



Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2018
(5/1/2017 – 4/30/2018)

Report prepared by the
McGill Office of Sustainability
August 2018



SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS FUND

The Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) aims to build a culture of sustainability across the campuses of McGill University through the development and seed funding of interdisciplinary projects.

Since its creation in 2010, the SPF has allocated over \$7 million in funding and has approved 192 projects, which have yielded dramatic and lasting improvements to the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of McGill's sustainability performance.

The SPF is one of the largest dedicated campus sustainability funds of its kind in North America, and is uniquely committed to collaboration between students and staff in its financing, decision-making, and project leadership.

This report highlights the key impacts and activities of the Sustainability Projects Fund during Fiscal Year 2018: May 1, 2017 – April 30, 2018.



One of the largest funds of its kind in North America, valued close to **\$950,000/year**

\$0.55/credit, per student,
matched equally
by McGill University



More than **\$7,000,000**
awarded since 2010



Funding projects that improve the
**social, economic, and
environmental wellbeing**
of our university

from mindfulness workshops to greening student orientation

SPF RENEWED IN FY2018

This fiscal year, the SPF was successfully renewed for an additional five years (FY2019-FY2023) at a fee of \$0.55 per credit for students matched dollar-for-dollar by the University. Thanks to the support and hard work of so many dedicated students across campus, PGSS, MCSS and SSMU held referenda regarding the existence of the SPF that passed resoundingly, with a “Yes” vote of 73%, 98% and 82%, respectively. The University has also confirmed its commitment to funding its half of the SPF. Read more in the McGill Reporter article, [here](#).

McGillREPORTER



———— Sustainability Projects Fund to continue for five more years ————

The Sustainability Projects Fund will support sustainability projects on McGill's campuses for an additional five years.

By Toby Davine, Communications Officer, McGill Office of Sustainability

APRIL 12, 2018



The [Sustainability Projects Fund](#) (SPF), the \$900,000 a year fund dedicated to supporting sustainability projects on McGill's campuses, will continue for an additional five years.

The SPF was formed through [student referenda in November 2009](#) and established a joint funding mechanism whereby the total amount that the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU), the Post-graduate Students' Society (PGSS), and the Macdonald Campus Students' Society (MCSS) students contribute to the fund is matched dollar-for-dollar by the University. Every five years, the SPF is evaluated for renewal. This is contingent upon; (a) all three students' societies passing referenda in favour of continuing their funding contributions and (b) the University renewing its commitment to match these contributions. The last renewal process and referenda were successfully held in 2013.



“Yes” Committee Leads (left to right): Chi Pham, SSMU; Casey Cohen, PGSS; and Jay Jeong, MCSS. Their work was recognized at the 2018 Catalyst Awards.

SPF AT-A-GLANCE

since 2010
\$7 million
allocated
to sustainability initiatives



192
Projects
approved



86%
Collaboration
between students and staff

3,200+
Volunteers
mobilized

2,100+
People trained

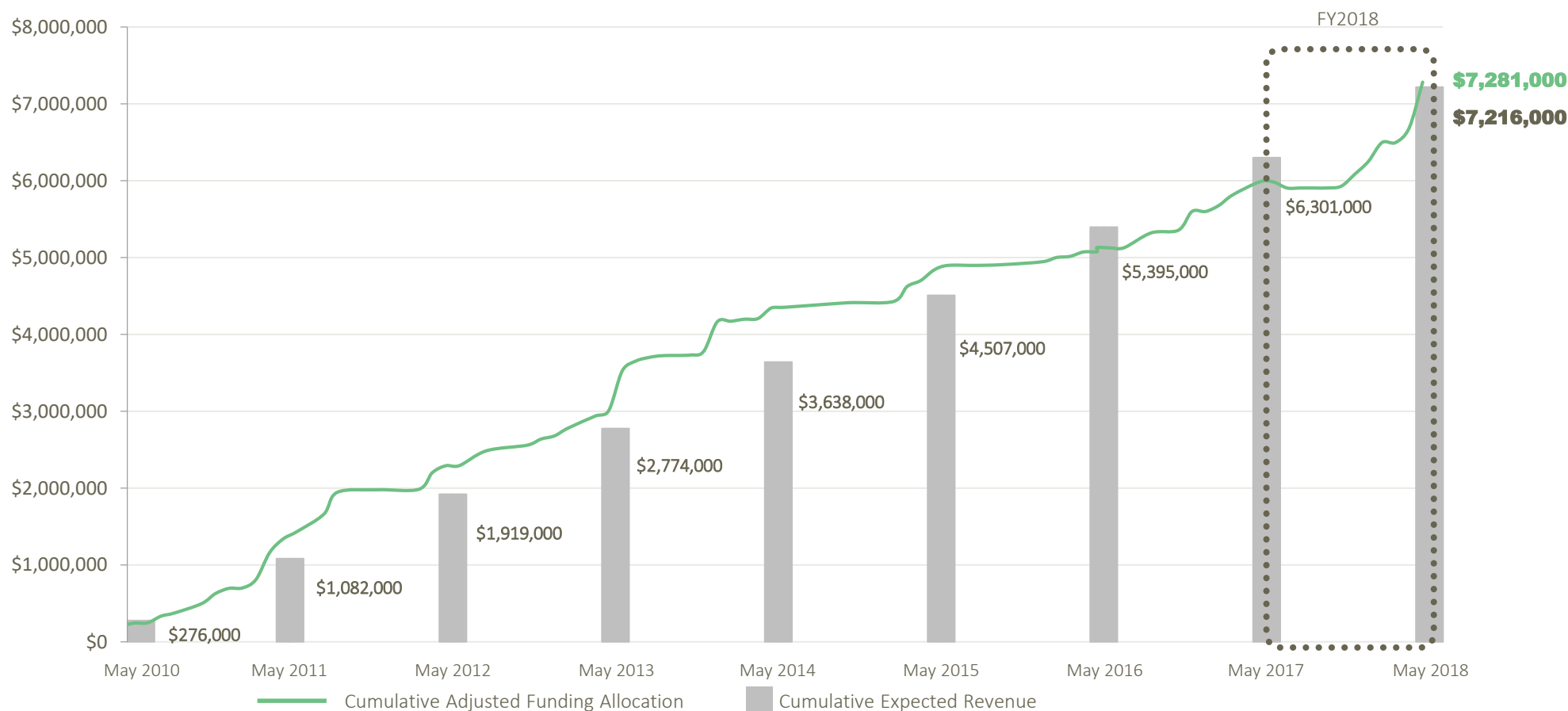
Budgets range
from **\$75** to
\$300,000



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In FY18, the SPF was funded through a student fee of approximately \$0.53 per credit, which was matched equally by McGill University. To date, the SPF has received over \$3.6 million in student fees, which, when matched by the University, brings the Fund to a total value of approximately \$7.2 million. All allocations are approved by the Working Group and any unallocated funding is carried forward to the next year. Since the Fund operates on a reimbursement basis, actual spending lags behind allocation. Similarly, the matching revenue is reimbursed at a delay based on Fund expenditures. At the end of a project, unused budget allocations are released and made available for new allocations.

Cumulative Financials

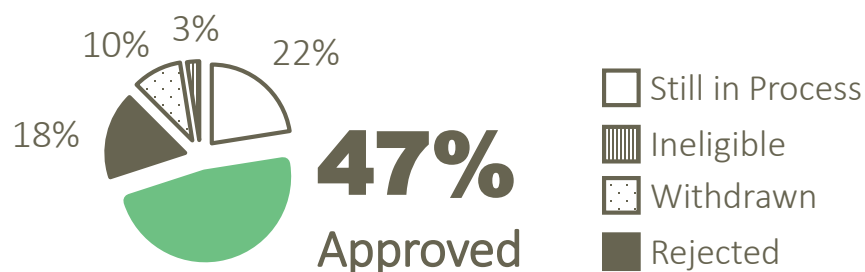


Note: Allocations include approved project budgets, budget amendments awarded to teams, and SPF operations expenses. The chart has been adjusted to reflect the release of unused budget allocations over the past few years. If an amount is lower, it is because funding has been released from previous projects, reducing the total amount allocated. The released amount is then used for new project budget allocations. This process allows all of the funding received to be spent.

FY2018 APPROVAL SUMMARY

Over the lifetime of the Fund, 379 applications were received; of those, 51% were approved. This fiscal year, 40 applications were received.

FY2018 Applications Status



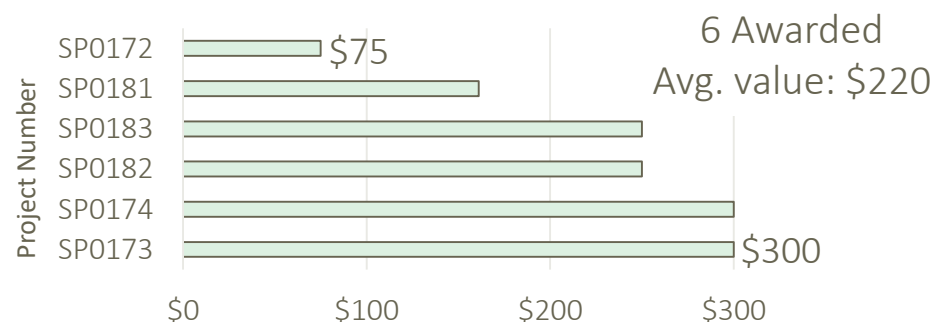
In total, the SPF has awarded funding to 192 projects; of those, 21 projects were awarded in FY2018. These projects include applications received in previous fiscal years in addition to those received in the current year. FY2018 projects are described in the following pages.

FY2018 Project Collaboration Summary

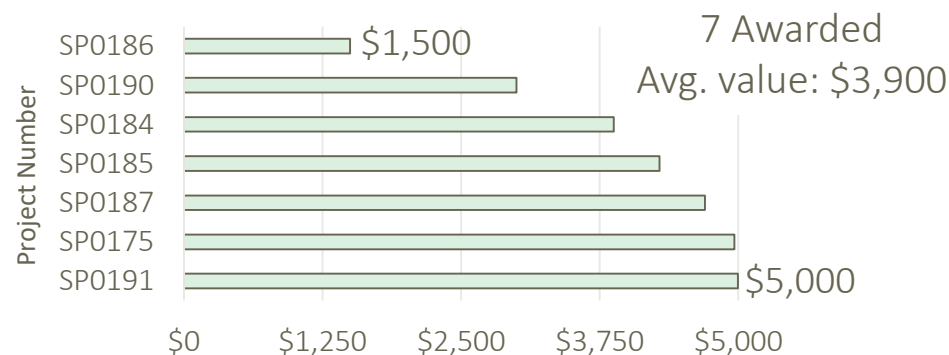


*For FY18. Over the lifetime of the fund, 86% have been collaborative.

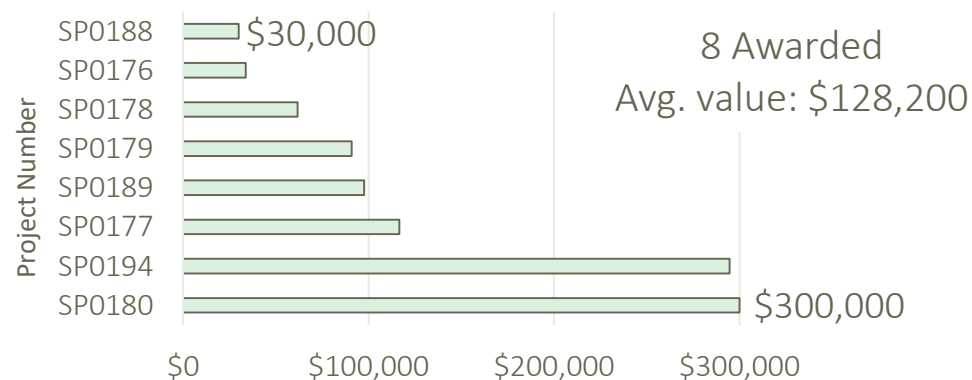
Approved Tiny Stream Project Funding



Approved Under \$5,000 Stream Project Funding



Approved Over \$5,000 Stream Project Funding



APPROVED TINY STREAM PROJECTS

In FY2018, the SPF launched its Tiny Stream, a simpler, faster application process, which aims to provide support for ad-hoc initiatives that contribute to a culture of sustainability at McGill. Funding is usually \$300 or less. In total, seven applications for Tiny Stream projects were received and six requests were either partially or fully approved.

SP0172

Reusable Dishware for Death Cafés

\$75 Approved

Support for sustainable dishware to use at Death Cafés, monthly group-directed discussions held on campus.

SP0173

Research and Sustainability Network Launch

\$300 Approved

Support for the launch of the Research and Sustainability Network, a platform where students and professors can share their sustainability-related research projects.

SP0174

Wood at Work Conference

\$300 Approved

Support for on-campus events associated with the Wood@Work conference, which connects leaders in sustainable design and city planning, wood construction, and forest conservation.

SP0181

Reusable Dishware for Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences

\$161 Approved

Support for reusable dishware for the Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences department and the Council of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences.

SP0182

Recycling Bins for Redpath Museum

\$250 Approved

Support for new recycling bins to collect recyclable waste generated from Biology teaching labs held at the museum.

SP0183

Sustainable Catering for the first International Development Policy Case Competition

\$250 Approved

Support to cover extra costs associated with sustainable catering choices.



Reusable Dishware purchased for Death Café discussion groups.

APPROVED PROJECTS UNDER \$5,000



Accessible gardening bins
in the Giving Garden.

SP0175

Mobile Chicken Coop Renovations

\$4,964 Approved

Support to install sustainable upgrades, such as a solar-powered ventilation system, and purchase additional hens for the Mobile Chicken Coop (SP0134) on Macdonald Campus.

SP0184

Giving Garden

\$3,877 Approved

Support to create an accessible-to-all garden on campus and to provide workshop programming on gardening topics.

SP0185

Gardens Inside 365

\$4,290 Approved

Support for 3 indoor garden grow towers for the Office for Students with Disabilities. The towers will provide additional light and year-round produce to be donated to Midnight Kitchen with the help of student ambassadors.

SP0186

MOOSTrax

\$1,500 Approved

Support for an improved carbon calculator to track and facilitate offsetting greenhouse gas emissions from travel to on-campus events.

SP0187

Permaculture Garden Resource Coordinator

\$4,698 Approved

Support for a coordinator to increase opportunities for learning and engagement, as well as create a toolkit for the Macdonald Showcase Permaculture Garden (SP0162).

SP0190

Promoting SPE Certification

\$3,000 Approved

Support to promote the SPE Certification through the creation of short videos in order to encourage sustainable, healthy food choices in University residences.

SP0191

Faraday Farms

\$4,996 Approved

Support for the creation of new outdoor garden infrastructure for use by the Chemistry Department students, staff and faculty.

APPROVED PROJECTS OVER \$5,000

SP0176

Autonomous Controlled-Environment Growth Chamber Display

\$33,826 Approved

Support to build an innovative and educational food production system for the Macdonald Farm Community Engagement Centre.

SP0177

Gault Nature Reserve Community Access

\$116,588 Approved

Support for the creation of a local community access point for Gault Nature Reserve to promote collective and active transport.

SP0178

Zero-Waste Action Plan Implementation

\$61,862 Approved

Support to hire a Zero-Waste Coordinator to begin the implementation of the 2018-2025 Waste Reduction & Diversion Action Plan.

SP0179

Ban the Bottle

\$91,000 Approved

Support to implement a policy to stop the sale of bottled water on campus, increase water fountains, and launch an outreach campaign.

SP0180

McGill Bike Centre

\$300,000 Approved

Support to create new, indoor bike centre that will increase bike parking, provide shower facilities, and cultivate a stronger active transport culture at McGill.

SP0188

Mindful McGill

\$30,000 Approved

Support to develop and offer free mindfulness-based programs to the McGill community.

SP0189

Macdonald Campus Orchards

\$97,719 Approved

Support to restore the apple tree orchard located at the Horticulture Research Centre, as well create a U-Pick program open to the McGill Community.

SP0194

Biomedical Waste Sterilization

\$294,673 Approved

Support for an autoclave to treat biomedical waste locally, therefore reducing the shipment of waste offsite and providing better waste tracking.



Part of the Autonomous Controlled-Environment Growth Chamber Display during the build phase.

PROJECT LEARNING OUTCOMES



Members of the McGill Permaculture Club in the Macdonald Showcase Permaculture Garden (SP0162), a project reporting in FY2018.

The SPF offers a unique opportunity for McGill community members to develop project management skills. This experiential learning is a great complement to classrooms and workplaces across campus. In FY2018, the SPF received 19 Final Reports from projects. The learning outcomes from those reports are summarized below.

100% of teams reported improved knowledge of *sustainability*

100% of teams reported *personal & professional growth*

Reported Skills/Attributes improved through an SPF project

Communications 89%	Stakeholder Engagement 78%	Budgeting 67%	Networking 67%	Stakeholder Identification 61%
Project Management 83%	Leadership 72%	Problem Solving 56%	Conflict Resolution 44%	Listening 44%
Planning 78%	Teamwork 72%	Time Management 56%	Systems Thinking 39%	Public Speaking 28%
			Negotiating 28%	Technology 28%
			Mentoring 22%	Writing 22%

FY2018 KEY IMPACTS

Since 2016, the SPF has tracked several key success indicators for governance and administration activities, as well as key success indicators for projects through Final Reports. Selected impacts from the 19 reports received in FY2018 are listed below.

1,100+

Volunteers Engaged

1,500+

People Trained

30

Student Jobs Created

\$510,000

Raised by Teams
from other Funding Sources

300

Partnerships and/or
Collaborations Developed



The new Thomson House Community Garden (SP0160), a project reporting in FY2018.

A FEW PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

During FY2018, several exemplary projects were highlighted in online publications. Click on the photos to read more.

McGill Sustainable Events



Right to Campus Toolkit



Little Free Libraries



SPF CHALLENGE EVENT

On February 9, 2018, the Sustainability Projects Fund hosted an SPF Challenge event to engage the campus community in tackling some of McGill's toughest sustainability challenges.

This was the first time that the fund hosted this type of event, which focused on providing participants with the opportunity to network, collaborate, and generate potential project ideas.

After a keynote address and presentations from expert panelists, the close to 50 participants worked on generating ideas for two challenge areas: carbon neutrality and urban agriculture.

To find out more about the SPF Challenge, read the blog post [here](#).



SPF WORKING GROUP + TEAM

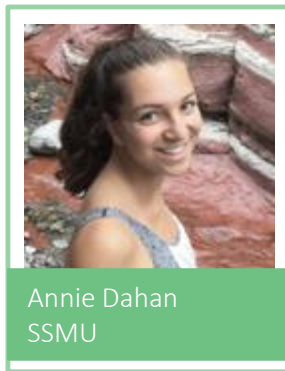
In the spirit of staff-student collaboration that drives the SPF, the SPF Working Group consists of eight voting members: four students (two SSMU, one PGSS, and one MCSS representative), two academic staff, and two administrative staff who provide decisions and feedback on project applications by consensus. To find more information about the Working Group and to view current members, please visit the SPF [website](#).

FY2018 Working Group Membership

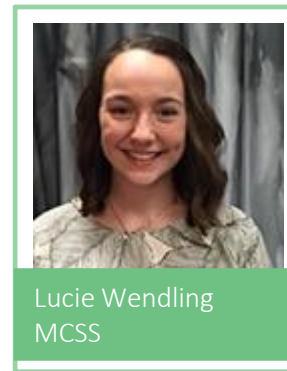
Students



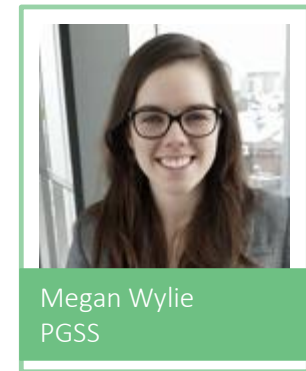
Alec Angle
SSMU



Annie Dahan
SSMU

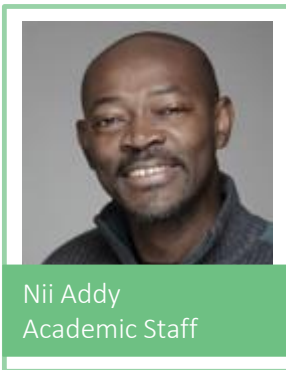


Lucie Wendling
MCSS

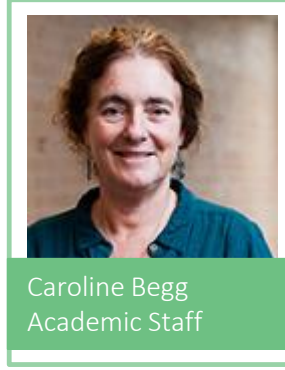


Megan Wylie
PGSS

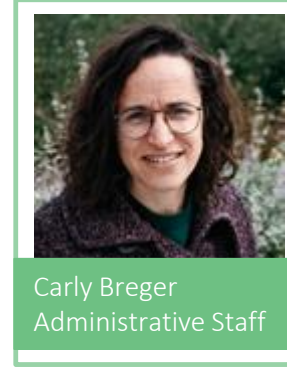
Staff



Nii Addy
Academic Staff



Caroline Begg
Academic Staff



Carly Breger
Administrative Staff



Paul Guenther
Administrative Staff

Additionally, the following McGill Office of Sustainability staff directly supported the SPF in FY2018:

Krista Houser, Sustainability Officer, SPF Steward
Shona Watt, Sustainability Officer, SPF Administrator
Francois Miller, Director, SPF WG Chair

Claire Paoli, SPF Intern
Toby Davine, Communications Officer
Kim McGrath, former Sustainability Officer & SPF Steward

SPF AMBASSADORS

The SPF Ambassadors are a group of volunteer student leaders who champion the SPF to increase visibility and student engagement. This year, the Ambassadors collectively made classroom presentations to close to 15,000 students. Their record-setting work was central to growing the sustainability movement on campus and was especially significant during this year of renewal for the SPF. Without a doubt, their advocacy contributed to the successful referenda held by the three student societies. Our trailblazing ambassadors this year were:

Casey Cohen, PGSS

Kalli Glanz, SSMU

Kareem Shaalan, MCSS

Hana Epstein, MCSS

Jay Jeong, MCSS

Kariann Szemethy, SSMU

Alizée Frachet, SSMU

Chi Pham, SSMU

Dorothy Yip, SSMU

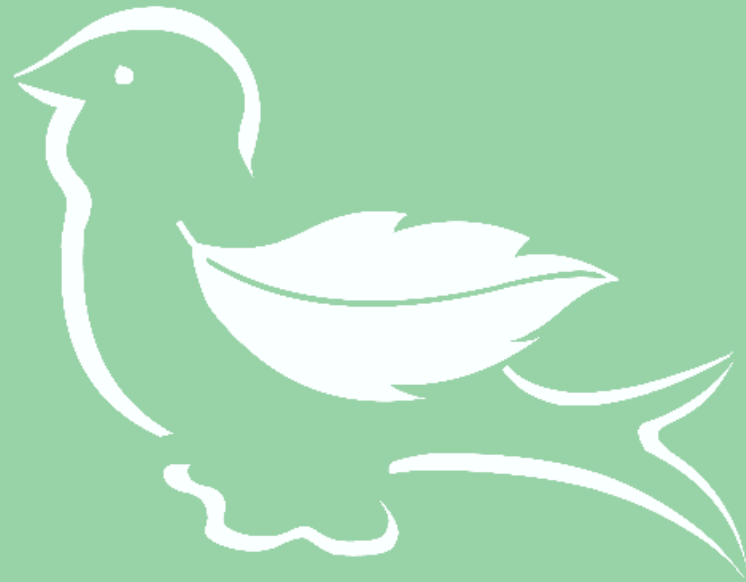
Peter Garber, SSMU

Morgan Sadler, SSMU

Tanner Zekonic, SSMU



Grow the Movement



**Sustainability
Projects Fund**