
SUSTAINABLE LABS WORKING GROUP

February 6, 2019 2:00-3:30 pm, 3610 McTavish, Suite 430

Present: Christian Bouchard (Chair), Jerome Conraud, Robert Kidd, Stephanie Leclerc, Teodor Mocanu, Kathleen Ng

Guests:

Amelia Peres, Vision 2020 Administrator

Kendra Pomerantz, Supervisor: Sustainability, Contracts and Special Projects, Building Services

VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE LABS AT MCGILL

Engage the University community; promote and recognize efforts to reduce material, water, and energy consumption while maximizing cost savings; improve safety and accessibility through optimizing operations, training and awareness.

Approved by the SLWG 30 January 2015

1. Review agenda and notes from past meeting
 - There were no changes made to the agenda or notes from the past meeting.

2. Business arising

- a. Review of sustainability items on inspection checklist

Teo indicated that the field work was complete for the last cycle of inspections and a new cycle beginning, thus begging the question of whether it would be an appropriate time to review the sustainability items on the EHS inspection checklist. The discussion saw a revisit of the inspection results to determine what changes would be relevant. Amongst other issues discussed, the challenges of removing triclosan from McGill Marketplace were clarified. The group concluded that the inspection questions could be left unchanged for another cycle to facilitate benchmarking.

ACTION:

- ALL to look at potential tools to facilitate sustainable labs purchasing, ex. DOZN by SigmaAldrich.

- b. Sustainable Labs Awards

- i. Establishing timelines & milestones

Sustainable lab prizes at other universities were funded from various sources, frequently government. More concerted communications soliciting nominations having been postponed, little progress had been made since the last meeting. However, promotion could safely proceed after the next meeting on March 20.

ACTION:

- CHRISTIAN and GRAHAM to explore potential for suppliers' sponsorship of the award, including following up with VICTOR regarding potential for sponsorship by the Office of the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation).
- CHRISTIAN would speak to the EHS inspection at their next operations meeting re. solicitation nominations for the Awards.

- c. Working group reports

- i. Lab waste management: Kendra provided an update on her work to date. Originally hired as Zero-Waste Coordinator on implementation of the Waste Reduction and Diversion Strategy, mainly focusing on the contract for waste/recycling and rollout of new bins/signage, her position was changed in January to Supervisor: Sustainability, Contracts and Special Projects in Building Services, which meant that her scope of work was reduced to the downtown campus alone. Regardless, 80% of the contracts for waste are under

Buildings and Grounds, and the remainder at McGill align with their criteria. After much discussion about lab waste management, it was concluded that Kendra should send a proposal to go to advisory groups in each building (downtown) with whom she could consult regarding the best approach on where to put the bins and what higher-value material was being generated to warrant collection of another waste stream. This should also include consultation with local sustainability champions, including student groups like SEAM, SUS, SSMU and PGSS.

d. Vision2020

Amelia was working with Isabelle (who had sent her regrets for the meeting) on the PGSS sustainability plan. There was interest from PGSS to include an action on sustainable labs, and Amelia was seeking suggestions for concrete deliverables that could be included (such as training courses, a sustainable lab designation, etc.) The group felt that the training programs would be most useful (and potentially eligible for Sustainability Projects Fund grant funding) given that a sustainable lab designation would be problematic (inability to ensure their ongoing “certification” status).

e. Capital Asset Management update [Item adjourned to next meeting]

Stephanie reported that vehicles were posing a challenge. Furniture and appliances would be addressed next.

3. Other business

a. Catalyst Awards April 1, 2019

The group was reminded that the deadline to RSVP for the Catalyst Awards was March 25, and that the Gala itself would be April 1. All members of the McGill sustainability community are invited to attend.