

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

## **PART I – PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

### **1.1 PURPOSE**

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

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

### **1.2. SCOPE**

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

## **PART II –POLICY STATEMENT, ACTION PLANNING & REPORTING**

### **2.1 POLICY STATEMENT**

- 2.1.1 The objectives of the Policy are as follows:

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

## **2.2. ACTION PLANNING**

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

## **2.3. REPORTING**

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

## **PART III – AUTHORITY TO APPROVE PROCEDURES**

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

## **PART IV – REVIEW**

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