

VISION 2020
**CLIMATE AND
SUSTAINABILITY**
ACTION PLAN
(2017- 2020)

Progress Report 2019



INTRODUCTION

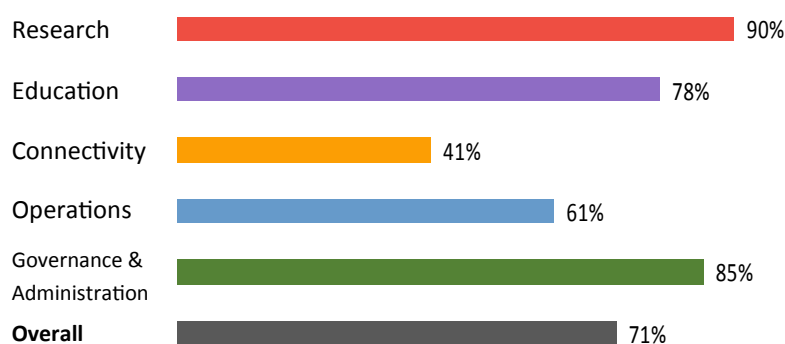
In 2017, McGill University released the Vision 2020 Climate and Sustainability Action Plan (2017-2020). The plan emerged through a broad consultation process, engaging over 500 McGill community members at over 20 events.

The plan consists of 22 priority actions, each with tangible deliverables. Priority actions span five categories: Research, Education, Connectivity, Operations, and Governance & Administration. The plan also identifies two long-term targets for McGill: attain a Platinum sustainability rating by 2030, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2040.

This report illustrates the progress of each of the 22 priority actions, outlining the degree of completion and key facts. Progress on McGill's path to carbon neutrality is available in the annual [GHG inventory reports](#), and an updated sustainability rating will be recalculated in 2020.

Overall, the plan is proceeding quickly. Average deliverable completion indicates that we have accomplished **71% of the plan**. 18 deliverables are already completed, 16 are in progress, and 11 are ongoing (meaning the deliverable is recurring and can never be 'achieved'). While we have progressed quickly in the first half of the time period, much of the remaining work is challenging and complex.

Progress by Category



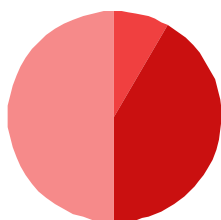
Methodology

The various units committed to each deliverable were consulted to estimate a percentage of completion. The percentages were then combined to calculate the average completion of each priority action. Deliverables categorized as "ongoing" were not assigned a percentage, and were therefore not taken into account when averaging the degree of completion for an action.

Status	Description
Ongoing	No percentage can be associated. Activities related to the deliverable are constantly maintained by the unit responsible for it.
Not started (0%)	There has been a decision to move forward with this deliverable but no steps have been initiated to date.
Between 10%-40%	Some steps have been initiated in order to achieve the deliverable. A few tangible outcomes have been achieved.
50%	Half of the steps related to the deliverable have been completed, many with tangible outcomes.
Between 60%-90%	Most of the key steps have been initiated, producing tangible outcomes.
Completed (100%)	The deliverable has been achieved.

RESEARCH

Deliverables status:



Completed - 5
In Progress - 1
Ongoing - 6
Not Started - 0

Deliverables average degree of completion:

90%

Action 1: Enhance the visibility of sustainability research at McGill.

Deliverables

- Publish a regular column on sustainability research in McGill's newsletters or publications
- Host and support networking events to promote sustainability research

Progress

The *McGill Reporter* recently added a "Sustainability" section to their website, regularly featuring research articles. The McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative hosts networking events for sustainability researchers across campus.

2 ongoing 

Lead Unit(s)

- McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative (MSSI)
- Office of Sustainability

Action 2: Raise awareness about sustainable management of research projects.

Deliverables

- Integrate sustainability information into Welcoming Sessions for new investigators
- Integrate sustainability information into investigator guides

Progress

Sustainability content included in both the slide presentation for new faculty, and in the investigator resource guide published by the VP Research and Innovation.

2 completed 

Lead Unit(s)

- Office of the Vice Principal of Research and Innovation
- Office of Sustainability

Action 3: Institutionalize McGill's sustainable labs practices.

Deliverables

- Launch sustainable labs awards program
- Develop a sustainable labs design process

Progress

The Sustainable Labs design process was finalized in June 2018. In September 2018, the first Sustainable Labs Award was granted to Ebrahim Noroozi's lab (Food Science and Agricultural Chemistry).

2 completed 

Lead Unit(s)

- Sustainable Labs Working Group

Action 4: Create a hub of expertise and centre of excellence in sustainability systems.

Deliverables

- Articulate a small number of McGill research themes in sustainability systems
- Develop transdisciplinary projects based on the research themes in sustainability systems
- Seed-fund innovative and ambitious sustainability systems projects and ideas

Progress

In Fall 2017, the McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative (MSSI) launched 3 research themes: Sustaining Landscapes, Sustainable Materials, and Adapting Urban Environments, inspiring a number of transdisciplinary projects. In Spring 2018, the MSSI distributed nearly \$900,000 from their Ideas and Innovation funds.

1 completed
2 ongoing



Lead Unit(s)

- McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative (MSSI)

Action 5: Address GHG emissions from air travel.

Deliverables

- Develop a "carbon responsibility" program to offset air travel emissions
- Quantify and communicate GHG emissions information to university travelers
- Raise awareness of teleconferencing

Progress

The Travel Services office obtained a new airfare card, receiving rebates to eventually purchase air travel offsets. Further programming is in development to fully offset research-based travel. The Sustainable Travel and Mobility Guide was produced to provide information on emissions intensities of different travel modes and teleconferencing.

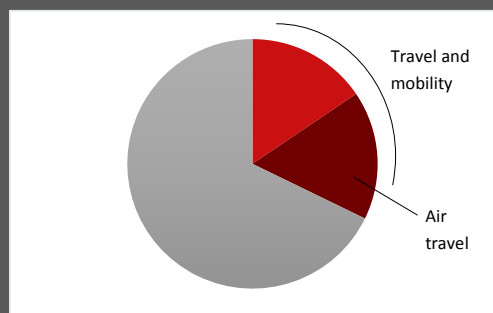
1 in progress
2 ongoing



Lead Unit(s)

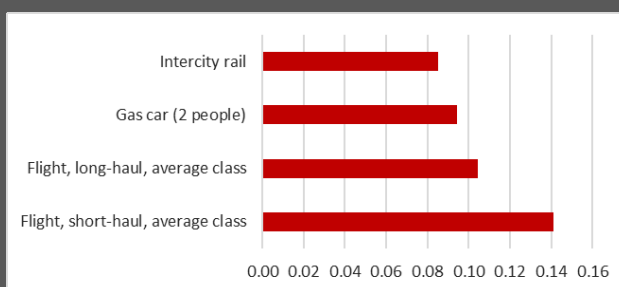
- Procurement Services
- Office of Sustainability

IMPACT OF TRAVEL ON EMISSIONS

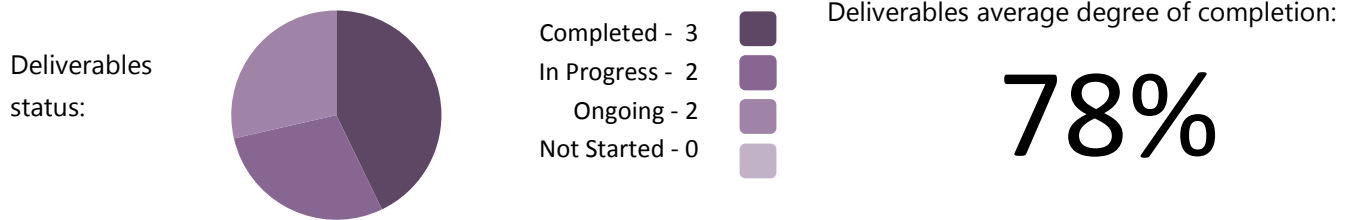


One way to reduce transportation emissions is to choose less emission-intensive modes of travel. For example, when travelling to Ottawa from McGill, choosing the intercity rail instead of driving alone cuts travel emissions in half.

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from travel and mobility accounted for over 27% of McGill's overall emissions in 2017 – over half of which was comprised of air travel financed by the university.



EDUCATION



Action 1: Increase access to extra-curricular opportunities in sustainability to undergraduate students.

Deliverables

- Embed sustainability in McGill's Skills 21 program
- Develop a sustainability leadership program

Progress

Skills 21 offers a Sustainable Events Training under their Citizenship stream. The Office of Sustainability launched a leadership-training program called Praxis: Training for Change Agents. The cohort-based program combines leadership theory, personal reflection and sustainability case studies.

2 completed 

Lead Unit(s)

- Teaching and Learning Services
- Office of Sustainability

Action 2: Assess students' knowledge of sustainability.

Deliverables

- Create and implement a Sustainability Literacy Test

Progress

A sustainability literacy survey developed by the United Nations was used to compare results to global averages. Respondents demonstrated higher than average knowledge in 2/3 major themes.

1 completed 

Lead Unit(s)

- Student Life and Learning
- Office of Sustainability



Action 3: Improve sustainability content in McGill orientation events.

Deliverables

- Include a campus sustainability tour at orientation
- Increase the number of orientation events that are sustainable event certified
- Incorporate sustainability into orientation training materials

Progress

In 2018, 6 orientation events were certified as sustainable events. Campus Life & Engagement has committed to providing sustainability content in leader training for major orientation events.

2 in progress 
1 ongoing 

Lead Unit(s)

- Student Associations
- Campus Life & Engagement
- Office of Sustainability


Action 4: Create educational opportunities around carbon neutrality

Deliverables

- Collaborate with professors across faculties to include the carbon neutrality challenge in their courses

Progress

McGill’s Climate Officer has partnered with professors and students in Management, Bioresource Engineering, Environment, and the Barbados Interdisciplinary Tropical Studies program on carbon neutrality-related research projects.

Ongoing 

Lead Unit(s)

- Office of Sustainability

SUSTAINABILITY AT ORIENTATION

This year, McGill made huge strides towards hosting a more sustainable orientation. Event planners:

Purchased

3000

fewer single-use plastic bottles

Provided sustainability training to

700

student leaders

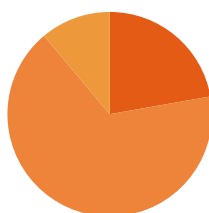
Attained

6

Silver-level Sustainable Event certifications

CONNECTIVITY

Deliverables
status:



Completed - 2
In Progress - 6
Ongoing - 1
Not Started - 0

Deliverables average degree of completion:

41%

Action 1: Address GHG emissions from commuting activities.

Deliverables

- Finalize a Transportation Master Plan
- Increase bike parking capacity across campus
- Develop a program to encourage the use of sustainable transportation

Progress

The Transportation Master Plan will be included in the new Campus Master Plan, set to be released in 2019. Design Services is creating a bike-parking plan to optimize existing infrastructure. Sustainable transportation programs are being assessed for financial impacts.

3 in progress

Lead Unit(s)

- Campus Planning & Development Office
- Parking & Transportation Services
- Office of Sustainability

Action 2: Engage and connect McGill staff members through sustainability-related programs and activities.

Deliverables

- Establish a Sustainable Workplace Certification
- Launch a Staff Sustainability Network

Progress

A multi-stakeholder group of staff and students developed the sustainable workplace certification. The Staff Sustainability Network launched shortly thereafter, and includes over 50 staff from across campus.

2 completed

Lead Unit(s)

- Office of Sustainability

Action 3: Assess and improve physical accessibility on campus.

Deliverables

- Update the McGill Design Standards to improve physical accessibility
- Complete an accessibility audit and integrate audit findings into the McGill Map

Progress

¼ of the new accessibility design standards have been formulated and will be posted by the end of December 2019. A funding application was recently approved to create an Interactive Accessibility Network Map using results from audits and focus groups.

2 in progress

Lead Unit(s)

- Design Services
- Campus Planning & Development Office
- Office for Students with Disabilities
- Geographic Information Center
- Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity

Action 4: Raise awareness of Indigenous issues and climate change on campus.

Deliverables

- Recruit an Indigenous scholar or artist-in-residence with the assistance of a representative Steering Committee

Progress

While some Indigenous scholars have been recruited to McGill, some Indigenous representatives on campus have expressed interest in creating an artist-in-residence position.

In progress 

Lead Unit(s)

- Indigenous Representatives
- Office of Sustainability


Action 5: Increase Indigenous symbolism on McGill's campuses.

Deliverables

- Collaborate with campus and Indigenous partners to implement projects around Indigenous symbolism

Progress

There have been a few temporary examples such as the raising of the Hiawatha Wampum Belt flag on Sept. 21, 2018, but there is an ongoing need for permanent representation, as highlighted in the final report of the Working Group on Principles of Commemoration and Renaming.

Ongoing 

Lead Unit(s)

- Indigenous Representatives
- Office of Sustainability

SUSTAINABLE WORKPLACE CERTIFICATION

As of December 2018, over 120 employees worked in offices with Sustainable Workplace certifications.

10

Bronze level

3

Silver level

1

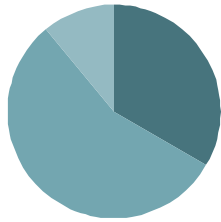
Gold level

Largest Office: Department of Chemical Engineering (30)

Smallest Office: Geography Advising Office (1)

OPERATIONS

Deliverables
status:



Completed - 3
In Progress - 5
Ongoing - 1
Not Started - 0

Deliverables average degree of completion:

61%

Action 1: Address GHG emissions from McGill's fleet of vehicles.

Deliverables

- Develop a sustainable "Vehicle Management Program"
- Offer training to promote eco-driving techniques

Progress

New vehicle requirements have been developed to decarbonize the fleet, and electric and hybrid vehicles have been purchased on all 3 campuses. Funding sources for eco-driving training are still being determined.

2 in progress

Lead Unit(s)

- Office of Sustainability
- Procurement Services
- Transportation & Parking Services

Action 2: Optimize the environmental performance of McGill's buildings.

Deliverables

- Attain the LEED Operations & Maintenance certification for 5 buildings
- Have all new buildings and most major renovation projects be at least LEED silver certified
- Implement the Energy Management Plan

Progress

2 buildings have submitted applications for LEED Operations & Management certification. 2 new building projects are awaiting LEED certification. The Energy Management Plan is on track, showing significant reductions in both energy and greenhouse gas emissions.

2 in progress
1 ongoing

Lead Unit(s)

- Design Services
- Project Management
- Utilities & Energy Management

Action 3: Develop a Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan.

Deliverables

- Identify the primary challenges in McGill becoming a zero-waste campus
- Create a waste reduction and diversion plan that addresses these specific challenges

Progress



The Waste Reduction and Diversion Strategy was released in Spring 2018. A Zero-Waste Coordinator has been hired to oversee waste-related initiatives across campus.

2 completed

Lead Unit(s)

- Waste Task Force

Action 4: Develop and adopt McGill’s first Licensee Code of Conduct.

Deliverables	Progress	Lead Unit(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use Code of Conduct for all McGill branded products sold by “Le James” bookstoreExpand the use of the Licensee Code of Conduct to other university areas	<p>The existing Code of Conduct has been applied to all products at the bookstore. The Licensee Code of Conduct, which is stricter, is expected to be submitted in February 2019.</p> <p>1 completed </p> <p>1 in progress </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Procurement ServicesLe James Bookstore

ENERGY MANAGEMENT PLAN

McGill’s current Energy Management Plan spans 2016-2020 and focuses on deploying smart energy grids downtown, recovering heat from the Powerhouse, and demand-side management. Significant progress has been made:

Goal:

22%

reduction

Progress:

14%

below baseline

Goal:

64%

reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 baseline.

Progress:

34%

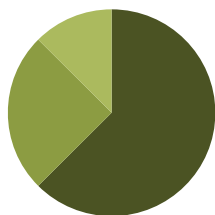
below baseline

\$13 million

Have been invested so far to realize these goals.

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Deliverables status:



Completed - 5
In Progress - 2
Ongoing - 1
Not Started - 0

Deliverables average degree of completion:

85%

Action 1: Increase McGill's internal capacity on climate action.

Deliverables

- Appoint a Climate Officer tasked with reducing McGill's carbon footprint
- Assess the key climate-related risks for the university and define mitigation options

Progress

McGill's Climate Officer was appointed in August 2017. They have begun initial consultations on the risk assessment by identifying key partners, and defining the scope of the assessment.

1 completed
1 in progress

Lead Unit(s)

- Office of Sustainability
- Office of the Provost

Action 2: Facilitate and support planning of sustainable events across campus.

Deliverables

- Design a sustainable event certification process
- Create a sustainable events student team to assist organizers
- Train staff in sustainable event planning with an Organizational Development module

Progress

The sustainable event certification process was launched in summer 2017. Since then over 10 students have volunteered as Sustainable Event Consultants. 3 staff sustainable event training modules have been created through Organizational Development.

2 completed
1 ongoing

Lead Unit(s)

- Office of Sustainability
- Human Resources

Action 3: Encourage employees to adopt and promote sustainable behaviours.

Deliverables

- Embed sustainability in the performance dialogue plan and appraisal form of employees

Progress

A guide was published on the Organizational Development website on Incorporating Sustainability in Performance Dialogue. A larger push is needed to encourage its use.

1 in progress

Lead Unit(s)

- Office of Sustainability
- Human Resources

Action 4: Provide sustainability information to people in governance roles.

Deliverables

- Include sustainability-related content in the Board of Governors and Senate orientation material
- Add sustainability key performance indicators (KPIs) to the Board of Governors' reporting framework

Progress

Sustainability content was included in the Fall 2018 orientation package for Senate and Board members. Also new this year, three sustainability indicators were added as Board KPIs: annual Greenhouse Gas emissions, sustainability rating, and sustainability strategy progress.

2 completed 

Lead Unit(s)

- Office of Sustainability
- Secretariat
- Analysis, Planning, and Budget

SUSTAINABLE EVENT CERTIFICATION

As of December 2018:

Over **70** events
have been Sustainable Event
certified

21 Bronze level

36 Silver level

16 Gold level

The largest event certified was Discover McGill 2018 (certified Silver) with approximately

6,000
participants.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of this plan requires many tools to ensure broad participation and meaningful impacts:

- **Communicating** sustainability efforts to the McGill community through articles, social media, newsletters and events. Beyond the Office of Sustainability's communication networks, key leaders and departments have integrated sustainability into their own communications. An exciting example of this is the new Sustainability section on the *McGill Reporter's* website.
- **Engagement** harnesses the motivation built through communications, by creating meaningful opportunities for direct involvement. Through initiatives such as the Sustainable Workplace and Sustainable Event Certifications, there are now tangible opportunities for the McGill community to deepen their engagement in sustainability.
- The **Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF)** provides funding to those that are feeling inspired to take initiative on their own projects. During the 2018 Fiscal Year, the SPF funded 21 projects, valuing over \$1 million. 5 of those projects were directly related to implementing the Climate and Sustainability Action Plan.

Unit Level Climate & Sustainability Action Plans

Beyond the actions laid out in the campus-wide Climate & Sustainability Action Plan, a widespread effort from individual units is essential to advance the climate and sustainability agenda at McGill.

The following units and faculties have completed or are currently developing Unit Level Climate & Sustainability Action Plans:

Unit	Progress
Athletics & Recreation	<div><div></div></div> 100%
Campus Life & Engagement	<div><div></div></div> 100%
Redpath Museum	<div><div></div></div> 100%
Food & Dining Services	<div><div></div></div> 95%
Post-Graduate Students' Society	<div><div></div></div> 50%
Faculty of Law	<div><div></div></div> 5%