



McGill

Office of
Sustainability

Bureau du
développement durable

CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

September 2020 - August 2021



MCGILL
SUSTAINABILITY

INTRODUCTION

The Climate & Sustainability Annual Report examines achievements, initiatives, and other sustainability-related activities that materialized throughout the 2020-2021 academic year. These highlights are presented in relation to the eight categories identified in the McGill University Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025, but are not limited to the actions described in the Strategy.

The eight categories are:

- Research & Education
- Buildings & Utilities
- Waste Management
- Travel & Commuting
- Food Systems
- Procurement
- Landscapes & Ecosystems, and
- Community Building

To provide a more complete portrait of the University's efforts throughout the past year, the Sustainability Annual Report also provides an overview of achievements in the following two areas:

- The University's flagship Sustainability Projects Fund, and
- The areas of Administration & Governance.

Additionally, the Report also connects the University's achievements to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by highlighting the two to four most relevant SDGs to each category.

The successes described within this report reflect the efforts made by many faculties, units, groups and individuals across the McGill community.

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OF THE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 2020-2021 academic year was one like no other. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the McGill community, like many around the world, was pushed to adapt and innovate to working and learning remotely. We were equally pushed to reimagine what it means to build a sustainable campus community—pushed to think bigger and do better.

We also have continued to witness a deepened commitment to sustainability on campus. In December 2020, the University released the McGill Climate and Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025, a key achievement of the last year. The new Strategy reframes and strengthens McGill's commitments to embedding sustainability into our University's DNA,

notably with the adoption of a new long-term target: to become zero-waste by 2035. The new Climate & Sustainability Strategy provides the University community with a roadmap to get us where we would like to be in 2025.

This report highlights the steps many members from the McGill community have taken along this path, proving that at the heart of sustainability is collaboration. I extend my deepest thanks to all those who have joined us on this journey.

Francois Miller

Executive Director, Sustainability



A man with dark hair, wearing a blue and white striped short-sleeved shirt and dark blue cargo pants, stands leaning against the thick trunk of a large, mature tree. He is smiling slightly at the camera. In the foreground, several small potted plants in black plastic pots are arranged on the grass. The background shows a large, light-colored building with many windows, partially obscured by the tree's branches. The scene is outdoors on a grassy area with some fallen leaves.

“

For the whole community, sustainability starts with just you. It's as simple as saying, "Instead of leaving my debris on a bench beside me ... I'll take care of it."

ERIC CHAMPAGNE
HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR

Learn more about Eric and his work by clicking [here](#) to read his Q&A with the Office of Sustainability in the Sustainable Sparks series.



RESEARCH & EDUCATION



The McGill University Strategic Academic Plan 2017-2022 states, “No university can lead globally in the 21st century without putting sustainability at the centre of its operations, research, and teaching.” Despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, McGillians have continued to make strides in sustainability-related research and knowledge-dissemination this year.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The **McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative (MSSI)** continues to be an innovative nexus for cross-disciplinary sustainability research. The 2020-2021 academic year saw the inauguration of the new MSSI Graduate & Postdoc Sustainability Research Collective, the creation of a new research theme, “CleanTech for Carbon Energy Cycles,” and the launch of the new Climate Change Cluster.

Alumnus Marc Bieler donated a landmark \$15-million gift to the University to build interdisciplinary teaching, research, and experiential learning capacity at the **Bieler School of Environment**.

The **Faculty of Engineering** initiative, E-IDEA (Engineering Inclusivity, Diversity and Equity Advancement), received funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada’s (NSERC) PromoScience grants program for their project: “Engineering Engagement in School Curricula: Multi-year Design-thinking Projects for Indigenous and Marginalized Youth.”

The **McGill Centre for Innovation in Storage and Conversion of Energy (McISCE)** was launched in May 2021. Its aim is to lead the world in research and innovation in carbon-free energy storage and conversion. Also in 2021, McGill faculty members received an Exploration grant from the New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) for research that is expected to inform the design of new sustainable energy technologies.

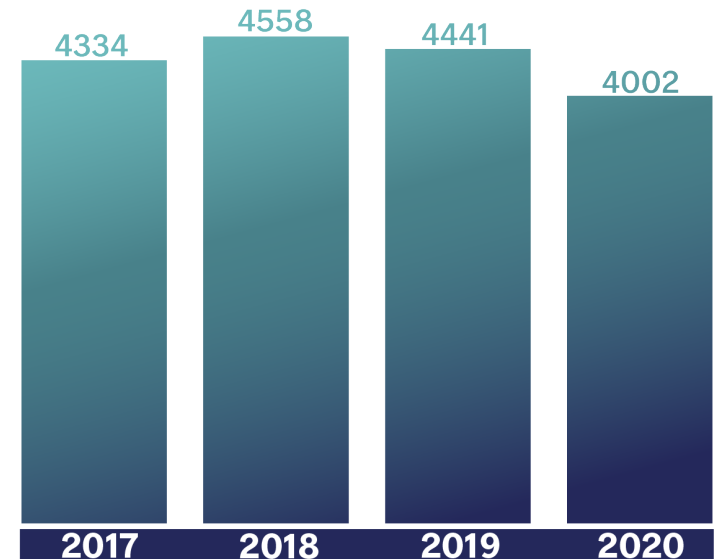
The new **Indigenous Initiatives** website includes a comprehensive list of resources for researchers, including journals, research methodologies, research ethics guides, and allyship toolkits.



RESEARCH & EDUCATION



McGill's 2020 Research Output by Related SDG



Number of SDG-related Publications by Year

These metrics represent the number of publications produced by McGill researchers that relate to one of the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As in past years, McGill continues to shine as one of the top Canadian contributors to publications related to SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being. You can learn more about the SDGs by [clicking here](#).

RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





BUILDINGS & UTILITIES

McGill operates over 200 buildings across its campuses; it is essential to ensure that facilities are built and managed efficiently, and that sustainability is embedded throughout operations. Converting energy systems and investing in energy efficiency upgrades are at the heart of the University's strategy to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with buildings and utilities.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In June 2021, the Quebec government approved the University's *dossier d'opportunité* for the **New Vic Project**, a state-of-the-art research, teaching, and learning hub dedicated to Sustainability Systems and Public Policy.

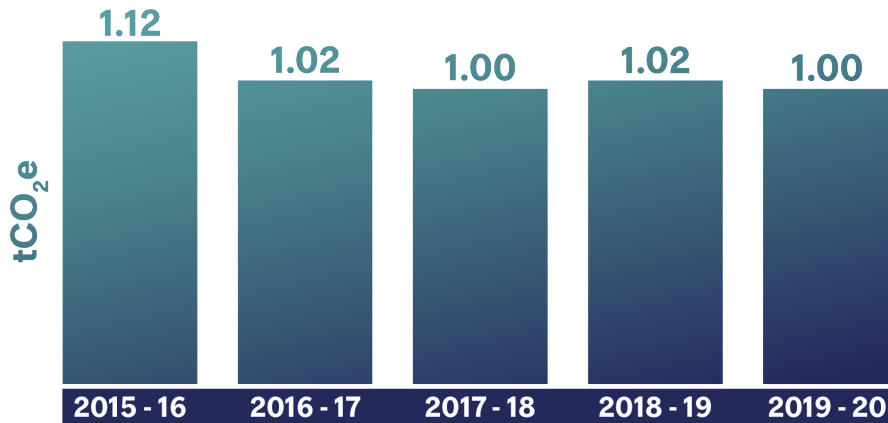
The construction for the **smart energy grid projects** (waste heat recovery networks) on the downtown campus has been completed. The networks are expected to be fully operational in Fall 2021. Altogether, the University's three smart energy grids are projected to reduce emissions by approximately 1,850 tCO₂e annually by 2025.

A call for tender was issued and a contract was awarded for one of the University's key energy initiatives: the replacement of a natural gas boiler with electric boilers and the installation of a heat recovery system at the downtown central heating plant. These two projects, funded in part by the Government of Canada's **Low Carbon Economy Fund**, are anticipated to reduce the University's total annual emissions by 9,000 tCO₂e by 2025 and are expected to come online late 2022.

In March 2021, the Canada Foundation for Innovation's Innovation Fund granted funding for the **Building Architecture Research Node** (BARN), an innovative timber building to be constructed with sustainably harvested wood from the Morgan Arboretum. It will house McGill's DeCarbonized Architecture and Building (DeCARB) research group.



BUILDINGS & UTILITIES



Building-Related GHG Emissions Relative to Full-Time Equivalent Student (FTE)

This metric represents the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emitted in tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e) relative to full-time equivalent student (FTE). GHG emissions per student enrolment are expected to decrease with the implementation of energy efficiency and conversion projects.

RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





WASTE MANAGEMENT



McGill's long-term target to become zero-waste by 2035 requires action and commitment from the entire University community, from continuing to improve our operations to adopting better waste-sorting habits. Significant strides have been made to upgrade the University's waste infrastructure, which will be further expanded in the year to come.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As part of the **Waste Reduction and Diversion Strategy 2018-2025**, over 475 multi-stream waste sorting stations have been installed in main academic buildings across the downtown campus. These significant infrastructure upgrades will help improve the University's waste diversion rate as it works to become zero-waste.

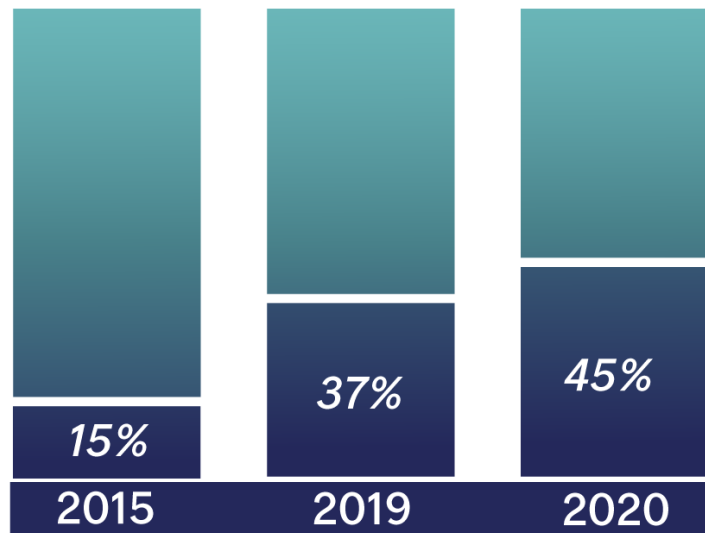
Six key academic buildings now have waste sorting stations that include a compost stream, up from one building last year. **Compost collection** for these additional buildings is planned to begin during the 2021-2022 academic year.

McGill, with financial help from **RECYC-QUÉBEC**, is expanding its organic waste management and waste education on campus with a financial contribution of \$73,740 within the framework of the call for proposals for reduction, recovery, and recycling of organic materials from the industry, commerce, and institution (ICI) sector, financed through the Electrification and Climate Change Fund.

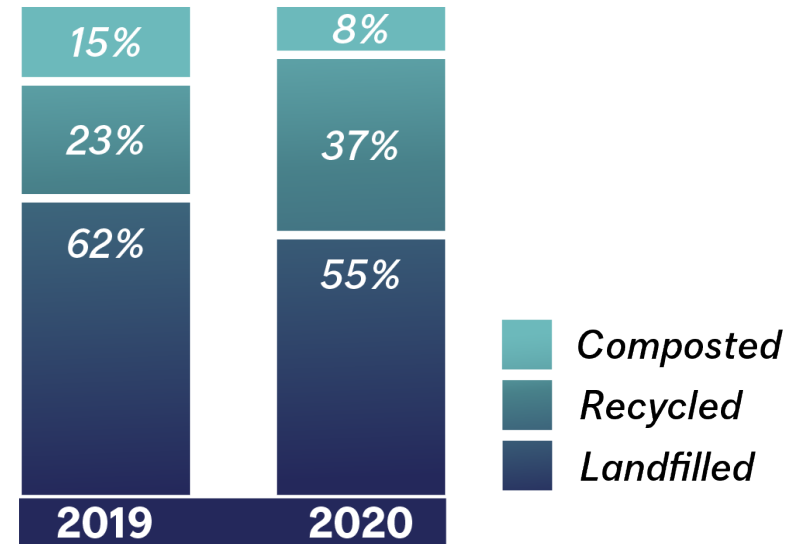
In collaboration with the **Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU)**, the University joined the **Post Landfill Action Network (PLAN)**, a non-profit organization which empowers community members to play an active role in the transition to zero-waste.



WASTE MANAGEMENT



McGill's Diversion Rate by Year



Percentage of Waste by Type

To become zero-waste by 2035, the University is pointedly dedicating increased resources to improving its diversion rate, the percentage of waste diverted from landfill. While organic waste infrastructure continues to expand across campus, a lower-than-usual amount was collected in 2020 due to reduced on-campus activities.

RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





TRAVEL & COMMUTING

Albeit an important component of the University's academic activities and operations, travel and commuting can be a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions. This year, COVID-19 pandemic restrictions served as an opportunity for our community to rethink global collaborations and to explore new ways of connecting with one another in a low-carbon fashion.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The University further strengthened its partnership with **Indigenous communities in Panama**, establishing the **McGill-Bayano Reforestation Project** to offset part of its greenhouse gas emissions by funding the planting of nearly 25,000 seedlings.

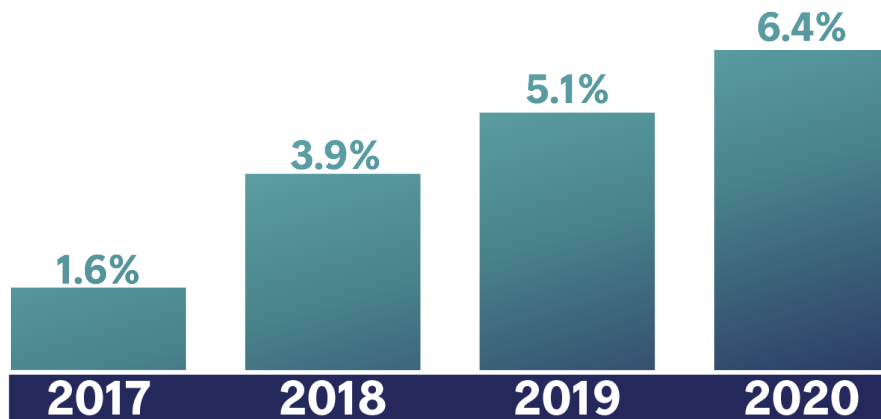
McGill continued to encourage the use of **electric and hybrid vehicles** by installing new electric vehicle charging (EV) stations in 2020-2021, for a total of 23 EV charging stations located across the campuses.

McGill is continually **adding electric and hybrid vehicles to its fleet**, with a total of 12 in circulation, thanks to the Sustainable Alternative for Vehicle Replacement (SAVR) Initiative, supported by the Sustainability Projects Fund.

A new **bicycle infrastructure committee** was created in March 2021 to examine the options for expanding bicycle parking on campus.



TRAVEL & COMMUTING



Percentage of Electric and Hybrid Vehicles in the McGill Fleet

The number of electric vehicles in McGill's fleet has increased thanks to Sustainable Alternatives for Vehicle Replacement (SAVR) program, which was developed with the financial support of the Sustainability Projects Fund. A continued increase is expected, in accordance with the McGill Vehicle Asset Management Procedure.

RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





FOOD SYSTEMS

At the heart of McGill's food system is the Macdonald Campus Farm which provides fresh produce, eggs, and more to the University's downtown campus. Continuous improvements to the Farm, in addition to the selection of sustainably conscious suppliers and renewed Fair Trade Campus certification, ensure that the University prioritizes sustainability in its food and dining.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Over \$100,000 of financial support from the Sustainability Projects Fund was awarded for a feasibility study to implement more sustainable field practices, which will inform a long-term strategic plan for the **Macdonald Campus Farm**.

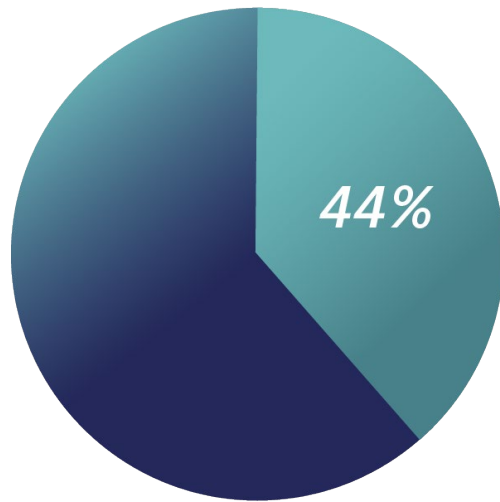
New greenhouses, funded by the Sustainability Projects Fund, became operational in the 2020-2021 academic year, allowing the **Macdonald Campus Farm** to extend its growing season.

Established in 2020, the student-led, community-based project, **Mobilizing for Milton-Parc** organizes over 150 volunteers to cook and deliver hot meals and care packages to un-housed people in the Milton-Parc area.

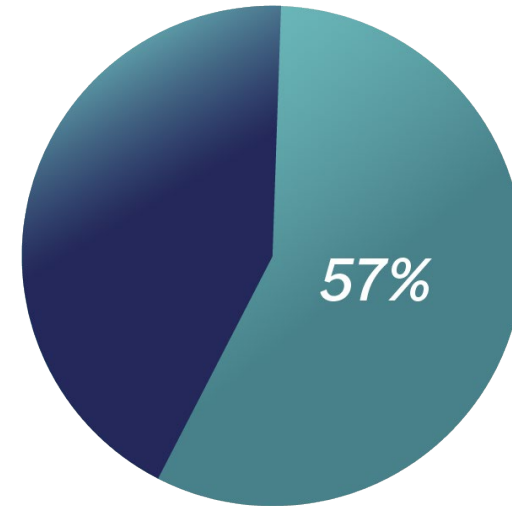
McGill's downtown and Macdonald campuses were once again certified as **Fair Trade Campuses**, demonstrating the University's continued commitment to ethical sourcing.



FOOD SYSTEMS



Percentage of Local (sourced within 500km) and Third-party Certified Food Purchased by Contracted Services (2020-2021)

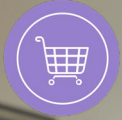


Percentage of Sustainable Food Packaging Purchased by Contracted Services (2020-2021)

These metrics provide a partial picture of McGill's journey towards a sustainable food system, focusing on the sustainability of food and packaging purchased by the University's contracted services. These numbers may not reflect the trends seen in past years due to challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically a reduction in the number of students living in residences and an increase in food purchased for take out.

RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





PROCUREMENT

From food, office supplies, and travel, to IT equipment, furniture, vehicles, and more, sustainable procurement involves leveraging the University's supply chain to support environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Over the course of 2020-2021, over **120 social economy and indigenous businesses** were added to the **McGill Marketplace**, as part of a broader procurement initiative to facilitate greater supplier diversity and support the University's reconciliation efforts.

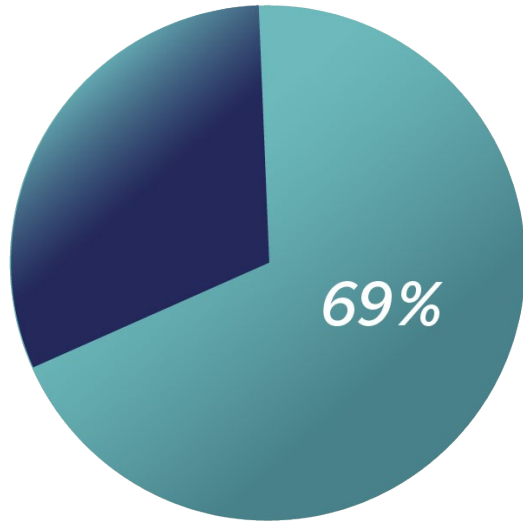
As part of the **Asset Management Program**, platforms for reusing IT, vehicle, research, and furniture & appliance assets have been developed and are successfully connecting different stakeholders across the University.

The "Sustainable Procurement 101" training is now embedded as part of the **Sustainable Workplace Certification** and several groups across the University have requested this training.

Procurement Services staff collaborated with colleagues from other universities, to steer province-wide purchasing groups towards more sustainable options while also working directly with University suppliers in a capacity building role.



PROCUREMENT



Percentage of Contracts with Sustainability Criteria Included (2020)

This metric assesses the total value of contracts worth over \$100,000 awarded with sustainability criteria within at least one of four eligibility requirements. This percentage is expected to increase in coming years as Procurement Services continues to embed sustainability criteria within contracts.

RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





LANDSCAPES & ECOSYSTEMS

The needs of McGill's urban and rural campuses vary greatly, from supporting local biodiversity to leveraging landscaping projects in order to reduce the amount of impermeable surfaces. Given these circumstances, the University prioritizes the responsible stewardship of its land to ensure sustainable growth and development.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In January 2021, a partnership agreement was reached between McGill and the **W8banaki Nation** that gives free access to members of the Odanak and Wôlinak communities to the **Gault Nature Reserve**, their ancestral territory.

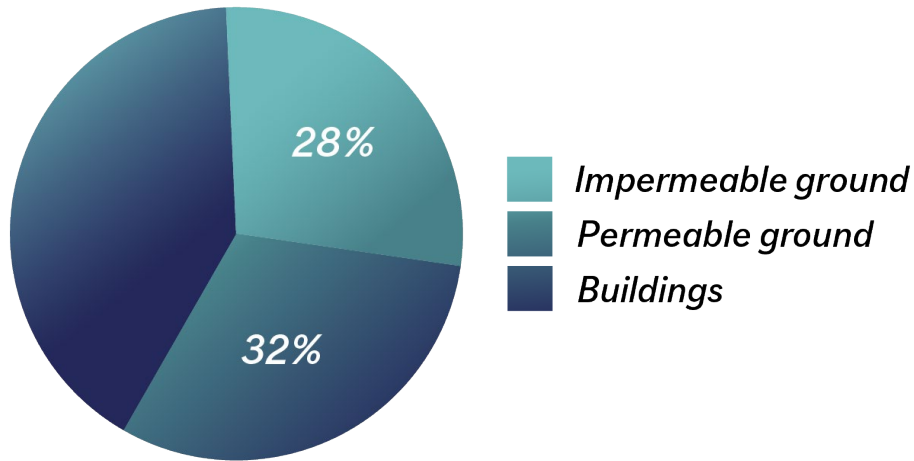
A feasibility study supported by the Sustainability Projects Fund began to explore how McGill rooftops may be retrofitted to accommodate **green roofs**, beginning with the **Solin Hall Annex**. A second study will be undertaken to propose changes to the McGill Design Standards.

At **Macdonald Campus**, staff created a pollinator patch in partnership with **John Abbott College** to showcase how students and staff can best to support wild bees and other pollinators.

The **Macdonald Campus Sustainability Committee** have planted 100 trees as a part of their project to plant 200 trees in celebration of the University's bicentennial between Fall 2020 and Fall 2021, supported by the Sustainability Projects Fund.



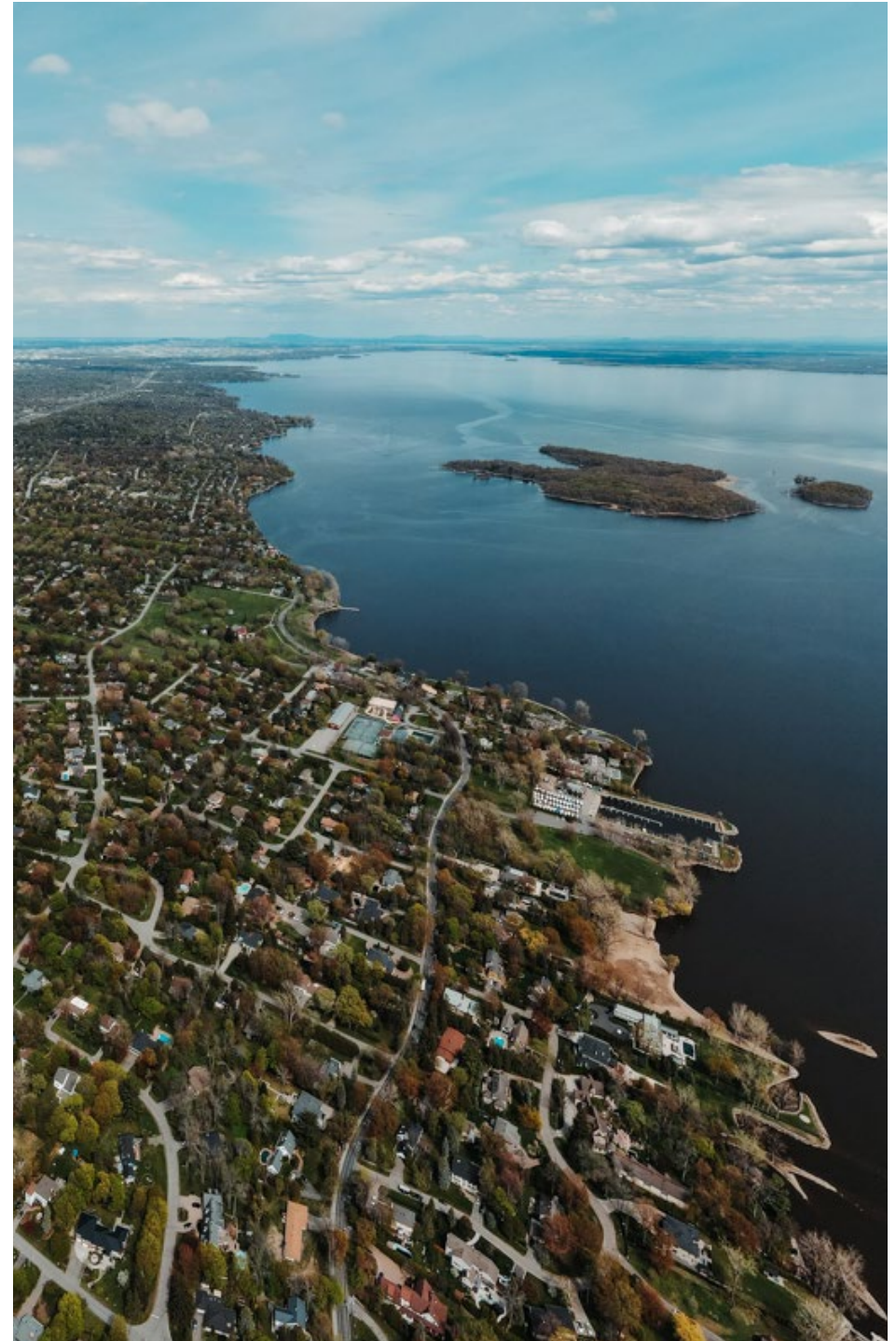
LANDSCAPES & ECOSYSTEMS



Percentage of Permeable Surface Type on Downtown Campus (2020)

To best mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, increasing the amount of permeable ground on McGill's downtown campus is crucial. Due to the nature of the work needed to implement the McGill Master Plan and thus see tangible change in this area, the progress of this metric will be reflected by slow incremental changes over time.

RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





COMMUNITY BUILDING



At the heart of social sustainability is the health and wellbeing of our community. In a year of exceptional isolation, it was imperative to develop innovative ways to foster meaningful connections.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

For **impact200**, the Bicentennial Student Sustainability Challenge, 44 student and recent graduate teams submitted proposals for transformative sustainability projects, addressing varied issues such as mental health, agricultural waste, and water sanitation. Ten finalist teams were challenged to develop proof-of-concepts for the final round of the competition.

The inaugural **McGill SDG Week** was a student-led initiative organized in February 2021 by the **SDG Student Hub**. The event series involved the collaboration of 11 student groups and featured a 51-day information campaign, a film screening, and several panel discussions with subject experts.

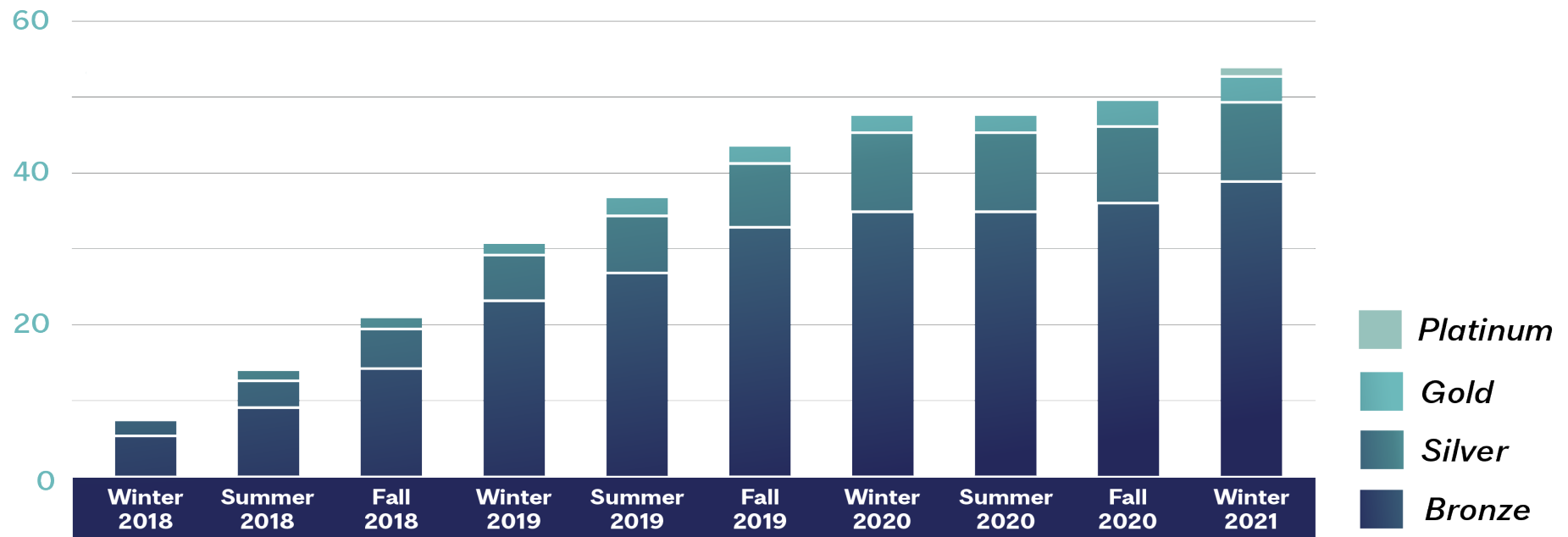
The **McGill Office of Sustainability** and **Organizational Development** offered two new training sessions: “Sustainable Events Training” and “Embedding Sustainability in the Workplace,” in addition to adapting the popular Staff Gardens Program into the **McGill Virtual Gardening Hub**.

McGill’s nine Faculty Froshes received **Gold-level sustainable event certification** for their commitments to responsible event planning. The groups offset a combined 35.32 tCO₂e.



COMMUNITY BUILDING

Cumulative Number of Sustainable Workplace Certifications



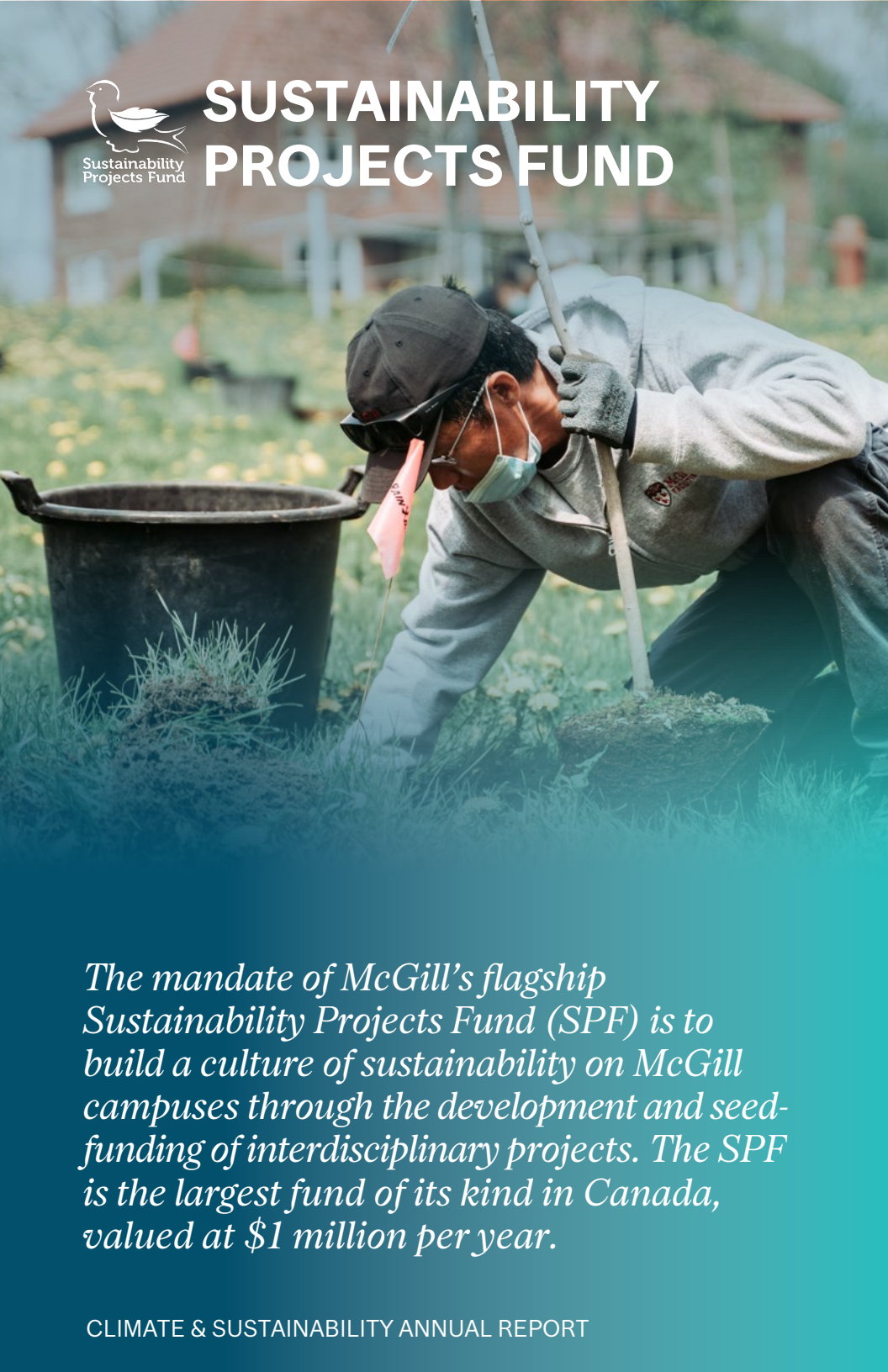
Since the program's creation in 2017, the number of sustainable certified workplaces has increased thanks to the engagement of staff volunteers. New in 2021, the certification was adapted to accommodate hybrid work environments, providing staff with recommendations on how to practice sustainability at home and the office.

RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS FUND



The mandate of McGill's flagship Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) is to build a culture of sustainability on McGill campuses through the development and seed-funding of interdisciplinary projects. The SPF is the largest fund of its kind in Canada, valued at \$1 million per year.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The SPF continued to support growing interest in **sustainable lab practices** through the funding of four lab-related projects (SP0268, SP0269, SP0273, and SP0276) and by creating a limited \$50,000 **Green Labs Expansion** funding stream.

McGill's first **Climate Change Artist in Residence** (SP0236) engaged with the McGill and Montreal community by offering workshops about the intersection of climate change and art.

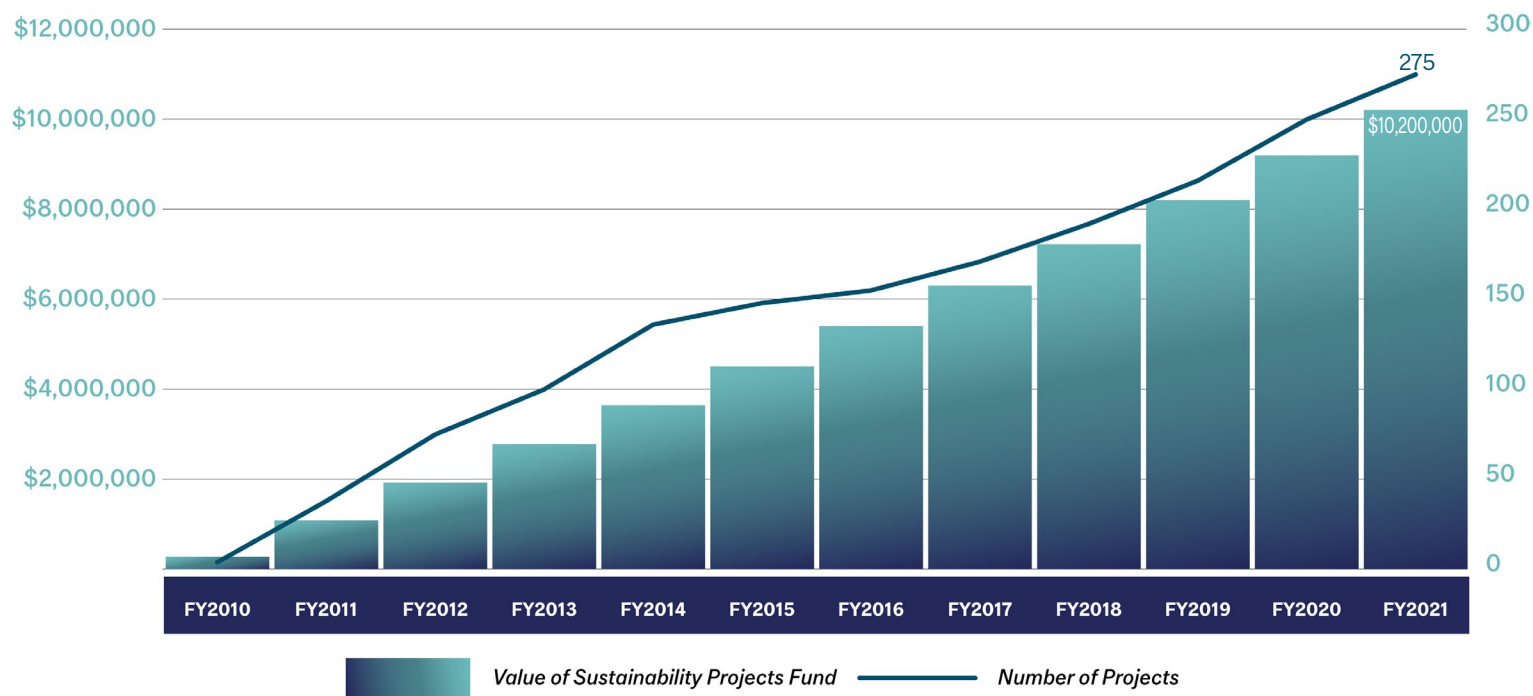
Several new social sustainability projects were approved this year, including **Dent ma communauté** (SP0272), which aims to increase the representation of Black and Indigenous communities in dentistry. Similarly, the **Community of Support McGill and Black Students Pathway** (SP0263) project was approved to increase representation of Black students in medicine and health sciences fields.

The Fund offers opportunities for McGill community members to develop project management skills. This year, 85% of teams reported improved knowledge of sustainability and personal growth, and **100% of teams reported professional growth.**



SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS FUND

Cumulative Value of the Sustainability Projects Fund and Number of Projects Approved



Since its establishment in 2010, the Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) has made lasting, transformative impact on McGill's campuses through the seed funding of interdisciplinary projects. The SPF reached a new milestone in 2020, just after its 10th anniversary, with its annual value increasing to \$1 million per year. The Fund will be up for renewal in 2023.

RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

To achieve its vision of a sustainable future for all, sustainability must be integrated in all decision-making processes at McGill. This would enable the University to flourish as an ecological, inclusive, and equitable place to work and study.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The **McGill University Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025** was endorsed by the Board of Governors in December 2020. The Strategy examines the University's sustainability activities across eight categories. Each category highlights key actions to take, as well as ways McGill community members can get involved and contribute to a sustainable McGill.

September 2020 saw the first meeting of the **Board Committee on Sustainability**, a standing committee that assists the Board of Governors in setting and achieving institutional priorities and goals, and in monitoring the progress of sustainability initiatives across the campuses.

Launched in September 2020, the **Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism** tackles anti-Black racism in five areas: student experience; research and knowledge; outreach; workforce; and physical space. The Plan commits McGill to investigating the University's historic connections to the transatlantic slave trade and to institutionalizing anti-racism efforts.

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

HIGHLIGHTS RELATED TO THE CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

A multifaceted **Climate & Sustainability Roadshow** saw engagement with key stakeholders and broader McGill community members around topics related to the Strategy. The three public roundtables were viewed more than 550 times.

An ongoing **social media campaign** highlights different elements included in the Strategy: Food Systems, How to Get Involved, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and more.

In June, McGill presented the Climate & Sustainability Strategy at the **International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN) 2021 conference**.

RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



“The goal of the Board Committee on Sustainability is to hold the administration’s feet to the fire, and to make sure that we are not just talking the talk with respect to sustainability, but that we are walking the walk.

STUART (KIP) COBBETT
CHAIR OF THE BOARD COMMITTEE
ON SUSTAINABILITY



“

Never forget even small change is change. I think of [the sustainability] movement like a wave, it's building more and more power with every person, and all we need to tip the boat is you.

KLARA WINKLER

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST & RESEARCHER

Learn more about Klara and her work by clicking [here](#) to read her Q&A with the Office of Sustainability in the Sustainable Sparks series.

LOOKING FORWARD

As the McGill community returns to campus for the 2021-2022 academic year, here are a few of key sustainability initiatives that will be developed.

SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CURRICULUM

In the 2021-2022 academic year, a key category of focus will be Research & Education. A comprehensive campaign to support the incorporation of sustainability in the curriculum will be undertaken. A new Sustainability Module will be designed to introduce students to the social, economic, and environmental pillars of sustainability, and to invite them to engage with sustainability on campus and in their daily lives. Also in development is a new course on the climate crisis, which will be open to all undergraduate students.

CARBON OFFSETTING PROGRAM

As travel becomes more common after a year of remote work and study, a carbon offsetting program is being developed to allow McGill community members to offset their emissions, especially business-related travel. This program will allow McGillians to contribute directly to the McGill-Bayano Reforestation Project, which supports reforestation efforts in Panama through our partnership with the Asociacion de Mujeres Artesanas de Ipetí Emberá (AMARIE) and the traditional authorities of Congreso General Emberá de Alto Bayano.

SUSTAINABILITY IN MCGILL'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

To celebrate the future of sustainability at McGill and beyond, the Bicentennial Office will host the McGill Sustainable Futures Festival in September 2022, developed in collaboration with the Office of Sustainability, the McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative, and Communications and External Relations. Looking forward to the next 200 years, the McGill Sustainable Futures Festival will provide a space for attendees to grow, innovate, and collaborate on both operations and research in the sustainability field.

RISKS, CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Taking stock of evolving conditions and priorities allows us to refine sustainability efforts in the upcoming year while keeping long-term, ambitious goals in mind. As such, the following potential risks, challenges, and opportunities have been identified to ensure the long-term success of sustainability initiatives on McGill's campuses.

RISKS

Uncertainty and unpredictability of the COVID-19 pandemic. While more in-person activities are taking place on campus during Fall 2021, the public health situation may change suddenly. This may negatively impact progress on the Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025 and other sustainability initiatives, especially those that require in-person presence.

Increased single-occupancy car travel. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, students and employees may opt to commute by car rather than taking public transit, which would have a negative impact on McGill's greenhouse gas emissions. The Flexible Work Arrangements Program for staff may counterbalance at least part of this foreseeable trend.

CHALLENGES

Return to campus. Students and staff may find in-person engagement more challenging since they have not been on campus in over a year, which means care should be taken to ensure good health and well-being.

Air travel habits. As the COVID-19 situation improves over the long term, McGill employees and faculty may return to their pre-COVID air travel habits, which would have a significant impact on McGill's greenhouse gas emissions.

OPPORTUNITIES

Accessibility improvements. Some of the adaptations put in place by McGill faculty and staff during the pandemic may continue to improve access to student services for students with disabilities and others.

Waste reduction. If some of the new habits adopted in the pivot to virtual workplaces continue, there is an opportunity for units to retain paperless processes and implement other initiatives to reduce waste.

New Model of Work Project. This pilot project, which focuses on a shared, co-working space and a hybrid workplace model may lower the University's greenhouse gas emissions in the long term due to the reduction in employees commuting to campus. There is also the possibility of optimizing space usage and resources across the campuses.



MCGILL OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Transforming McGill into a model of sustainability for society requires the efforts of many. The McGill Office of Sustainability provides the University community with the strategic guidance, support, and resources needed to get us there. In partnership with students, staff, and faculty from across the University, we advance McGill's vision for a sustainable future to bring us closer to achieving our three long-term targets: to attain a platinum sustainability rating by 2030, become zero-waste by 2035, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2040.

The Office of Sustainability is:

- Francois Miller, Executive Director
- Krista Houser, Sustainability Manager
- Shona Watt, Sustainability Manager
- Karen Oberer, Sustainability Officer
- Lauren MacDonald, Sustainability Officer
- Divya Sharma, Climate Officer
- Kelsey Litwin, Communications Officer
- Megan Toth, Sustainability Officer
- Maya Willard-Stepan, Communications Intern
- Zaehen Ghanshani, Graphic Design Intern
- Geneva Yang, Sustainable Development Goals Intern
- Laurie Chan, Sustainability Projects Fund Intern
- Clare Shuley, Student & Staff Engagement Intern
- Siobhan Mehrotra, Sustainability Certifications Intern

Past staff and interns whose work is reflected in this report include: Agathe Moreau, Stéphanie Keller-Busque, Laurianne Debanné, Miranda Roseland, Benjamin Joppke, Samantha Ling, Roelle Santa Maria, and Erin Wen.


SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS



*We thank all staff, students, faculty,
and alumni who have contributed
to advancing sustainability on and
beyond McGill's campuses this year.*

Groups, units, and departments whose efforts have greatly contributed to McGill's sustainability-related achievements include, but are not limited to:

- Bicentennial Planning Office
- Buildings and Grounds
- Campus Planning & Development Office
- Communications and External Relations
- Design Services
- Environmental Health & Safety
- Equity Office
- Faculty Froshes
- Gault Nature Reserve
- Green Labs at McGill
- Indigenous Initiatives
- Human Resources
- Macdonald Campus Sustainability Committee
- McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative
- Mobilizing for Milton-Parc
- New Vic Project Office
- Office of the Principal and Vice-Chancellor
- Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)
- Office of the Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance)
- Office of the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation)
- Office of Analysis, Planning, and Budget
- Organizational Development
- Parking & Transportation Services
- Procurement Services
- Project Management
- Redpath Museum
- SDG Student Hub
- Secretariat
- Student Housing & Hospitality Services
- Student Societies (SSMU, MCSS, PGSS)
- Teaching & Learning Services
- Utilities & Energy Management

A photograph of Chloë Ryan, an undergraduate student, smiling and holding a clear glass trophy. The trophy is inscribed with 'Catalyst Award for Sustainability', 'McGill University', and 'Chloë Ryan'. She is wearing a white blazer over a dark blue top. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

“ I don’t think sustainability challenges are the result of not having enough ideas in the world. I think that there so many ideas and people just need to say, “OK, I can actually do this ... Let’s get started.”

CHLOË RYAN
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT,
CATALYST AWARD WINNER 2021

Learn more about Chloë and her work by clicking [here](#) to read her interview with the Office of Sustainability.

APPENDIX 1: DEGREE OF COMPLETION OF THE MCGILL CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2025

McGill's Climate & Sustainability Strategy contains eight flagship actions and 54 complementary actions. Some of the key accomplishments highlighted in the Annual Report refer to the Strategy actions, but also extend beyond that.

In the eight month period since the Strategy's release, **the degree of completion of the Strategy as a whole is approximately 22 per cent.** Much of the progress made in this time frame has set the groundwork needed to achieve many of the large-scale, ambitious actions described within the Strategy over the next four years.

To provide more context, the following charts showcase the degree of completion of each of the eight categories of the Climate & Sustainability Strategy, with the actions that have contributed to the degree of completion listed below.

RESEARCH & EDUCATION

23%

- **RE1 (Flagship Action):** Implement a sustainability online module available to all students, staff, and faculty members.
- RE4: Develop and implement opportunities to support Indigenous-led research strategies and initiatives by researchers.
- RE10: Create a platform to facilitate the sharing and reuse of research assets.

BUILDINGS & UTILITIES

25%

- **BU1 (Flagship Action):** All new construction and major renovation projects to be, at minimum, LEED Gold certified.
- BU3: Develop social and environmental requirements in calls for tenders pertaining to construction, engineering, architecture, and planning projects.
- BU4: Implement the new Energy Management Plan with particular attention to energy conversion projects, geothermal exchange projects, smart energy grids, and peak power demand management.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

23%

- WM5: Install integrated sorting stations in multiple key areas of the campuses.

TRAVEL & COMMUTING

16%

- **TC1 (Flagship Action):** Develop a carbon offsetting program to mitigate the environmental impacts of traveling.
- TC7: Implement the Vehicle Asset Management procedure which mandates units to electrify their vehicles when possible.

FOOD SYSTEMS

6%

- **FS1 (Flagship Action):** Explore the use of green roofs to grow food.

PROCUREMENT

53%

- **P1 (Flagship Action):** Increase the amount of goods and services purchased from social economy businesses and Indigenous businesses.
- P8: Develop platforms to facilitate the sharing and reuse of University assets across faculties and units.

LANDSCAPES & ECOSYSTEMS

10%

- **LE1 (Flagship Action):** Ensure that vegetation initiatives increase canopy coverage and maximize local carbon sequestration.
- LE4: Assess key climate risks for the University and define mitigation options.
- LE6: Leverage landscaping projects to reduce the amount of impermeable surfaces.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

16%

- **CB1 (Flagship Action):** Implement a Bicentennial Student Sustainability Challenge.
- CB8: Expand existing engagement programs in sustainability.