from various groups, units and departments across the University. These collective efforts were essential in shaping the strategy, including contributions from:

- Analysis, Planning, and Budget
- Buildings and Grounds
- Campus Planning & Development
- Communications and Institutional Relations
- Design Services
- Environmental Health & Safety
- Equity at McGill
- Gault Nature Reserve
- Green Labs Initiative at McGill
- Office of Indigenous Initiatives
- Human Resources
- Internal Audit
- McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative
- Office of the President and Vice-Chancellor
- Office of the Provost and Executive Vice-President
- Office of the Vice-President (Administration and Finance)
- Office of the Vice-President (Research and Innovation)
- Organizational Development
- Parking & Transportation
- Procurement Services
- Redpath Museum
- Secretariat
- Student Housing & Hospitality Services
- Student Societies (SSMU, MCSS, PGSS)
- Sustainability of Operations at Macdonald Campus Task Force
- Teaching & Learning Services

- The New Vic Project
- University Advancement
- Utilities & Energy Management

Additionally, special thanks are extended to the students whose dedication and hard work contributed to the creation of this strategy:

**Climate & Sustainability Strategy interns:**

Lauren Hill and Alexandra Nitu

**Communications assistant:**

Océane François-Saint-Cyr

**Graphic design intern:**

Annette Archaeni

**And all interns at the Office of Sustainability:**

Vibhor Saoji, Rosalie Joly Simard, Julia Wright and Joseph Liang

**Special acknowledgement:** Sincere gratitude is extended to Professor Jaye Ellis for her invaluable support, insight and guidance throughout the development process. Her expertise helped shape the strategy, and her contributions are deeply appreciated.





# APPENDICES



McGill's downtown campus before and after the creation of the pedestrian zone



# APPENDIX 1: ALIGNMENT BETWEEN 2030 TARGETS AND ACTIONS

The following tables summarize how the actions included in this strategy will contribute to the long-term targets by the year 2030.

## 2030 TARGET 1 Reduce our emissions by 45% compared to 2015

Emissions in 2015	59,209 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Current emissions (2023)	50,566 tCO <sub>2</sub> e (estimated)
Expected emissions in 2030	32,565 tCO <sub>2</sub> e (equivalent of reducing emissions by 45% compared to 2015)
Gap to fill by 2030	↓ 18,001 tCO <sub>2</sub> e



CATEGORY	ACTIONS CONTRIBUTING TO 2030 TARGET 1	FORECASTED IMPACTS BY 2030
Resource management	Complete selected energy conversion and efficiency projects [RM12]	↓ 16,013 tCO <sub>2</sub> e*
Learning & research	Create a voluntary responsible travel contribution program to offset unavoidable emissions from directly-financed air travel [LR1]	↓ 2,240 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Physical environment	Encourage sustainable commuting practices through infrastructure projects (e.g., EV charging stations, bicycle parking, etc.) and incentives [PE6]	↓ 2,900 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Physical environment	Optimize the utilization of interior spaces, which will impact greenhouse gas emissions [PE4]	↓ 1,473 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Physical environment	Optimize the use of the electric boilers to reduce the carbon footprint of McGill's buildings [PE3]	↓ 1,211 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Resource management	Increase the share of electric vehicles in McGill's fleet [RM14]	↓ 180 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Resource management	Collect data for selected Scope 3 emissions attributed to institutional purchasing [RM10]	Co-benefits
Resource management	Increase proportion of deliveries with electrical vehicles [RM13]	Co-benefits
Total		↓ 24,017 tCO <sub>2</sub> e (or 45% under 2015)

\*Includes energy efficiency measures to be incorporated into the New Vic project, which will open in 2028

## 2030 TARGET 2 Address 100% of McGill’s critical climate risks

Critical climate risks	5 (or A+B+C+D+E)
Current risks treated	0
Expected risks treated in 2030	5 (equivalent of addressing 100% of McGill’s critical climate risks)
Gap to fill by 2030	5



### Critical climate risks at McGill:

- a. Heat waves on physical and mental health and working conditions
- b. Heat waves on buildings
- c. Heat waves on the natural environment and landscapes
- d. Heat waves on the delivery of education and research
- e. Extreme precipitation and storms on physical and mental health and working conditions

CATEGORY	ACTIONS CONTRIBUTING TO 2030 TARGET 2	FORECASTED IMPACTS BY 2030
Physical environment	Develop and implement a differentiated space management plan to foster biodiversity [PE1]	Risk C treated
Physical environment	Create cooling centers for McGillians to use during heat waves [PE5]	Risk A treated
Physical environment	Plant 500+ additional trees on McGill campuses [PE7]	Risks A + C treated
Physical environment	Increase water retention through nature-based solutions [PE8]	Risk E treated
Physical environment	Adapt McGill's design standards to new climate reality [PE10]	Risks B + C treated
Community building	Embed climate adaptation solutions in policies and programs to increase and support the resilience of the McGill community [CB1]	Risks A + D + E treated
Community building	Expand awareness around extreme weather event safety [CB6]	Risks A + D + E treated
Total		5 out of 5 risks treated: A+B+C+D+E (or 100%)



2030 TARGET 3  
Manage 30% of McGill’s green space to foster biodiversity

Total green space (Mac + downtown)	336,000m²
Current green space managed for biodiversity	12,150m²
Green space managed for biodiversity in 2030	100,800m² (or 30% of green space to foster biodiversity)
Gap to fill by 2030	+88,650m²



CATEGORY	ACTIONS CONTRIBUTING TO 2030 TARGET 3	FORECASTED IMPACTS BY 2030
Physical environment	Develop and implement a differentiated space management plan to foster biodiversity [PE1]	+88,650m²
Learning & research	Increase Campus as a Living Lab (CLL) opportunities for students [LR4]	Co-benefits
Physical environment	Plant 500+ additional trees on McGill campuses [PE7]	Co-benefits
Physical environment	Increase water retention through nature-based solutions [PE8]	Co-benefits
Community building	Improve knowledge and engagement with biodiversity at McGill by hosting an annual bioblitz [CB4]	Co-benefits
Total		+88,650m² (or 30% that fosters biodiversity)

2030 TARGET 4  
Divert 70% of waste from landfill

Current diversion rate (2023)	39%
Expected diversion rate by 2030	70%
Gap to be filled by 2030	↑ 31%



CATEGORY	ACTIONS CONTRIBUTING TO 2030 TARGET 4	FORECASTED IMPACTS BY 2030
Resource management	Implement a centralized multi-stream waste collection system to improve waste sorting [RM1]	↑ 9%
Resource management	Expand organic waste collection in McGill’s buildings [RM5]	↑ 7%
Resource management	Strengthen practices aimed at internal reuse of assets [RM15]	↑ 6%
Resource management	Introduce lab-specific waste sorting stations in McGill’s labs [RM6]	↑ 3%
Community building	Strengthen waste sorting education to improve McGill’s diversion rate [CB7]	↑ 2%
Resource management	Reduce the use of single-use items on campus [RM7]	↑ 1%
Community building	Promote participation in McGill’s sustainable workplace, sustainable lab, student ambassador and sustainable event programs [CB5]	↑ 1%
Resource management	Remove stand-alone landfill bins from outdoor spaces and replace with multi-stream stations [RM2]	↑ 1%
Resource management	Mandate all major events to be zero-waste [RM4]	↑ 1%
Total		↑ 31% (for an expected total of 70%)



2030 TARGET 5  
Achieve a STARS® score of 85+ for McGill’s next submissions

Estimated STARS® 3.0* score using McGill’s 2024 performance under STARS® 2.2	75.55
Expected STARS® score in 2027 and 2030	85 points (or the Platinum sustainability rating threshold)
Gap to fill by 2030 to reach Platinum	9.45

\*STARS® 3.0 is the latest version of the rating systems released in 2024.



CATEGORY	ACTIONS CONTRIBUTING TO 2030 TARGET 5	FORECASTED IMPACTS BY 2030
Community building	Have orientation activities be sustainability focused [CB9]	+1.60
Community building	Create guidelines to build and maintain mutually beneficial community partnerships [CB10]	+1.20
Community building	Promote participation in McGill’s sustainable workplace, sustainable lab, student ambassador and sustainable event programs [CB5]	+1.20
Learning & research	Bolster the efforts of the New Vic academic community of practice to advance sustainability in the curriculum [LR2]	+1.10
Resource management	Include requirements and incentives in contracts that support McGill’s sustainability objectives [RM8]	+0.70
Physical environment	Ensure that all new, eligible construction and renovations achieve LEED Gold certification [PE2]	+0.54
Learning & research	Create a voluntary responsible travel contribution program to offset unavoidable emissions from directly-financed air travel [LR1]	+0.40
Physical environment	Optimize the utilization of interior spaces, which will impact greenhouse gas emissions [PE4]	+0.40
Learning & research	Provide support for faculty members to incorporate sustainability into their courses [LR3]	Maintain current score
Learning & research	Increase Campus as a Living Lab (CLL) opportunities for students [LR4]	Maintain current score
N/A	Sum of other action items that result in incremental point increases	+2.38
Total		+9.52 (for a total of 85.07, or Platinum)



Photographer: Siddhi Aubeeluck



# APPENDIX 2: MCGILL'S CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY ALIGNMENT WITH PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL PRIORITIES

The table below highlights how McGill's Climate & Sustainability Strategy reinforces existing governmental priorities, thus contributing to the advancement of provincial and national sustainability agendas.

MCGILL'S LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS	PROVINCIAL PRIORITY	FEDERAL PRIORITY
Carbon neutral by 2040	Reach carbon neutrality by 2050 ( <i>Plan for a Green Economy: 2023-2028 Implementation Plan</i> )	Achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 ( <i>Canada's Strengthened Climate Plan</i> )
Increase climate resilience	Prepare Quebec's infrastructure for climate change and create a predictable environment that is conducive to the climate transition ( <i>Plan for a Green Economy: 2023-2028 Implementation Plan</i> )	Incorporate climate considerations in government decision-making, including both short and long-term climate mitigation, Indigenous climate leadership, as well as climate resilience and adaptation ( <i>Canada's Strengthened Climate Plan</i> )
Become a Nature Positive University	Conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services: enhance Quebec's network of protected and conserved areas ( <i>Government Sustainable Development Strategy 2023-2028</i> )	Ensure that by 2030, at least 30% of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity ( <i>Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy</i> )
Zero-waste by 2035	Prioritize actions that result in reduction at the source and accelerate the development of a circular economy ( <i>2022-2025 Strategic Plan RECYC-Québec</i> )	Reduce plastic waste and pollution and recover the value of plastics through reuse, repair, remanufacture, refurbishment and recycling ( <i>Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste and Action Plan</i> )
Maintain the University's Platinum sustainability rating	Make Quebec a centre of innovation and excellence in a green and responsible economy ( <i>Government Sustainable Development Strategy 2023-2028</i> )	Use the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals to provide a balanced view of the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development ( <i>2022 to 2026 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy</i> )







Photo by Alex Tran

# APPENDIX 3: SUSTAINABILITY ENGAGEMENT GUIDE

This guide is designed to empower students, staff and faculty at McGill to integrate sustainability into their teaching, research, work and studies.

By adopting sustainable practices, all McGillians can not only reduce their ecological footprint, but become agents of change in building a more sustainable future. Below, you'll find actionable steps that will enable you to play an active role in advancing McGill's Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030.

ACTION	STUDENT	STAFF	FACULTY
Take McGill's online sustainability modules	●	●	●
Initiate a Campus as a Living Lab project	●		●
Become a Sustainability Education Fellow			●
Check out McGill's Sustainable Travel Guide and other travel resources	●	●	●
Document your observations of campus biodiversity on the iNaturalist platform	●	●	●
Visit McGill's Gault Nature Reserve	●	●	●
Get involved in one of McGill's urban agriculture initiatives	●	●	
Host a zero-waste sustainable certified event	●	●	●
Find out how to rescue or reuse McGill assets		●	●
Reduce your laboratory's resource use by following the Sustainable Labs Guide			●
Discover McGill's Sustainability Projects Fund	●	●	●
Engage with sustainability at McGill	●	●	●
Reduce and properly sort your waste by using McGill's zero-waste knowledge base	●	●	●



## APPENDIX 4: SUSTAINABILITY TOOLKIT FOR ACADEMIC LEADERS

The Sustainability Toolkit for Academic Leaders is designed to empower faculties at McGill to integrate sustainability into their core activities and decision-making processes.

Recognizing the vital role of academic institutions in fostering positive environmental change, it is essential that all faculties embrace sustainability not only in their teaching and research, but also in their broader practices. By actively supporting initiatives, faculties can contribute to McGill's leadership in sustainability, while inspiring students and staff to become champions for a more sustainable future. Below, you'll find specific actions your faculty can take to help drive sustainability efforts across McGill University.

### **Establish a sustainability committee within your faculty with a designated lead staff member**

Form a committee dedicated to producing a working definition of "sustainability" for your faculty, integrating sustainability into your faculty's activities, helping to coordinate efforts, share best practices and drive collective action. This involves designating a staff member to collaborate with University task forces that monitor progress on the zero-waste and carbon neutrality targets to align faculty initiatives with these goals.

### **Identify courses for the sustainability course inventory**

Faculty members can self-identify courses that integrate sustainability topics, ensuring that McGill has a comprehensive inventory of sustainability-related teaching across departments.

### **Promote sustainability courses within your faculty**

Highlight and encourage enrollment in courses that address sustainability to ensure students are aware of opportunities to engage with this critical area.

### **Sponsor Faculty Fellows to advance sustainability initiatives**

Provide opportunities for faculty members to participate in the Sustainability Education Fellows program by sponsoring their enrollment.

### **Incorporate sustainability criteria in faculty evaluations**

Encourage the inclusion of sustainability-related research, activities and accomplishments in faculty evaluations to recognize contributions toward McGill's sustainability goals.

### **Optimize faculty air travel through targeted campaigns**

Promote the adoption of lower-carbon travel options, such as virtual meetings or train travel, and track air travel reductions to minimize the environmental impact of academic and professional travel.





# APPENDIX 5: GLOSSARY

TERM	DEFINITION
Biodiversity spaces	Biodiversity spaces are green spaces that welcome a large proportion of indigenous species, pollinators and/or incorporate three layers of vegetation cover (ground cover, shrub and canopy), including thematic gardens and permaculture or urban agriculture spaces.
Campus as a Living Lab	Campus as a Living Lab projects use McGill infrastructure and operations as laboratories for sustainability research. They allow students, staff and faculty to test their sustainability ideas in real-world contexts while also making their work and learning environments more sustainable.
Carbon footprint	A carbon footprint is a measure of the total amount of emissions of carbon dioxide that is directly and indirectly caused by an activity or is accumulated over the lifecycle of a product.
Carbon offsets	Carbon offsets are credits for greenhouse gas reductions achieved by one party that are purchased to compensate the emissions of another party.
Climate adaptation	Climate adaptation refers to changes in processes, practices and structures to moderate potential damages associated with climate change. Examples include building flood defences, changing building standards in anticipation of increased temperatures and precipitation and improving communication systems. Climate adaptation measures help to make society more resilient to climate-related changes.
Climate-friendly spaces	Climate-friendly spaces are safe, accessible areas designed to provide relief from climate-related events, such as heat waves, extreme precipitation and/or poor air quality. These spaces offer shelter and resources to help communities cope with the immediate impacts of climate change, promoting health and resilience during extreme weather conditions.
Climate mitigation	Climate mitigation refers to a human intervention to reduce emissions or enhance the removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.
Differentiated space management	Differentiated space management is an approach to green space management that efficiently allocates the available resources dedicated to the ecological health of its spaces, based on a deep understanding of the nature and use of these spaces. Common strategies include invasive species control, added planting, adapted mowing schedules and natural recovery and restoration.
Diversion rate	A diversion rate is the percentage of total waste that is diverted from landfills and instead sent to recycling or composting facilities.
Eco-anxiety	Eco-anxiety is a feeling of overwhelm, stress or anxiety that one experiences when thinking about climate- and sustainability-related challenges.

TERM	DEFINITION
Ecological corridor	Ecological corridors are strips, patches or swathes of land that help connect protected and conserved areas across large landscapes.
Greenhouse gases (GHGs)	Greenhouse gases such as water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and ozone are essential components to life on Earth; however, in excess they cause Earth's temperature to rise beyond natural limits, contributing to climate change. Synthetic greenhouse gases, such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), also have a high impact on the warming of the planet's surface.
Greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory	A greenhouse gas inventory is a quantified list of an organization's greenhouse gas emissions and emission sources. It is also a strategic tool for understanding, managing and communicating emissions resulting from an organization's activities.
LEED certification	LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. It is a green building standard, rating and certification system used to assess the sustainability and environmental impact of buildings and construction projects. The certification system is overseen by the US Green Building Council and there are four levels: certified, silver, gold and platinum.
Nature-based solutions	Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.
Responsible investment practices	Responsible investment practices take into account environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors when making investment choices, as well as actively influencing the companies or assets in which one invests.
Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions	The terms Scope 1, 2 and 3 refer to the sources of GHG emissions. Scope 1 GHG emissions are direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by the reporting organization. Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from purchased grid electricity and other grid energy such as steam, hot water and chilled water. Scope 3 emissions are all other indirect emissions upstream and downstream of the organization's activities, including those from employee business travel and employee commuting.
Sustainability learning	Sustainability learning is education that explicitly addresses either the integrated concept of sustainability or the interdependence of ecological and social/cultural/economic systems.
Sustainability research	Sustainability research involves research activities and scholarly work that explicitly address the concept of sustainability, further our understanding of the interdependence of ecological and social/cultural/economic systems, or have a primary and explicit focus on a sustainability challenge.











# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**Report on Expression of Concern received on June 25, 2024**



McGill University  
**December 2024**



## **Preamble**

The expression of concern submitted to the Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility (CSSR) involves the ongoing Israeli-Hamas conflict. While the Committee recognizes the harm and loss of human life to all parties resulting from this conflict, it is mindful that the questions raised by conflicts of this nature are beyond the scope and purview of the Committee's mandate. Accordingly, the Committee will not and should not engage in political advocacy or take a political stance regarding the activities of any particular country. The Committee's sole aim was to evaluate the expression of concern and to submit its report to the Board of Governors, as is required under its terms of reference.

On July 8, 2024, the Board approved a mandate for the Committee to explore the question of divestment from direct investments in companies that derive a dominant portion of their direct revenues from the production of military weapons, regardless of the countries in which they operate. The Committee's work on this mandate does not form part of this report as it is being considered by the Committee in a separate but parallel process. The Committee's conclusions on the mandate will be submitted to the Board in a separate report.

## **Summary**

On June 25, 2024, the Secretariat received an expression of concern for consideration by the CSSR. The Committee reviewed this submission during its meetings on July 30, 2024, August 29, 2024, October 2, 2024, November 7, 2024 and November 22, 2024. This report documents the Committee's review and outlines its conclusions.

The submission decried Israel's actions in Gaza and identified more than 40 companies – including banks, technology firms, and consumer companies – as causing social injury through their business involvements



or other interactions with or within the state of Israel. Based on its review, the CSSR determined that the criterion of social injury, as defined in its terms of reference and applied to all of the companies included in the submission, was not met due to the absence of any evidence that these companies did anything other than carry out their business with Israel or in the territory of Israel. Without expressing any views on the activities of the state of Israel, it remains that the concept of “social injury” is not one which extends a “daisy chain” of causation to an infinite number of parties through their mere association or presence in a territory. Therefore, the Committee declined to recommend any divestment to the Board of Governors. Furthermore, the Committee noted that the “social injury” criterion was not drafted to reflect situations of warlike conditions, which, by definition, will have negative impacts on all involved stakeholders, and consequences, which go beyond the Committee’s or indeed the University’s mandate.

#### **Mandate of the CSSR**

A standing committee of the Board of Governors, the CSSR advises the Board on social responsibility related to the University’s endowment investments, which are in the purview of the Investment Committee. It evaluates, reports on, and makes recommendations to the Board regarding expressions of concern based on the criterion of social injury, defined as:

*“the grave injurious impact which the activities of a legal person is found to have on consumers, employees, or other persons, or on the natural environment. Such activities include those which violate or frustrate the enforcement of rules of domestic or international law intended to protect individuals against deprivation of health, safety, or basic freedoms, or to protect the natural environment. **However, a legal person shall not be deemed to cause “social injury” simply because it does business with other legal persons which are themselves engaged in socially injurious activities”**(emphasis added).*



### **Admissibility of the Expression of Concern**

The Committee reviewed the submission in accordance with the Committee's terms of reference and *Procedures for Reviewing Expressions of Concern*. The Committee determined that the submission met the admissibility criteria for an expression of concern. It therefore accepted the submission for review on its merits.

### **Claims of Social Injury**

The submission called for the University's Board of Governors to divest from more than 40 companies, on the basis of their apparent business involvements or other interactions with or in Israel, in the context of the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas. It claimed that these companies cause social injury through their business activities which involved, for example, the sale of products or services used by Israel in its military activities, the sale of goods in Canada that were manufactured in Israel and the sale of consumer goods within Israel. The companies identified for divestment included, among others, banks, technology firms, and consumer companies operating in or selling goods originating from Israel.

### **Addressing Conflicts of Interest**

As part of its process, the Committee undertook a process to address the question of conflicts of interests for its members. Based on the annual Declaration and Disclosure of Conflict of Interest Form, signed by each member in Summer 2024, no conflict or potential conflict relative to the submission was apparent for all but three members of the Committee. A further process of due diligence was undertaken to explicitly canvass members on whether anyone may be in a real or perceived conflict of interest within the meaning of the Code in relation to the submission. As a matter of due diligence, the Committee also consulted the Chair of the Nominating, Governance, and Ethics Committee on the question. Based on this process, the Committee concluded that in order to avoid placing one member in a situation of a perceived



conflict of interest resulting from the member's citizenship, the member would abstain from voting on the Committee's decision concerning its review of the expression of concern. The relationships of two other members with two of the companies on the list was also examined by the Chair of the Nominating, Governance and Ethics Committee in the absence of such members and it was concluded that neither of them had any relationships in the companies identified in the submission that would put into question the member's independence and impartiality in relation to the assessment of the submission of concern.

### **Consultations**

The Committee's review of the submission was, to a certain extent, informed by consultations the Committee held in relation to the CSSR's mandate concerning the weapons industry, approved by the Board of Governors on July 8, 2024. As part of its review of the mandate from the Board, the Committee launched a written consultation process by inviting all members of the McGill community to submit comments regarding the question of military weapons divestment. This consultation process was open to all members of the McGill community and yielded over 800 responses from the McGill faculty, students, staff, as well as a number of email submissions from members of the alumni community. The feedback was compiled by the Secretariat and shared with the Committee for consideration. Comments reflected a range of opinions and expressed sentiments for and against divestment. Following review of the responses, the Committee noted that over 140 responses used a template text to express support for the current petition for divestment from companies alleged to be supporting Israel in the current conflict.

The Committee was appreciative to receive the perspective of the members of the community who provided their points of view on the issue. Opinions expressed brought to the surface considerations related to institutional values and ethical issues, as well as questions related to institutional neutrality in a time of war. More practical points related to the complexity and cost resulting from a potential decision



to divest and the impact that such a decision may have on the University's overall financial position were also brought up by some members of the University community.

In considering the input, the Committee was mindful of the University's mission and the fiduciary duties of the Board and took care to inform its reflection on the expression of concern in relation to the criterion of social injury, which was central to its assessment. This being said, the Committee observed that some of the comments submitted revealed misconceptions about the purpose of the University's endowment fund. Several comments expressed the misinformed belief that tuition funds were used to fund the University's endowment fund. As this is not the case, the Committee finds it important to clarify that endowed funds, which are primarily invested through the McGill Investment Pool (MIP), are composed of *bequests and donations received* by the University. Not a dollar of student tuition is allocated to endowed funds. These funds are, for the most part, restricted in use, and generally held by the University in perpetuity. This is consistent with the overall objective of the MIP, which is to preserve, in real dollar terms, the capital of the MIP, necessary to provide a dependable and optimal source of income for endowment beneficiaries, including research chairs, students and academic programs. The income generated from the endowment fund is also used to cover the annual operating costs of the MIP.

### **Observations and Findings**

The Committee carefully reviewed the submission using the framework provided for under its terms of reference. It observed that the submission did not describe the methodology used to determine the list of the companies for divestment. Indeed, other than their link to Israel, the companies identified do not seem to follow a systematic methodology explaining their selection (major Canadian banks, a Canadian grocery chain selling food grown in Israel, an American cinema chain with operations in Israel, etc.). In one instance, a firm named in the submission was targeted not for its activities, but for its association with an



individual who holds political views counter to those of the submitters. Given the seemingly inconsistent nature of the exclusion criteria, it was noted that maintaining an up-to-date divestment list would be practically impossible. The Committee understood, based on information provided by the Office of Investments, that the submission's list of companies was not followed by any major institutional investor and that, if implemented, the decision would call for a significant exclusion of investments from McGill's Investment Pool. Moreover, that the Committee did not find any examples of other investors adopting this approach.

The Committee found the allegation that the selected companies are causing social injury on the grounds that their products or services are being used by the state of Israel or by its population to be unreceivable on its face. The Committee also noted that the submission invoked humanitarian grounds and international law to argue that Israel's actions are causing social injury by engaging in activities that violate or frustrate the enforcement of laws intended to protect individuals or the environment yet in applying the definition of social injury, the submission did not assign direct responsibility for these activities to any of the companies identified for divestment.

## **Conclusion**

The Committee finds it important to reiterate that its role is limited to the University's investment decisions concerning its endowment fund and that it may not take sides in geopolitical conflicts. In reviewing the expression of concern, the Committee was mindful that its sole aim was to evaluate the expression of concern, as is required under its terms of reference. Further, the Committee took due regard of the definition of social injury, which includes that a company will not be deemed to cause social injury simply because it does business with others who may themselves be engaged in socially injurious activities. Based on its review, the Committee could not conclude that the companies listed were directly responsible for



causing a social injury as defined in the terms of reference. Therefore, the CSSR is not recommending any action to the Board of Governors.





McGill

Office of  
Sustainability

Bureau du  
développement durable

MONITOR. PROTECT.  
ENHANCE.

SUIVRE. PROTÉGER.  
AMÉLIORER.



# CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

*September 2023 - August 2024*

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 2023-2024 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 progress<sup>1</sup>, 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 2023-2024 academic year or are as of August 2024; 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.

<sup>1</sup>The 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 RECOGNITION

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## 04 RESEARCH & EDUCATION

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## 06 BUILDINGS & UTILITIES

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## 08 WASTE MANAGEMENT

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## 10 TRAVEL & COMMUTING

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## 12 FOOD SYSTEMS

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## 14 PROCUREMENT

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## 16 LANDSCAPES & ECOSYSTEMS

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## 18 COMMUNITY BUILDING

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## 20 SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS FUND

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## 22 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

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## 23 LOOKING FORWARD

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## 24 SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS

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# RECOGNITION

## STARS Platinum Rating

In March 2024, McGill earned a Platinum rating under the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS®). At the time of submission, only 14 institutions worldwide and five in Canada had received the STARS program's highest sustainability rating. This achievement fulfills a commitment made by the University in 2017 to achieve a Platinum rating by 2030, six years in advance.



## 13th in QS World University Sustainability Rankings

McGill is the fifth most sustainable institution in North America, according to the second annual QS World University Rankings: Sustainability. Across the globe, the University is 13th among 1,403 institutions. Evaluated by three categories – environmental impact, social impact, and governance – key metrics include institutions' academic reputation in earth and environmental sciences, their research impact on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the dissemination of their research.



## Nationally Recognized by CAUBO

In June 2024, the Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO) conferred its Quality and Productivity Award on [Envisioning a More Sustainable McGill](#), the online sustainability learning module for faculty and staff. The module, developed by the McGill Office of Sustainability and Teaching and Learning Services, offers a crash course on how to practice sustainability on the university's campuses.







## CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

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



# RESEARCH & EDUCATION

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The University established a **new research chair in Northern Climate Change and Sustainability**, thanks to a philanthropic gift from McGill graduates Marc and Marie Bieler, longtime stewards and supporters of McGill and its efforts to better understand climate change and environmental degradation through focused research and enhanced teaching programs.

- McGill's online staff sustainability module, **Envisioning a More Sustainable McGill**, was launched in December 2023. Available to all McGill staff and faculty, the module aims to increase awareness about sustainability and to encourage staff engagement with sustainability topics and initiatives. **Over 575 staff** have enrolled in the module on MyCourses.
- In 2023-2024, the **Sustainability Education Fellows** program ran for a second year, bringing together faculty and students to advance sustainability in the curriculum and pedagogy at McGill. During the program, **11 Faculty Fellows from 6 faculties** (re)designed courses to infuse sustainability principles into the curriculum, pedagogical practices, and assessments.

In September 2023, a McGill-led research team received a **\$3.75M NSERC Alliance Grant** to support research at a new **Global Climate Center on Artificial Intelligence for Biodiversity Change**. With the funding, the McGill team will improve models that map critical habitat for biodiversity and that predict biodiversity changes into the future.





# RESEARCH & EDUCATION

## CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2025 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

88% IMPLEMENTED

↑ 4%  
since 2022-2023

## RESEARCH & EDUCATION AT-A-GLANCE



**\$70,000**

in faculty funding awarded by the McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative (FY24)



**600+**

Sustainability Courses Offered in AY2023



**75%+**

of Academic Departments with Sustainability Course Offerings in AY2023



**\$17M+**

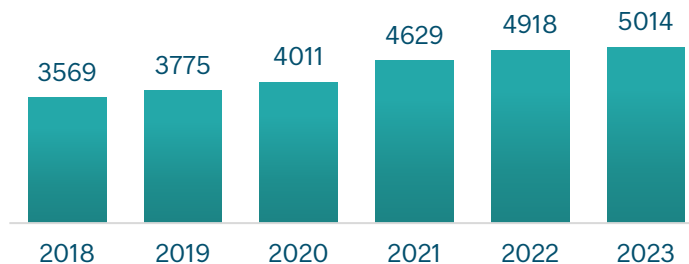
NSERC funding for Sustainability Research in FY2023\*



**5,000+**

SDG-Related Research Publications in CY2023

## KEY METRICS



Number of SDG-Related Research Publications by Calendar Year



The Sustainability Education Fellows program ran for a second year, bringing together faculty and students to advance sustainability in the curriculum and pedagogy at McGill.

## RELATED SDGS







# BUILDINGS & UTILITIES

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



The McGill University Collections Centre, a new off-campus storage facility housing a significant portion of the McGill Library's collections, was awarded **LEED® Gold certification** in June 2024. The building earned its certification thanks to its energy conservation, water-use reduction, enhanced indoor air quality and reduced impact on the surrounding environment.

In 2023, **over 85 tonnes** of construction and demolition waste was sent to **recycling facilities**. The McGill Design Standards objective is to divert a minimum of 75% (by weight or volume) of non-hazardous waste generated by construction, renovation, and demolition, from going into landfills.



Design Services and Project Management units integrated **sustainable design elements** into the newly renovated Burnside Hall basement. These included increasing light levels to mimic daylight and to support indoor plant growth, as well as **improving classroom accessibility** for those with reduced mobility. The project also saw the installation a large gender-inclusive washroom, which **promotes inclusivity** and respect for individual identities.

With support from the Sustainability Projects Fund, Facilities Management and Ancillary Services (FMAS) led a collaborative effort to develop an innovative building **design standard to minimize carbon emissions associated with concrete**. McGill's new design standard sets ambitious yet achievable carbon reduction requirements for onsite poured concrete.



An **electric boiler** was delivered in September to the downtown Powerhouse for the Boiler Replacement and Heat Recovery Project. As previously reported, the boiler is expected to **reduce annual GHG emissions by 9,000 metric tonnes** of carbon dioxide equivalent.

## CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

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





# BUILDINGS & UTILITIES

## CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2025 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

92% IMPLEMENTED

↑ 35%  
since 2022-2023

## BUILDINGS & UTILITIES AT-A-GLANCE



**-17%**

in Institutional Greenhouse Gas Emissions between 2015 and 2023



**100%**

Eligible new construction built to LEED® Certification specifications



**4,000+**

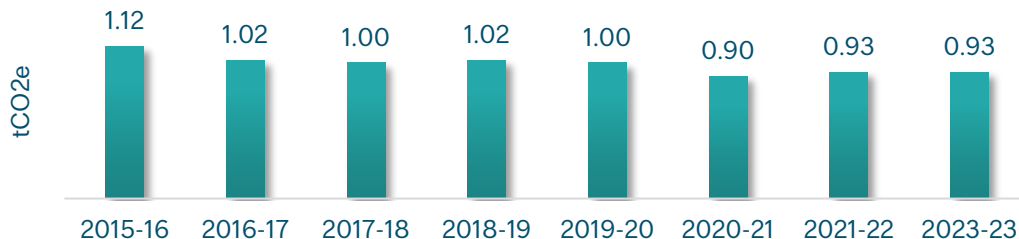
Square meters of LEED Gold-certified space at the Valleyfield library collections centre



**90+**

Tonnes of renovation and construction waste sent to recyclers

## KEY METRICS



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



In September 2023, an electric boiler was delivered to the downtown Powerhouse for the Boiler Replacement and Heat Recovery Project.

## RELATED SDGS







# WASTE MANAGEMENT

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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-  In Fall 2023, students in research course ENVR 401 created a baseline for waste production across McGill's wet research and teaching labs. In cooperation with Buildings and Grounds, the students established an auditing methodology that can be easily re-implemented for future audits. In relation to **McGill's Zero-Waste initiative**, this project laid the foundation for **the recommendation and implementation of waste recycling and diverging strategies for labs**.
-  Organizers at the **McGill Neurological Institute's Green Lab Initiative (GLI)** initiated a project to **donate ice packs and coolers** to local non-profit organizations to **divert waste from landfill**. Both Moisson Montreal and Mission Bon Accueil received ice packs and Styrofoam containers thanks to the GLI's efforts.
-  McGill's food service provider, **Dana Hospitality**, reported that 100% of all dining hall kitchen food waste and plate waste were diverted from landfills, for a total of **227 tonnes of organic material**, the equivalent of **164 tonnes of GHG emissions**.
-  In November, the University launched its new **Sustainable Labs Certification program** that provides guidance and resources to improve sustainability in labs. Labs can measure their performance across **eight categories**, including **waste** and **procurement and asset management**.

## CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

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





# WASTE MANAGEMENT

## CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2025 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

98% IMPLEMENTED

↑ 32%  
since 2022-2023

## WASTE MANAGEMENT AT-A-GLANCE



5,261

Single-use containers  
avoided by the Cano reuse  
program at Redpath Cafe



900+

Kilograms of ice packs  
diverted from landfill to  
community organizations



39%

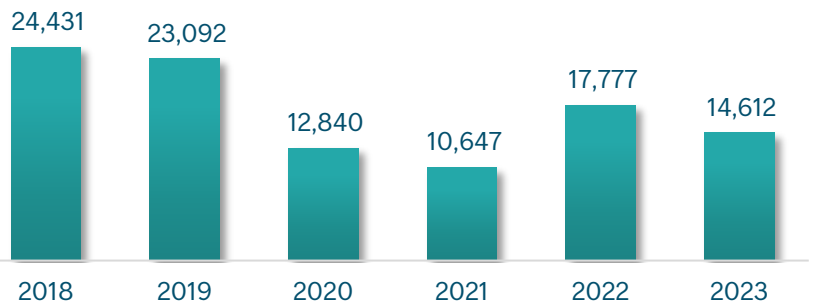
of McGill's Waste was  
Diverted from the Landfill  
in CY2023



40%

Decrease in McGill-  
branded Paper Products  
from 2018 to 2023

## KEY METRICS



Kilograms of McGill-branded Paper Products produced by Calendar Year



Philip Thorne and Theresa Degenhard, researchers at the Montreal Neurological Institute-Hospital, initiated a project to donate ice packs and coolers to local non-profit organizations.

## RELATED SDGS





## CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

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



# TRAVEL & COMMUTING

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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- Approved in Summer 2024, McGill's **new Travel Guidelines promote sustainable practices**. The updated guidelines include such sustainable travel tips as reducing air travel whenever possible, purchasing carbon offsets, and encouraging alternative communication and virtual methods like web conferencing. The guidelines also suggest that travellers seek out sustainable lodging and prioritize renting fuel-efficient and alternative fuel models, such as electric and hybrid vehicles.
  - McGill's **Ride & Refresh program** was offered for a second year, allowing subscribed students and staff access to on-campus shower and locker room facilities at the McGill Sports Complex, as well as a towel and basket service, on-site bike parking, and community events.
  - New **indoor bike racks were** installed at New Residence Hall, with support from the **Sustainability Projects Fund**. The racks provide additional parking for 16 bikes. New bike racks were also installed at Solin Hall graduate residence.
- 

During the Adaptation Futures conference, organized by climate-change non-profit Ouranos, participants took a field trip to **the Communications and External Relations remote studio**, to **promote hybrid conferencing models**. The conference also featured a session by McGill faculty and researchers on the unsustainability of fly-in-fly-out conferencing practices and discussed new models of knowledge exchange.

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# TRAVEL & COMMUTING

## CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2025 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

94% IMPLEMENTED

↑ 18%  
since 2022-2023

## TRAVEL & COMMUTING AT-A-GLANCE



8,200+

Social Media Interactions on  
Summer and Winter Biking Tips



33

Ride & Refresh  
Participants to Date



2

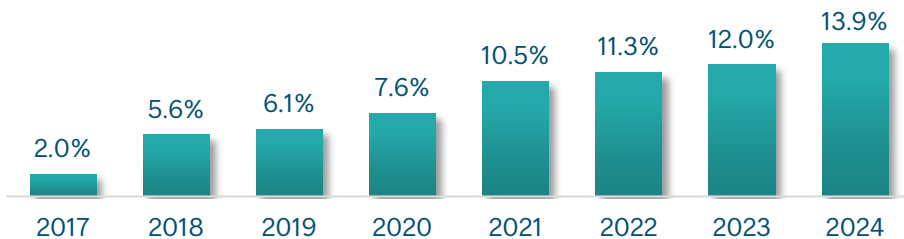
New Bike Parking  
Structures Installed  
Downtown



16

Electric and Hybrid Vehicles  
in the McGill Fleet

## KEY METRICS



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



A new indoor bike rack, purchased through the Sustainability Projects Fund, was installed in New Residence Hall in Fall 2023.

## RELATED SDGS





# FOOD SYSTEMS

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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- 🍏 In March 2024, McGill received **Silver certification** under the **Fair Trade Campus** program. While the Silver certification is new this year, the downtown campus has been Fair Trade certified for over a decade (since 2013), while the Macdonald Campus has been certified since 2019. McGill is the first campus in Quebec and the second in Canada to receive this designation.
  - 🍏 The Macdonald Campus Farm provided the downtown campus dining halls with **over 10 tonnes of fresh produce** in 2023 including 1.3 tonnes of corn, 1.6 tonnes of onions, and 1.7 tonnes of tomatoes. **Local Food Days** at the residence dining halls feature produce from the Mac Farm, as well as food from other local providers.
  - 🍏 **Dana Hospitality**, the University's food service provider, donated **over 900 kilograms** of food-insecure people in the community by partnering with the student-run organization, **MealCare**. Dana also uses a food waste management software to track, measure, and monitor food waste in the dining halls.
- 

With support from the SPF, the Student Nutrition Accessibility Club (SNAC) hosted **20 successful free grocery distributions**, 4 educational nutrition workshops, 2 farmer's market trips, and 1 trivia night community engagement event. Through its programs, SNAC has been able to provide **free fresh fruits and vegetables to over 1,180 members of the McGill community**.

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## CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

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



## CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2025 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

90% IMPLEMENTED

↑ **58%**  
since 2021-2022

## FOOD SYSTEMS AT-A-GLANCE



**10 tonnes**  
of Produce Grown at Macdonald  
Campus served Downtown (2023)



**16%**  
of Food and Beverage  
Purchases are Plant-  
Based

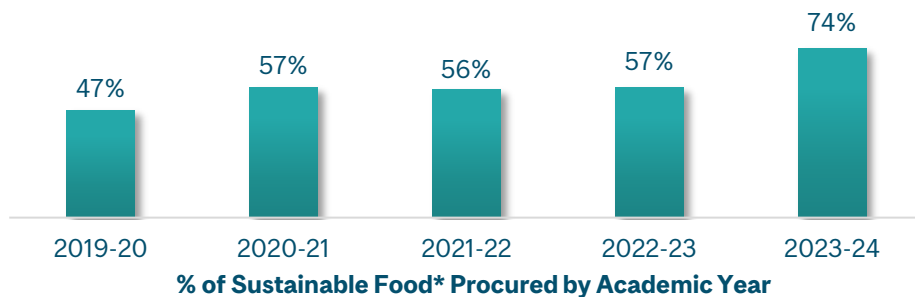


**Silver Certification**  
From the Canadian Fair Trade  
Campus program



**6%**  
of Food Purchases  
are 3<sup>rd</sup>-Party Certified

## KEY METRICS



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



**In March 2024, McGill's downtown campus achieved a Silver certification under the Fair Trade Campus program, in recognition of the University's efforts to improve the availability of Fair Trade products.**

## RELATED SDGS





## CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

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



# PROCUREMENT

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Procurement Services aligned its practices with the provincial government's 21 SEAO (système électronique d'appel d'offres) **responsible procurement indicators**. These indicators guide public institutions in accounting for social, economic, and environmental considerations in during the contract awarding process.



In April 2024, the McGill Board of Governors approved a new **Policy for the Management of Moveable Assets**, the purpose of which is to “establish a framework for the lifecycle management of McGill University’s moveable assets that promotes health and safety, sustainability and economic efficiency objectives.”

In Fall 2023, students in research course ENVR 401 conducted an accounting project in collaboration with Procurement Services focused on **quantifying Scope 3 emissions** for fiscal year 2023. The project included an extensive literature review and defined the importance of Scope 3 emissions accounting for large institutions.



McGill joined **CAUBO-ACPAU Sustainable Procurement-Approvisionnement Responsible (CASPAR) working group**. The group is designed to facilitate communication between senior level supply management and purchasing staff at Canadian universities. It encourages interaction between institutions through open discussions, tips, and resources on topics of national interest.





# PROCUREMENT

## CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2025 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

100% IMPLEMENTED

↑ 7%  
since 2022-2023

## PROCUREMENT AT-A-GLANCE



94%

Cleaning products meet recognized 3<sup>rd</sup>-party sustainability standards



2/3

of all contracts contain at least one sustainability criterion



100%

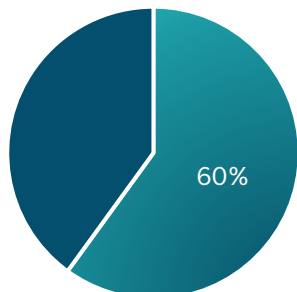
uPrint paper is post-consumer recycled



100+

Pieces of office furniture available for reuse on internal inventory

## KEY METRICS



Value of contracts signed with sustainability clauses, over total contract spend (FY24)



Facilities Management and Ancillary Services supports units with their requests concerning the removal or reuse of furniture and other items, finding internal or external takers and helping the unit to coordinate with McGill-approved movers.

## RELATED SDGS

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION





# LANDSCAPES & ECOSYSTEMS

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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- ② The University **launched its inaugural Biodiversity Plan 2030** in September 2023 with a dedicated festival. The plan marked a milestone in McGill's commitment in biodiversity preservation and will guide future efforts. Key progress to date includes initiating footprint calculations, planning engagement activities, as well as securing funding and planning projects to implement on campus.
  - ② The baseline inventory of species for McGill's Biodiversity Plan got well underway during the academic year. Over **225 species** identified through over **400 iNaturalist observations** during the 2023 Bioblitz on the downtown, Macdonald, and Gault campuses. These are in addition to observations recorded during course and research activities.
  - ② Renovation work on the Upper Main Road began in Summer 2024. Plans include **increasing permeable surfaces and greenery**, as well as creating an underground reservoir for water retention.
- 

The **Staff Gardens urban agriculture program** was popular once again in Summer 2024. 163 individuals registered to the program (an increase of 25 participants from the previous year), representing 41 units across campus.

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## CATEGORY OBJECTIVE

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



## CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2025 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

98% IMPLEMENTED

↑ **20%**  
since 2022-2023

## LANDSCAPES & ECOSYSTEMS AT-A-GLANCE



**180**  
Documented Tree Species  
on the Downtown Campus



**400+**  
iNaturalist Observations  
Recorded during the 2023  
McGill University Bioblitz

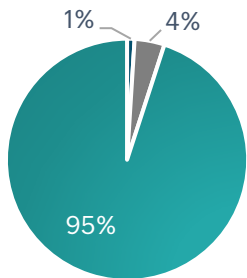


**225**  
Species Observed during  
the 2023 McGill University  
BioBlitz

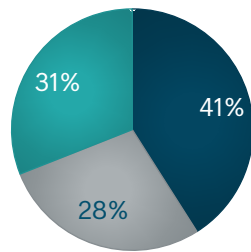


**~20%**  
Anticipated increase in Green Space from  
reconstruction of the Upper Main Road on  
the Downtown Campus

## KEY METRICS



% of Permeable Surface Type  
on Macdonald Campus



% of Permeable Surface Type  
on Downtown Campus

■ Buildings  
■ Impermeable  
Ground  
■ Permeable  
Ground



The reconstruction of the Upper Main Road, from the Y-intersection up to the area in front of the McCall MacBain Arts Building, will increase vegetation and include new lighting, paving, site furniture, and rainwater management infrastructure.





## 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

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**35 students** were recruited under the **Sustainability Ambassador Program (SAP)** in the 2023-2024 academic year. This program provides students with the opportunity to develop leadership skills and to introduce the McGill community to sustainability initiatives across the campuses. There are three SAP streams: the Sustainability Projects Fund stream, the Zero-Waste stream, and the Sustainable Events stream.



**50 workplaces were certified** through the Sustainable Workplace Certification program in CY2023, for a cumulative total of **over 150 workplaces certified over the past six years**. 4 workplaces have achieved Platinum workplace certification in AY2023-2024.



**Over 150 small, medium, large in-person events and online events were certified** through the Sustainable Event Certification program in AY2023-2024.



More than **4,000 McGill community members** participated in **sustainability-related workshops, trainings, meetings, and presentations** hosted by the Office of Sustainability in AY2023-2024, and more than **6,800 volunteers** have been mobilized to date to assist with **sustainability projects** on campus.





# COMMUNITY BUILDING

## CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2025 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

100% IMPLEMENTED

↑ 19%  
since 2022-2023

## COMMUNITY BUILDING AT-A-GLANCE



**700+**  
Certified Sustainable  
Events since 2017



**44**  
Staff became Sustainable  
Workplace Ambassadors



**150+**  
Workplaces Certified  
Sustainable since 2018

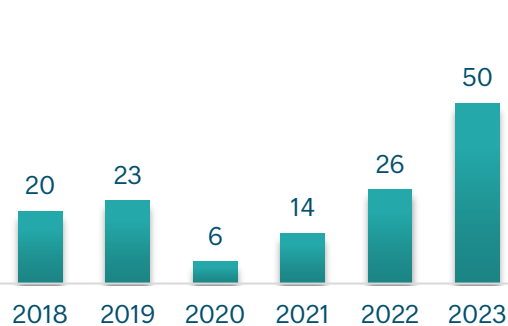


**42**  
Sustainable Event Consultants,  
Sustainability Projects Fund  
Ambassadors, Sustainable Labs  
Ambassadors and SHHS  
Sustainability Educators

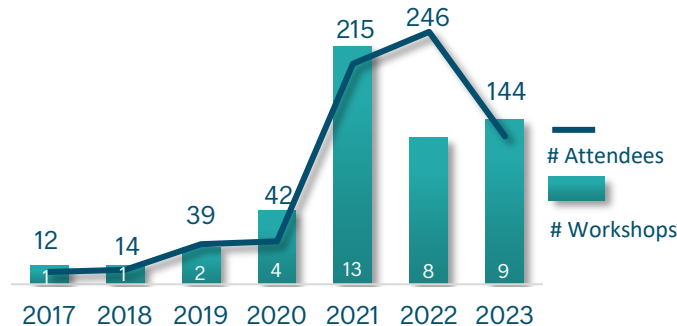


Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030  
community consultation, downtown campus

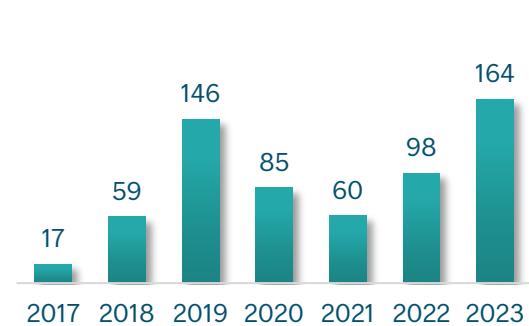
## KEY METRICS



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





## MANDATE

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



# SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS FUND

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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- 🏆 In March 2024, two SPF project leads received the **Emerald Key Award**, an award that recognizes **student leaders** who go above and beyond what is expected of them, and **who demonstrate outstanding dedication to advance sustainability on campus**. These students were recognized as leaders for their projects related to food basket distribution and growing oyster mushrooms from discarded coffee grounds, respectively.
- 

Student group **McGill Robotics** has been working on an SPF project to **improve the visibility of sustainable technological innovation** at McGill by building robots and using them for environmental data collection. So far, the project has resulted in improvements on an **underwater autonomous vehicle** and the creation of a **drone**, both of which are to be used for environmental monitoring and data collection.

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- 🤝 To forge fruitful partnerships and promote awareness of approved projects, the SPF hosted **two student-focused events: the Sustainability Soirée** (September 12) showcased 10 funded projects; and the **SPF Gala** brought student groups together for an evening of **networking and brainstorming potential SPF projects** (March 27).
- 

- 🌱 Notable SPF applications approved in FY24 include a big wave project to implement the **McGill Biodiversity Plan** (SP0344), an engineering **hackathon** to find **waste reduction solutions** (SP0361), a project to **create a culture of sustainability** in the Faculty of Dental Medicine and Oral Health Sciences (SP0360), and two projects to **improve sustainability in the University's construction** practices (SP0357 & SP0365).
-





# SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS FUND

## SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS FUND AT-A-GLANCE (FY2024)



**\$12M+**

Allocated to Sustainability Projects since 2010



**6,600+**

Volunteers Mobilized since 2010



**90+**

Partnerships/Collaborations Developed



**16,000+**

People Trained through Projects since 2010



**370**

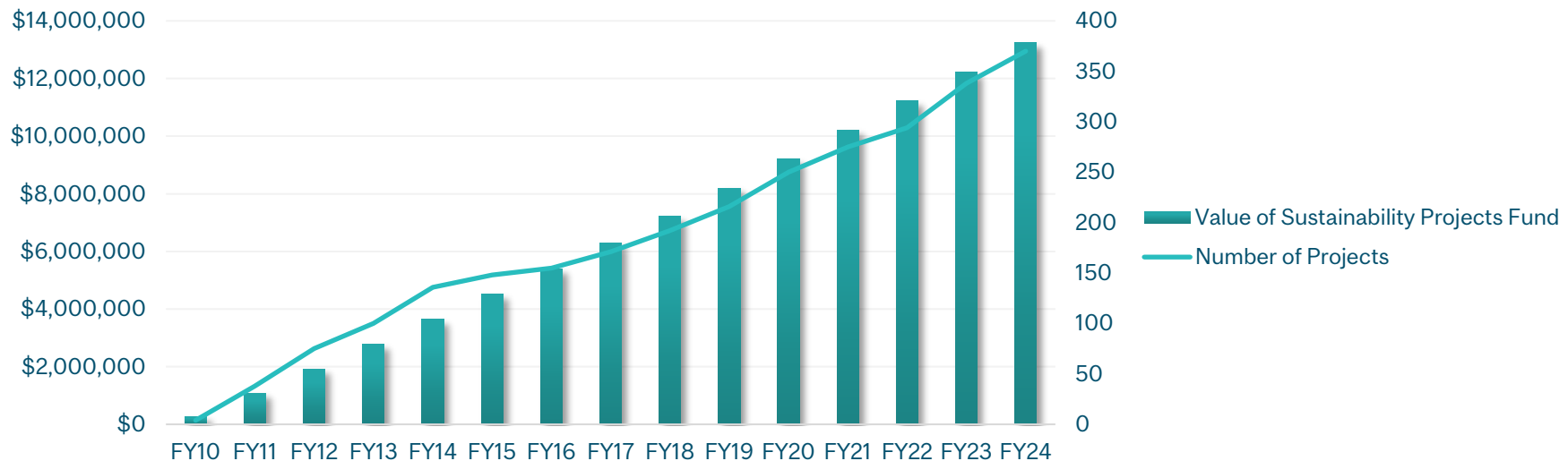
Sustainability Projects Approved since 2010



**\$16K**

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



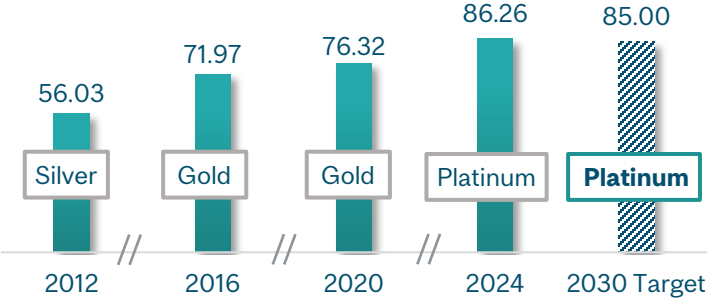
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



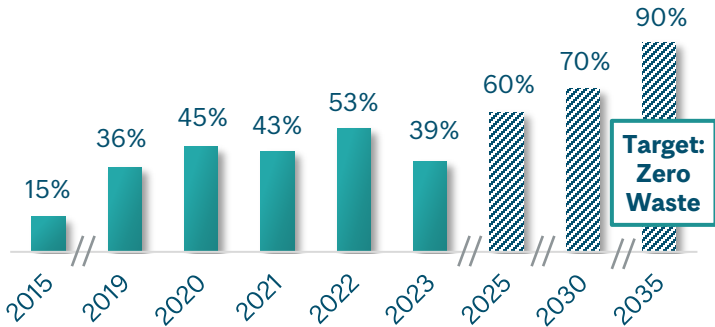
# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

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.

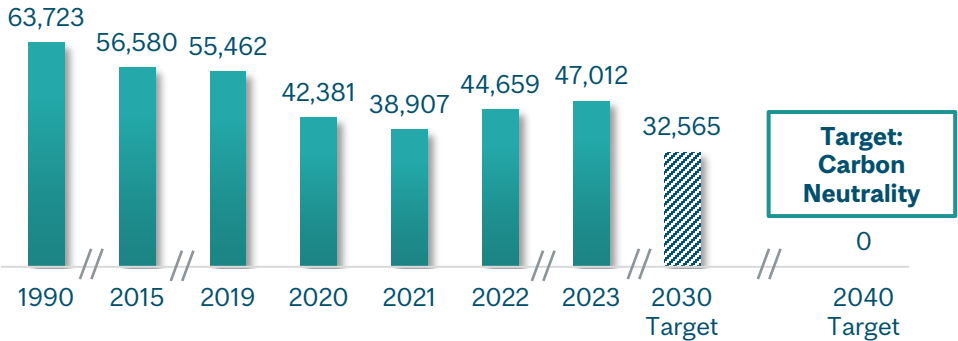
## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



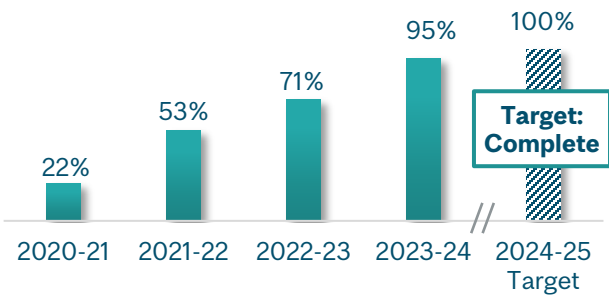
STARS® Sustainability Score and Rating by Submission Year<sup>1</sup>



% of Waste Diverted from Landfill by Calendar Year<sup>2</sup>



Net Tonnes of Institutional Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Calendar Year



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

<sup>1</sup> The 2020 STARS® Score was adjusted from 77 to 76.32 in 2024 after an error was discovered.  
<sup>2</sup> Construction and demolition waste diversion was included in 2022 and 2023 due to newly available data.





# LOOKING FORWARD

## CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY (2025-2030)

The new Climate & Sustainability Strategy sets the framework to achieve meaningful changes on our campuses for the next five years. The Strategy is aligned with global sustainability priorities and is organized to make steady progress towards McGill's long-term sustainability commitments by setting intermediary targets for the end of its five-year timeline.

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## MAINTAINING STARS® PLATINUM

The Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030 is aligned with the STARS® credits in a manner that will ensure the maintenance of our Platinum rating. Working towards the full implementation of the Strategy has the dual purpose of improving our score under the STARS® framework.

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## EMISSIONS IMPACTS OF NEW ELECTRIC BOILER

The new electric boiler became operational in Summer 2024. The positive impacts on greenhouse gas emissions will become evident over the course of the following years, with a predicted reduction of 9,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent each year.

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## UPPER MAIN ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

This two-year project entails the reconstruction of the Upper Main Road to celebrate Main Road as a pedestrian zone, offering space for congregation, socialization, and events. The Y-intersection was redesigned in collaboration with an Indigenous designer and an Indigenous artist. The project will result in approximately 20% more green space and increased universal accessibility, as the slopes near the building will be reduced.

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# SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS

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

- Analysis, Planning & Budget
- Buildings & Grounds
- Bieler School of Environment
- Campus Planning & Development
- Communications & Institutional Relations
- Dana Hospitality (Dexterra)
- Design Services
- Environmental Health & Safety
- Equity at McGill
- Faculty Froshes
- Food & Dining Services
- Gault Nature Reserve
- Green Labs Initiative
- Office of Indigenous Initiatives
- Internal Audit
- Macdonald Campus Farm
- McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative
- New Vic Project team
- Office of the President and Vice-Chancellor
- Office of the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)
- Office of the Provost and Executive Vice-President (Academic)
- Office of the Vice-President (Administration and Finance)
- Office of the Vice-President (Research and Innovation)
- Office of the Vice-President (Human Resources)
- Organizational Development
- Parking & Transportation
- Procurement Services
- Project Management
- Redpath Museum
- Secretariat
- Student Housing & Hospitality Services
- Student Societies (SSMU, MCSS, PGSS)
- Teaching & Learning Services
- University Advancement
- Utilities & Energy Management

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