

Memorandum

Office of the VP (Administration and Finance)
James Administration Building, room 531
845 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal, QC H3A 0G4
Tel: 514-398-6037 | Fax: 398-5902

TO: Senate

FROM: Professor Yves Beauchamp, Vice-Principal, Administration and Finance;

SUBJECT: Consolidation of Sustainability Policy and Environmental Policy

DATE: December 5, 2018

DOCUMENT #: D18-27

ACTION REQUIRED: ☐ INFORMATION ☒ APPROVAL/DECISION

ISSUE Approval is requested to consolidate the University's *Sustainability Policy* (2010) and *Environmental Policy* (2002) involving the integration of elements of the latter policy into a revised version of the *Sustainability Policy*.

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE The *Environmental Policy* and *Sustainability Policy* have not been reviewed since approved by the Board of Governors in 2002 and 2010 respectively.

On October 5, 2017, the Board of Governors approved the *Policy for the Development and Review of Governing Documents* which provides, among other things, that University Governing Documents (i.e., Policies and Regulations) shall be reviewed at least once every five (5) years by their Executive Sponsor. Both the *Environmental Policy* and the *Sustainability Policy* underwent a review process shortly thereafter, resulting in a recommendation to consolidate them. Technically speaking, this consolidation involves the revision of the *Sustainability Policy* and repeal of the *Environmental Policy* whereby the latter is effectively integrated into a revised version of the former.

This will eliminate any duplication between two policies pursuing similar goals, and allow for a clearer set of sustainability-related guidelines and principles.

The revised *Sustainability Policy* consolidates the two policies, embedding and revitalizing within it, the principles underlying the *Environmental Policy*. It adopts a broader and more ambitious position on climate action and sustainability to better reflect the University's current institutional commitment, and also represents a more holistic and complete concept of 'sustainability', one which reconciles environmental, social and economic dimensions.

Appendix A presents a clean version of the draft revised *Sustainability Policy*, which has been reformatted using the template standardized by and appended to the *Procedure for the Development and Review of Governing Documents*.

Appendix B presents a marked version of the draft revised *Sustainability Policy*.

Appendix C is the *Environmental Policy*.

PRIOR CONSULTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Senior Administration- Advisory Council on Sustainability- Associate Vice-Principal, Facilities Management and Ancillary Services- Director, McGill Office of Sustainability- Procurement Services
SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS	Sustainability is at the core of the <i>Sustainability Policy</i> .
IMPACT OF DECISION AND NEXT STEPS	Presentation to the Board of Governors for approval.
MOTION OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL	<i>Be it resolved that Senate, on the recommendation of the Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance), approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the approval of the revised Sustainability Policy and the repeal of the Environmental Policy.</i>
APPENDICES	Appendix A: Revised <i>Sustainability Policy</i> (CLEAN) Appendix B: Revised <i>Sustainability Policy</i> (MARKED) Appendix C: <i>Environmental Policy</i> (2002)



POLICY NAME	McGill University Sustainability Policy
Approving Body	To be filled by Secretary-General
Initial Approval Date	May 25, 2010
Date of last review	May 25, 2010
Date of next review	
Executive Sponsor	Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance)
Related Documents	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.

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.

McGill University Sustainability Policy

Last revised by:		
Senate	April 28, 2010	Minute 11B.1
Board of Governors	May 25, 2010	Minute 8.1
Effective Date:	May 25, 2010	

Full legislative history appears at the end of this document.

Preamble

The mission of McGill University will be attained responsibly by carrying out its activities in a manner that achieves a balance between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability:

The Mission of McGill University is the advancement of learning through teaching, scholarship and service to society by offering to outstanding undergraduate and graduate students the best education available, by carrying out scholarly activities judged to be excellent when measured against the highest international standards, and by providing service to society in those ways for which we are well-suited by virtue of our academic strengths.

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.

Policy

McGill University ~~aspires-is committed~~ to achieve the highest possible standards of sustainability ~~on its campuses and in its day-to-day activities through its academic practices, in its facilities and operations, and by its outreach to the broader community.~~ 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 in our operations 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 ~~and play a positive and proactive role in communicating the rationale and need to develop and implement sustainable practices in the broader community.~~ 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

To this end, McGill University will:

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; ~~and~~
- 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) ~~Among other initiatives undertaken in support of this Policy, the University will consider activities carried out by or on behalf of the University in light of their life cycle, including their economic, environmental and social footprints~~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.;

2.2. ACTION PLANNING

- ~~• Establish sustainability indicators to enable accountability, to communicate specific goals, and to monitor and report on progress;~~
- ~~• Prepare and regularly update a sustainability plan with specific goals and objectives; and~~

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

- Report annually on progress to the McGill community.

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.

Legislative History:

Approved:

Senate	April 28, 2010	Minute 11B.1
Board of Governors	May 25, 2010	Minute 8.1

Environmental Policy for McGill University

Preamble

McGill University shall strive to be recognized as an environmentally safe and responsible institution of learning, and as a model of environmentally responsible living.

To this end, the McGill University community shall make every reasonable effort to:

1. Prevent the over-consumption of energy and other resources and reduce the production of waste and the release of substances harmful to the biosphere;
2. Maintain purchasing policies which favour environmentally benign, post-consumer, bio-degradable, and non-toxic products wherever possible;
3. Encourage all members of the McGill community to be environmentally aware and the University's Environmental Policy to be well publicized;
4. Encourage all members of the McGill community to Re-think/Reduce/Re-use/Recycle. Given the costs that recycling entails, reduce and re-use options shall always be considered first; and
5. Seek additional ways of achieving our goal of being environmentally safe and responsible.

[Executive: October 7, 2002, minute 3]

We at McGill University are committed to fulfilling our academic mission and managing all resources in harmony with our natural environment. We are committed to meeting our social, scientific, ethical and educational leadership responsibility in actively promoting the restoration and preservation of a healthy environment for the future, and in contributing to building an equitable world.

Our commitment to raising environmental awareness and acting on it is manifested in our teaching and research activities, in other services which we provide to the McGill community and society at large, and in the individual and collective decisions which we take to offset the negative impact of the University's operation and activities on the Environment.

We are committed to increasing the University community's awareness of environmental issues, by fostering the appropriate values, knowledge, and skills to enable us to work towards the restoration and preservation of the Environment.

Accompanying principles

The University shall abide by the following principles:

- 1. McGill University shall have the goal of being recognized as an environmentally safe and responsible institution of learning and a model of environmentally responsible living.*
- 2. McGill University shall be in conformity with the principles of the 1990 Talloires Declaration and 1991 Halifax Declaration (Appendices I and II), and respect all municipal, provincial, and national legislation, and the spirit of the various international accords that Canada has signed. Should these obligations conflict, the University shall select the standards most compatible with the four principles listed below, in keeping with its leadership role and its goal of excellence.*
- 3. The McGill University community shall minimize the overconsumption of energy and other resources, the production of waste, and the release of substances harmful to the biosphere.*
- 4. The University shall maintain purchasing policies which favour environmentally-benign, post-consumer, bio-degradable, and non-toxic products wherever possible.*
- 5. The University shall encourage all members of the McGill community to be environmentally aware and the University's Environmental Policy to be well publicized.*
- 6. All members of the McGill community shall be encouraged to Re-think/Reduce/Re-use/Recycle. Given the costs that recycling entails, reduce and re-use options shall always be considered first.*

[Board of Governors: May 30, 2001]

Appendices:

- I. The Talloires Declaration, October 1990
- II. The Halifax Declaration, December 1991

TALLOIRES DECLARATION

McGill is one of the 270 signatories of the Talloires Declaration of the Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future, a process initiated at the Tufts University European Centre in Talloires (Haute-Savoie, France) in October 1990 and coordinated by the Tufts University-based Secretariat of University Presidents for a Sustainable Future. As such, McGill University has committed itself to taking a number of actions, in particular "to encourage that all university graduates are environmentally conscious, and have the awareness and understanding to be ecologically responsible citizens", and "to set an example of environmental responsibility". In order to "set an example of environmental responsibility" as required by the Talloires Declaration, the McGill community is expected to commit itself seriously and to act sincerely to minimize negative environmental impact. The Talloires Declaration reads as follows:

We, the presidents, rectors, and vice chancellors of universities from all regions of the world are deeply concerned about the unprecedented scale and speed of environmental pollution and degradation, and the depletion of natural resources.

Local, regional, and global air and water pollution; accumulation and distribution of toxic wastes; destruction and depletion of forests, soil, and water; depletion of the ozone layer and emission of "green house gases" threaten the survival of humans and thousands of other living species, the integrity of the earth and its biodiversity, the security of nations, and the heritage of future generations. These environmental changes are caused by inequitable and unsustainable production and consumption patterns that aggravate poverty in many regions of the world.

We believe that urgent actions are needed to address these fundamental problems and reverse the trends. Stabilization of human population, adoption of environmentally sound industrial and agricultural technologies, reforestation, and ecological restoration are crucial elements in creating an equitable and sustainable future for all humankind in harmony with nature.

Universities have a major role in the education, research, policy formation, and information exchange necessary to make these goals possible. Thus, university leaders must initiate and support mobilization of internal and external resources so that their institutions respond to this urgent challenge.

We, therefore, agree to take the following actions:

- 1 Use every opportunity to raise public, government, industry, foundation, and university awareness by openly addressing the urgent need to move toward an environmentally sustainable future.*
- 2 Encourage all universities to engage in education, research, policy formation, and information exchange on population, environment, and development to move toward global sustainability.*
- 3 Establish programs to produce expertise in environmental management, sustainable economic development, population, and related fields to ensure that all university graduates are environmentally literate, and have the awareness and understanding to be ecologically responsible citizens.*

4. *Create programs to develop the capability of university faculty to teach environmental literacy to all undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.*
5. *Set an example of environmental responsibility by establishing institutional ecology policies and practices of resource conservation, recycling, waste reduction, and environmentally sound operations.*
6. *Encourage involvement of government, foundations, and industry in supporting interdisciplinary research, education, policy formation, and information exchange in environmentally sustainable development. Expand work with community and non-governmental organizations to assist in finding solutions to environmental problems.*
7. *Convene university faculty and administrators with environmental practitioners to develop curricula, research initiatives, operations systems, and outreach activities to support an environmentally sustainable future.*
8. *Establish partnerships with primary and secondary schools to help develop the capacity for interdisciplinary teaching about population, environment, and sustainable development.*
9. *Work with national and international organizations to promote a worldwide university effort toward a sustainable future.*
10. *Establish a Secretariat and a steering committee to continue this momentum, and to inform and support each other's efforts in carrying out this declaration.*

HALIFAX DECLARATION

McGill University is one of the sixteen Canadian signatories of the Halifax Declaration (December 1991). The University Senate, on March 25, 1992 and on motion by former Vice-Principals Buckland and Prichard, voted in favour of supporting the Halifax Declaration and of asking "that all academic units within the University be informed of this Declaration". The Halifax Declaration called for the University's dedication to a number of actions to be taken within the University and at the local, national and global levels. The Halifax Declaration reads as follows:

Human demands upon the planet are now of a volume and kind that, unless changed substantially, threaten the future well-being of all living species. Universities are entrusted with a major responsibility to help societies shape their present and future development policies and actions into the sustainable and equitable forms necessary for an environmentally secure and civilised world...

The Halifax meeting (held in December 1991) added its voice to those many others world-wide that are deeply concerned about the continuing widespread degradation of the Earth's environment, about the pervasive influence of poverty on the process, and about the unsustainable environmental practices now so widespread. The meeting expressed the belief that solutions to these problems can only be effective to the extent that the mutual vulnerability of all societies, in the South and in the North, is recognised, and the energies and skills of people everywhere be employed in a positive, co-operative fashion. Because the educational, research and public service roles of universities enable them to be competent, effective contributors to the major attitudinal and policy changes necessary for a sustainable future, the Halifax meeting invited the dedication of all universities to the following actions:

- 1. To ensure the voice of the university be clear and uncompromising in its ongoing commitment to the principle and practice of sustainable development within the university, and at the local, national and global levels.*
- 2. To utilise the intellectual resources of the university to encourage a better understanding on the part of society of the inter-related physical, biological and social dangers facing the planet Earth.*
- 3. To emphasise the ethical obligation of the present generation to overcome those current malpractices of resource utilisation and those widespread circumstances of intolerable human disparity which lie at the root of environment unsustainability.*
- 4. To enhance the capacity of the university to teach and practice sustainable development principles, to increase environmental literacy, and to enhance the understanding of environmental ethics among faculty, students and the public at large.*
- 5. To cooperate with one another and with all segments of society in the pursuit of practical capacity-building and policy measures to achieve the effective revision and reversal of those current practices which contribute to environmental degradation, to South-North disparities and the inter-generational inequity.*
- 6. To employ all channels open to the university to communicate these undertakings to UNCED (the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Brazil in 1992), to governments and to the public at large.*