Sustainable Travel Resources

Travel & Transit

Generally, try to maximize active transit, choose public transit over private vehicles (and avoid being the only one in a car!), and keep air travel to one or two economy trips per year.

- McGill’s Sustainable Travel & Mobility Guide
  - Use to: Learn best practices, compare average carbon intensity of different travel modes, and discover McGill-specific travel tips and options.

- Global Sustainable Tourism Council
  - Use to: Consult generally, and understand sustainable tourism accreditation.

- List of bike-share programs by country
  - Use to: Research and budget for bike-share options in your region.

- Fuel efficiency rankings & calculators
  - Use to: Compare potential vehicles and choose one with better fuel efficiency.
    - For a general sense between vehicles and years, these tools from Canada and the United States (and another) are helpful
    - The Global Fuel Economy Initiative Toolkit provides a by-country overview of fuel efficiency standards

- ICAO’s Air Travel Emissions calculator
  - Use to: Calculate GHG emissions from air travel to compare routes, choose less carbon-intensive options, and use the data to purchase offsets.

- Search for “Public Transit Planner [Country Name]” for regionally specific planning

Purchasing

Speak with your dollar! Shop from small local businesses, choose larger businesses that combine purpose and profit, and look for fair, honest & efficient products. Avoid new purchases where you can – borrowing, buying second-hand & reusing are often the most sustainable choices.

- List of certified B-Corps
  - Use to: Identify & choose businesses that meet high standards of social & environmental performance and that balance profit with purpose.

- Product certifications and labels
  - Use to: Help choose a better option between various products.
    - ECOLOGO and SPOT database
    - EPEAT (for electronics)
    - Fair Trade certification
Accommodations

- Accommodation sustainability ranking programs
  - Use to: Choose hotels and other accommodation options that have taken verified steps to improve social and environmental performance.
    - Green Key Global
    - Green Globe
    - TripAdvisor’s Green Leaders

Energy & Emissions

- Global Footprint Network’s Ecological Footprint calculator
  - Use to: Understand which areas of your life – at home and while you’re traveling – are contributing most significantly to your ecological footprint. You can make the most significant reductions by tackling the most significant impact areas.
- International Energy Agency (IEA)’s global energy & emissions statistics data tool
  - Use to: Understand the energy used in each country, what that means for emissions and compare against the global average. This data can then be used to make choices with significant impact: if electricity is mainly renewable, electric vehicles are a fantastic choice; if electricity & heat are generally non-renewable, choosing an accommodation option with renewable energy makes an impact...
- Our World in Data’s GHG emissions figures and infographics
  - Use to: Compare current & historical emissions data to see how national and regional infrastructure, combined with historical development and current habits, contribute to global emissions.
- Gold Standard offset projects
  - Use to: View a selection of offsetting projects that meet the Gold Standard, review project details, and purchase offsets.

McGill-Specific Sustainability Resources

Check out McGill’s plans and progress to date on sustainable action. We still have lots to do – and there are many ways to get involved! From student groups to the Sustainability Projects Fund, or Sustainable Events to sharing avoided air travel with the #BecauseIDidntFly campaign.

- Vision 2020: Climate & Sustainability Action Plan
- McGill Office of Sustainability website
- McGill’s 2017 Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report
- McGill Carbon Calculator (Mc3Gill) – for travel to and around Montreal