

Advisory Council on Sustainability
McGill University, James Building, room 302
February 5th, 2020 (9:00 AM – 11:00 AM)

Minutes

Present: Y. Beauchamp, E. Bennett, M. Bergen, K. Cook, R. Couvrette, D. Dutton, B. Harvey, H. Lauzon, B. Lennox, C. Manfredi, F. Miller, A. Moreau, J. Nicell, L. Rathmell

Absent with regrets: B. Buraga, C. Deny, A. DeSousa, S. Osiecki, A. Luers, A. Porlier

1. Welcome & Roundtable

Prof. Manfredi welcomes the group and invites everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of minutes from the last meeting and today's agenda

Prof. Manfredi confirms that the minutes from the last meeting were approved and that there are no additions to today's agenda.

3. Latest news related to sustainability

F. Miller presents recent sustainability news and ongoing sustainability projects, including:

- Launch of the Big Wave Funding Stream of the SPF. This stream is created for projects between \$100,000 to \$400,000.
- The 10th edition of the Catalyst Award for Sustainability will be held on April 6th 2020.
- McGill Sustainable Research Symposium (funded by MSSI) held its annual one-day symposium on January 30th. Close to 60 guests attended: mix of prof, students and external participants.
- McGill Student Sustainability Network held its first networking event on January 16th. Student groups presented their projects and invited other students to get involved. Over 70 guests attended.
- The University created a Standing Board Committee on Sustainability. The role of this new committee will be complimentary to the ACS.
- The McGill Office of Sustainability presented on sustainable traveling practices during the undergraduate Pre-Departure session. Close to 200 students attended.
- The consultation process for McGill's Next Climate and Sustainability Strategy has launched and over 35 key stakeholders were met. More meetings are to come and open consultations are planned for March 17-18-19.
- Results from the Sustainability Survey were compiled - just over 1000 staff, faculty and students participated.
- Spin bike gardens (12) and nutritowers (20), that were given out as part of the SPF 10th anniversary, will be distributed in the upcoming weeks.

4. Results of McGill's Sustainability Survey

F. Miller presents the results of the University-wide Sustainability Survey. The margin of error being close to 3%, the results obtained in this survey reflect the perceptions of the McGill community on sustainability. Some of the questions addressed were:

- Level of knowledge of sustainability programs or initiatives on campus
- What importance will sustainability have in work/study spaces the upcoming years
- The importance of McGill's commitment to sustainability

Members suggested:

- Carbon neutrality should be further outlined (linking building & utilities to carbon neutrality).
- See what people from the "neither agree nor disagree" category answered in different questions.

5. CPEQ's Guide "Intégrer une démarche de développement durable: se positionner pour l'avenir"

H. Lauzon presented the CPEQ interactive guide that serves as a decision-making tool to help organizations to integrate sustainability practices. Given that sustainability is a priority for the government, the CPEQ developed sustainability guidelines for small, medium and big enterprises. The guide is structured around a number of functions, with associated goals and actions.

Members suggested:

- We should build on the CPEQ guide to develop McGill's Climate and Sustainability Strategy.
- The EHS Internal responsibility systems (adopted by Senate and Board): it could be interesting to have this kind of structure be adapted to sustainability.

5. McGill's next Climate & Sustainability Strategy: selecting categories

F. Miller and A. Moreau presented the categories for the next Climate & Sustainability Strategy.

A. Moreau explained that the choice of the categories were influenced by the sustainability survey results, benchmarking with other U15 universities, as well as internal analysis. From this process, eight categories were suggested as well as three transversal themes.

Some recommendations from the discussion include:

- Some of the transversal themes could be presented as guiding principles.
- The category "Wellbeing" might be harder to include because of distribution of ownership.
- Food systems and procurement could be merged together.
- Instead of transportation, travel should be the name of one of the categories since it accurately reflect McGill's context and one of the areas in which we can make significant progress (reduce GHG emission from air travel).
- A "governance" category should be included to ensure the strategy is successfully implemented.
- The Strategy should also focus on the impact of Curricula.
- We should look at the existing Internal Responsibility System to create accountability around the strategy implementation.
- A particular attention should be given at how the goals in each category relate to McGill's long-term targets of carbon neutrality and platinum STARS rating.

6. Next Steps and Closing Remarks

- The Catalyst Awards on Sustainability will happen on April 6th 2020.
- The next Advisory Council meeting will take place on May 6th, 2020.