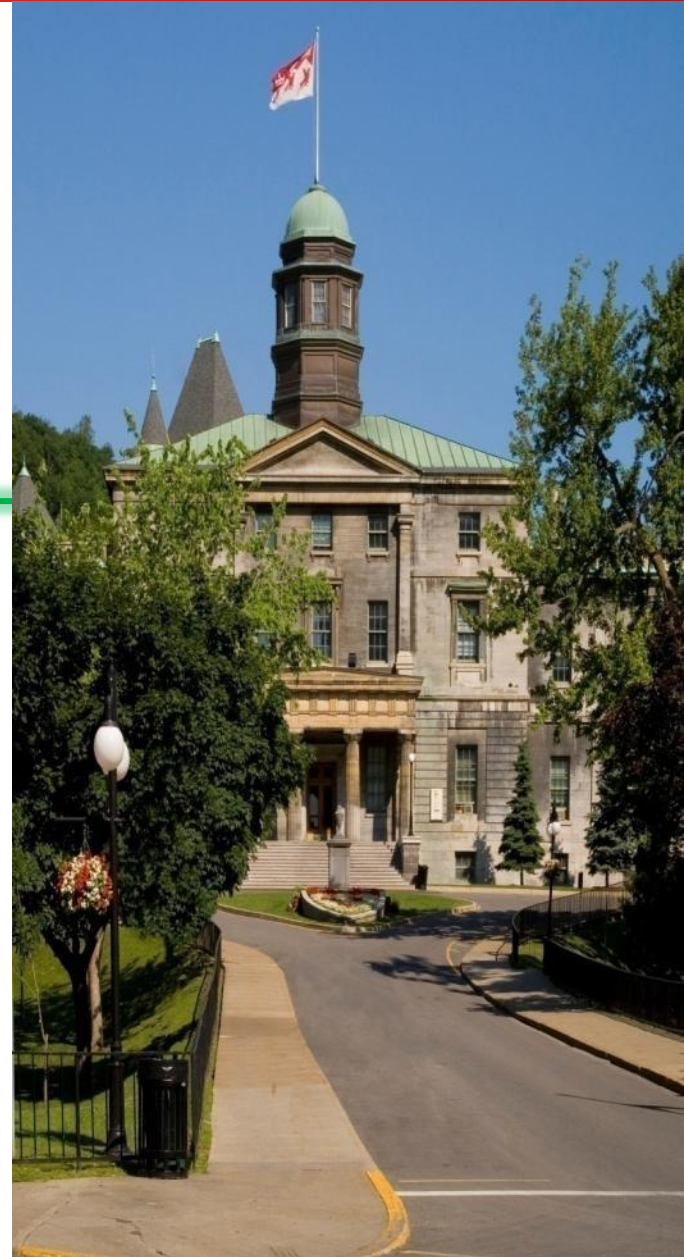




McGill University

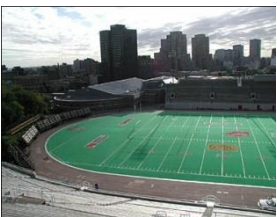
SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Jim A. Nicell
Associate Vice-Principal (University Services)



BACKGROUND

- McGill signed the Talloires Declaration in 1990 and the Halifax Declaration in 1991
- An Environmental Policy was adopted by McGill in 2001
- In the Fall of 2007, a Joint Board-Senate meeting was held on the topic of sustainability
- In the Spring of 2008, the *Planning and Design Principles of the Physical Master Plan* were adopted by the Board of Governors, for which sustainability was an “over arching principle”.



BACKGROUND

- In 2008, a working group was established to undertake the development of a Sustainability Policy
- In February 2009, McGill's Office of Sustainability was opened with the mission to "create a culture of sustainability at McGill"
- McGill began the development of a 5-year Sustainability Plan in 2009
- Consultation on the draft Sustainability Policy will be undertaken over the summer and fall of 2009 with the intent of adopting the policy in the spring of 2010



McGill's campuses

BACKGROUND

- 2 campuses (Downtown, Macdonald), plus the MUHC Glen Campus
- 228 buildings of 780,000 sq.m. (680,000 downtown; 100,000 Macdonald Campus)
- Other major properties: Morgan Arboretum (245 ha); Nature Reserves including Gault (1,000 ha), Penfield (188 ha), and Molson (51 ha);
- Other: Bellairs Research Institute Estate (Barbados), Sub-Arctic Research Station (Schefferville, QC), McGill Arctic Research Station (Axel Hieberg Island, NU)

Downtown: 36 ha



Macdonald: 650 ha



Gault Reserve: 1,000 ha



Glen: 17 ha



McGill's Mission

“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.”



BACKGROUND

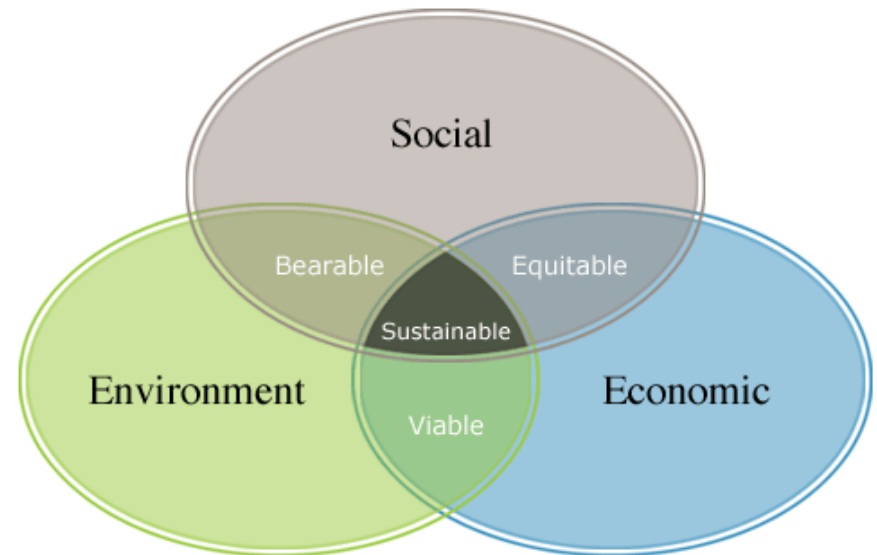
“McGill University strives to ...
stand as a model for environmentally
responsible living”

McGill University Physical Master Plan:
Planning and Design Principles
(Adopted April 7, 2008)



Fundamental Assumptions

- The mission of McGill University can only be attained responsibly by carrying out its activities in a manner that achieves a balance between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability
- Sustainable practices are everybody's responsibility and cannot be charged to individual persons or units.
- To achieve this, we must share a common vision.



Imagine a McGill where...

Our Mission...

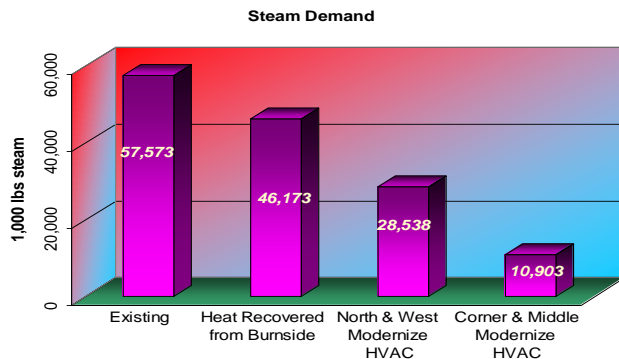
... is attained responsibly by carrying out the University's activities in a manner that achieves a balance between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability.



Imagine a McGill where...

Energy...

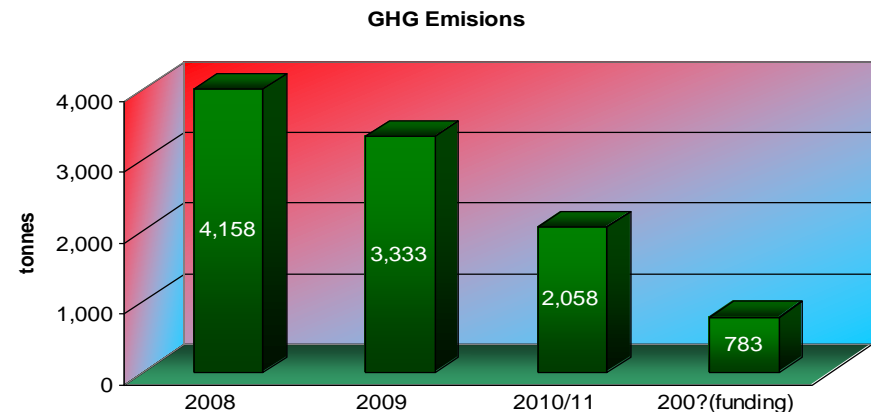
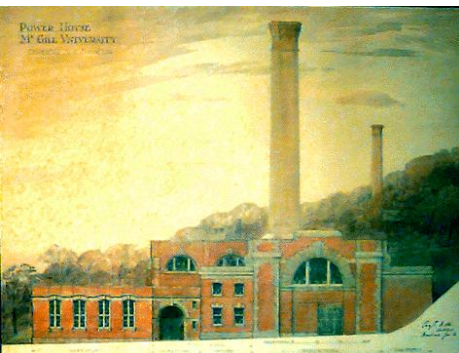
...comes from clean and renewable sources and is produced and consumed efficiently.



Imagine a McGill where...

Greenhouse gas emissions...

... are a thing of the past; only renewable energy sources are used, power plants are modernized and efficient, buildings are carbon neutral, and vehicles are electric.



Imagine a McGill where...

Campus spaces...

... are green, accessible and pedestrian friendly; buildings are carefully maintained and well situated in their natural, cultural and historic surroundings.



Imagine a McGill where...

Cars...

... are left at home; staff, students and visitors arrive at our campuses by foot, bicycle or public transit.



Imagine a McGill where...

Water...

... is used and consumed wisely.



Imagine a McGill where...

Food...

... is produced locally and is chemical-free.



Imagine a McGill where...

Waste...

... is minimized, consumption is reduced, items are purchased locally, and materials are reused or recycled before disposal.



Imagine a McGill where...

Students...

... are educated as citizens of a global environment and gain the experience they need to become the leaders of tomorrow.

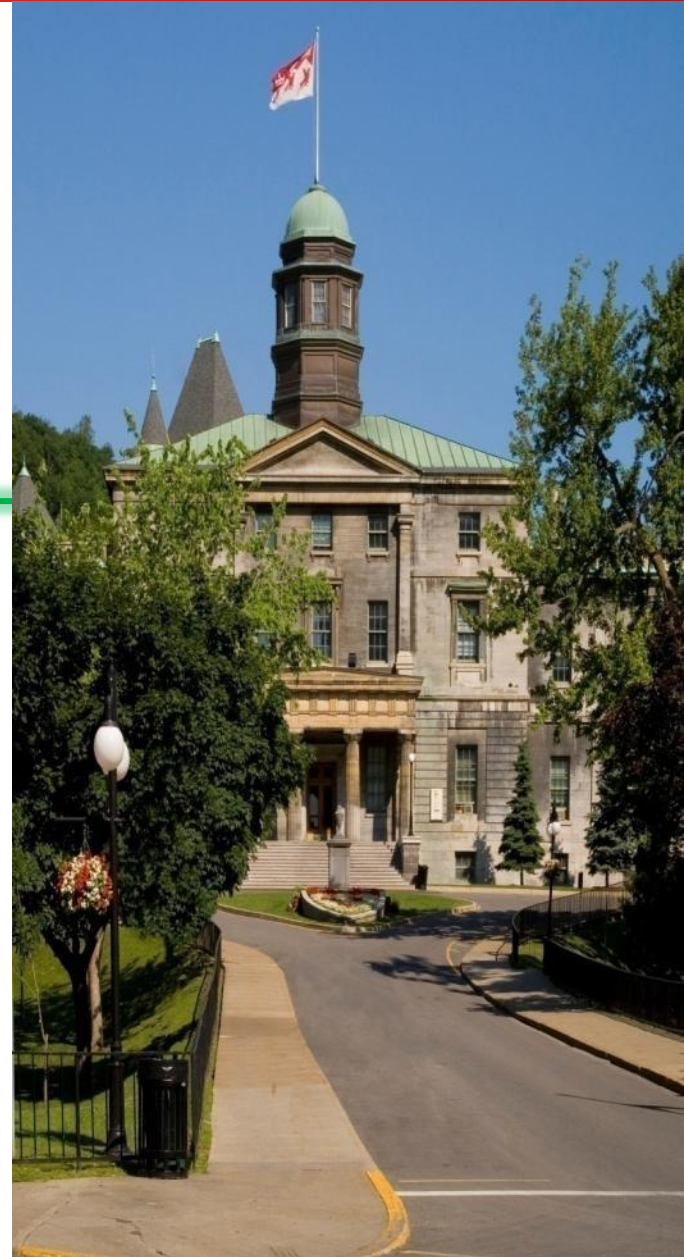




McGill University

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Draft for Consultation



POLICY STATEMENT

Aspirations

McGill University aspires 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 their 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.



POLICY STATEMENT

Aspirations

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.



COMMITMENTS

McGill will:

Undertake the activities and operations of the University with fairness, striking an appropriate balance between the needs and aspirations of current and future generations of the McGill and broader communities;



COMMITMENTS

McGill will:

Foster enquiry into sustainability through teaching, research and the university experience;



COMMITMENTS

McGill will:

Share knowledge to stimulate innovation, raise awareness and ensure effective participation of the McGill community in the implementation of sustainable practices;



COMMITMENTS

McGill will:

Foster economic efficiencies in the University's operations that are consistent with social equity and respect for the environment;



COMMITMENTS

McGill will:

Further promote a healthy, safe and productive work and learning environment for the McGill community;



COMMITMENTS

McGill will:

Advance individual and collective efforts and accountabilities throughout the McGill community to make sustainability a priority in the life of the University;



COMMITMENTS

McGill will:

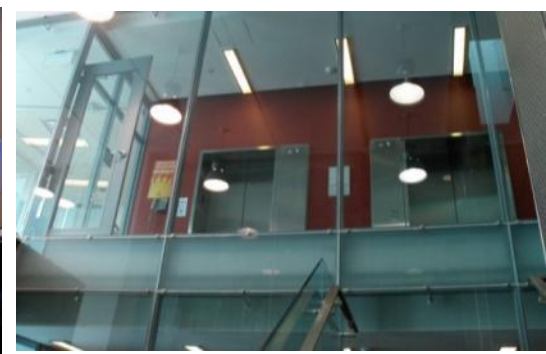
Identify and conserve the cultural and natural heritage of McGill University, including properties, buildings, landscapes, traditions and knowledge, taking their intrinsic rarity and fragility into account;



COMMITMENTS

McGill will:

Minimize the use and consumption of energy and material resources in recognition of the limited capacity of the biosphere to accommodate human activities.



IMPLEMENTATION

To these ends, McGill 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;
- 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 sustainability goals and objectives; and
- Report annually on progress to the McGill community.

CONSULTATION

Draft document available at
<http://www.mcgill.ca/sustainability/plan/>

Send your
comments and suggestions to:
sustainability.policy@mcgill.ca

