



# Grow the Movement



## SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS FUND ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2019 (5/1/2018 – 4/30/2019)

Prepared by the McGill Office of Sustainability August 2019



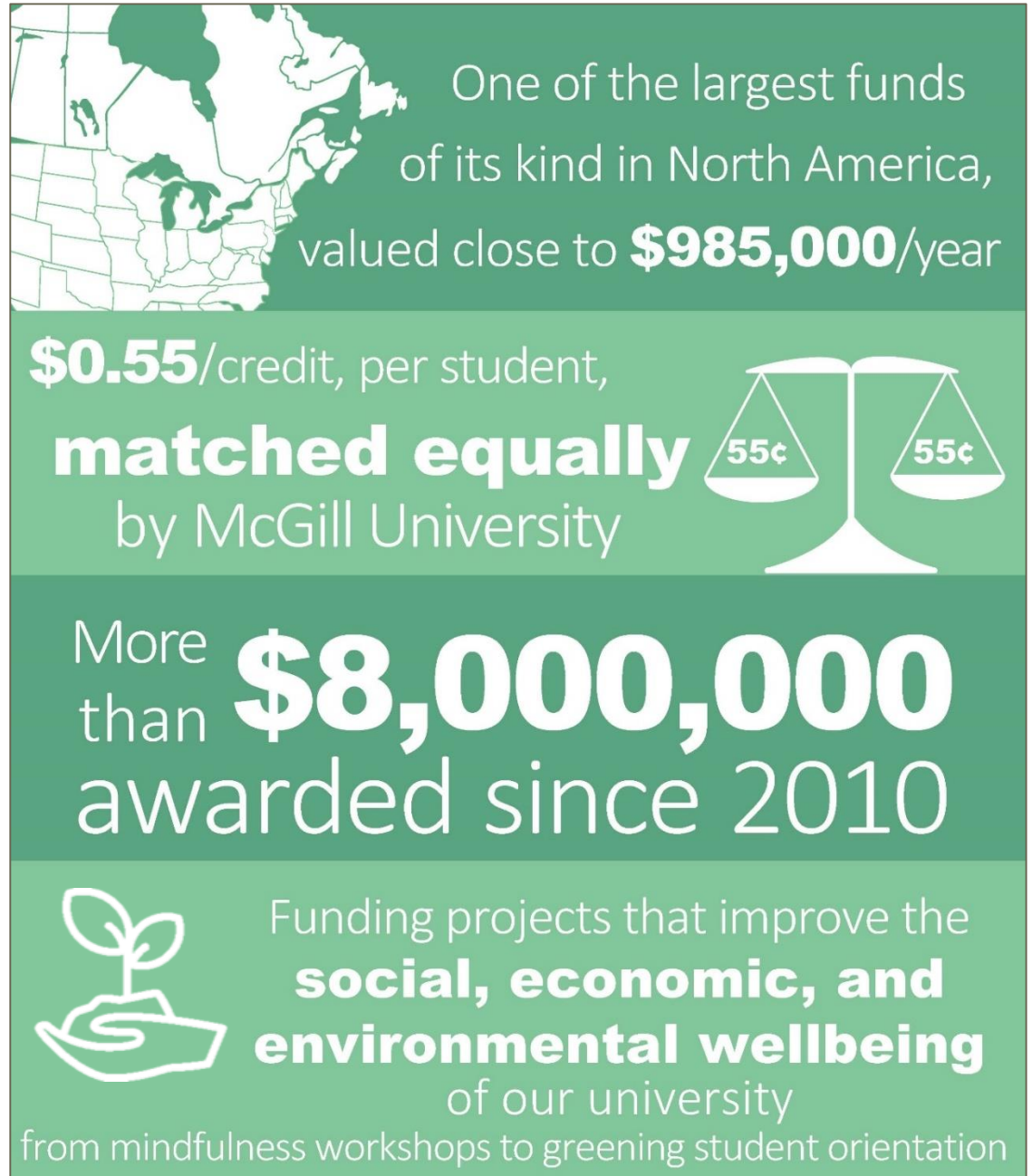
# SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS FUND

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 \$8 million in funding and has approved 216 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 2019: May 1, 2018 – April 30, 2019.





# SPF AT-A-GLANCE

Since 2010

**\$8 million**  
allocated

to sustainability initiatives



**216**

**Projects**

approved



**87%**

of \$5,000+ projects are

**Collaborative**

between students and staff

**4,150+**

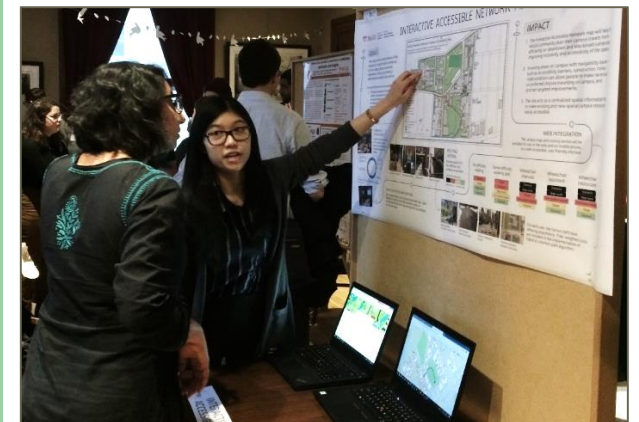
**Volunteers**

mobilized

**7,160+**

**People trained**

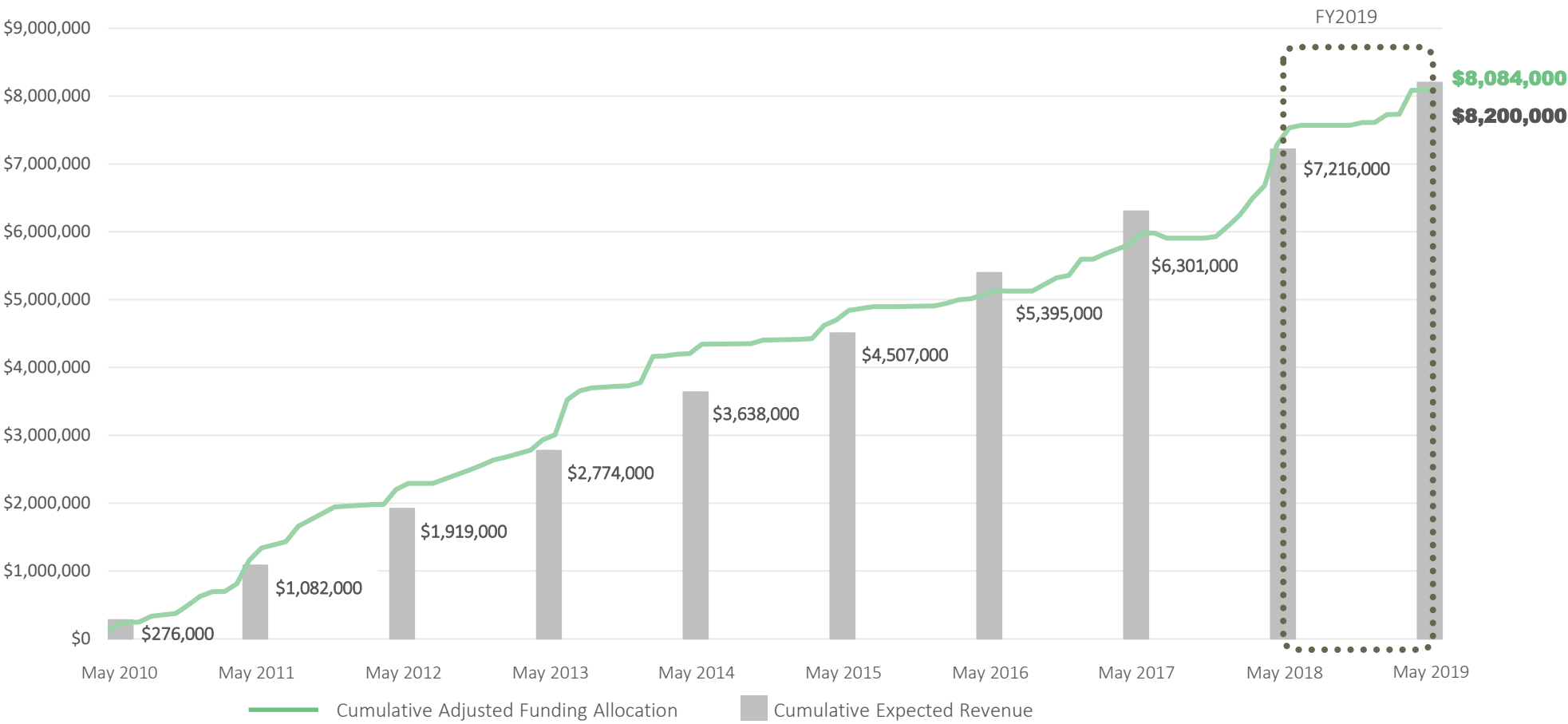
**Budgets**  
range from **\$40** to  
**\$300,000**



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In FY19, the SPF was funded through a student fee of \$0.55 per credit, which was matched equally by McGill University. To date, the SPF has received over \$4.1 million in student fees, which, when matched by the University, brings the Fund to a total value of approximately \$8.2 million. All allocations are approved by the Governance Council 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

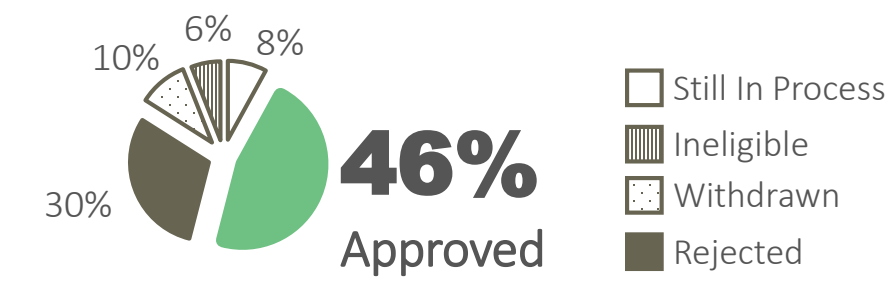


Note: Allocations include approved project budgets, budget amendments awarded to teams, and SPF operations expenses. The chart has been adjusted to reflect the release of unused budget allocations over the past few years. If an amount is lower, it is because funding has been released from previous projects, 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.

# FY2019 APPROVAL SUMMARY

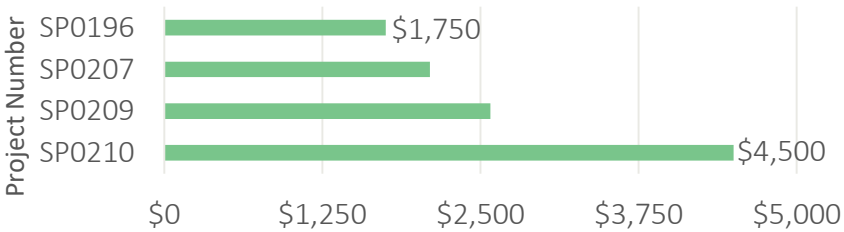
Over the lifetime of the Fund, 429 applications were received, 51% of which were approved. This fiscal year, the SPF awarded funding to 24 projects, of the 50 applications received. As such, the Fund has awarded funding to 216 projects in its lifetime. FY2019 projects include those from applications received in previous fiscal years in addition to those received in the current year.

## FY2019 Applications Status



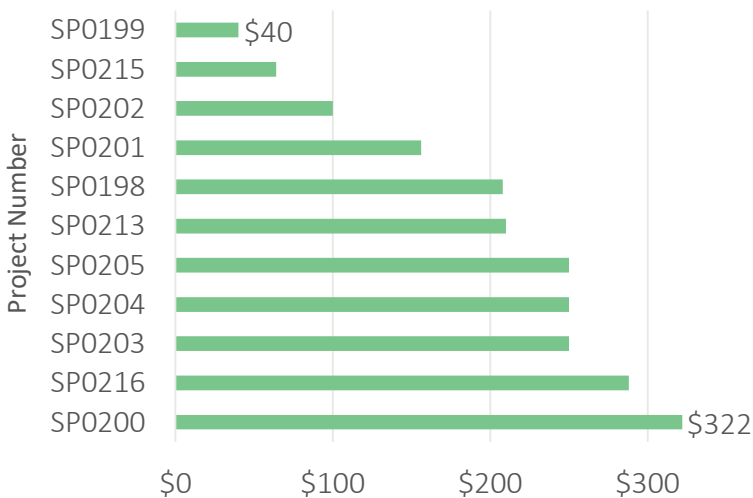
## Approved Under \$5,000 Stream Project Funding

- Projects approved: 4
- Average approved project value: \$2,732



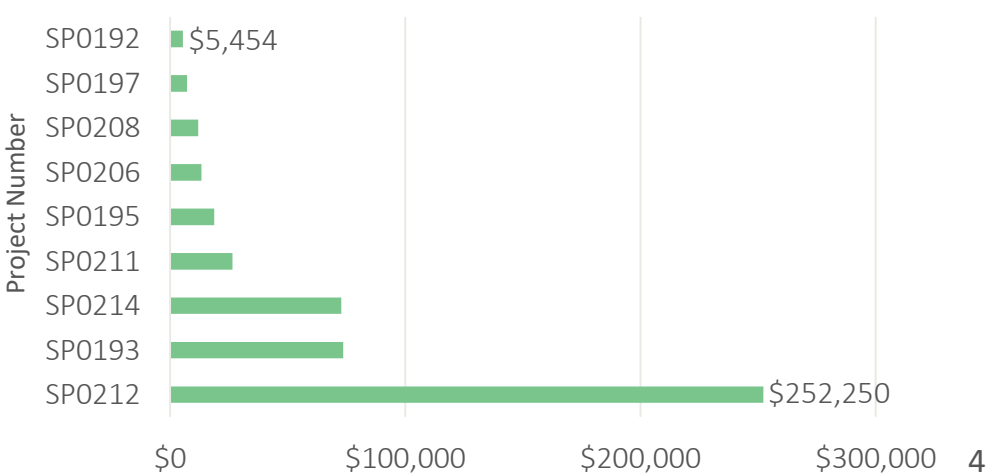
## Approved Tiny Stream Project Funding

- Projects approved: 11
- Average approved project value: \$194



## Approved Over \$5,000 Stream Project Funding

- Projects approved: 9
- Average approved project value: \$53,485



# APPROVED PROJECTS

## Tiny Stream (Under \$300)

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**SP0198**

### Reusable Water Bottles for School of Religious Studies

\$208 Approved

Support for water bottles to reduce waste and achieve a Sustainable Workplace Certification.

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**SP0199**

### Elimination of Water Bottles at IGSF

\$40 Approved

Support for a water pitcher to cool tap water and discourage the use of bottled water systems.

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**SP0200**

### Tree Awareness Campaign

\$322 Approved

Support for 100 trees to distribute to the McGill community and raise awareness of their benefits.

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**SP0201**

### Go Green this Halloween

\$156 Approved

Support for sustainable food and event materials to raise awareness at the Faculty of Dentistry.

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**SP0202**

### Indoor Herbal Tea Garden

\$100 Approved

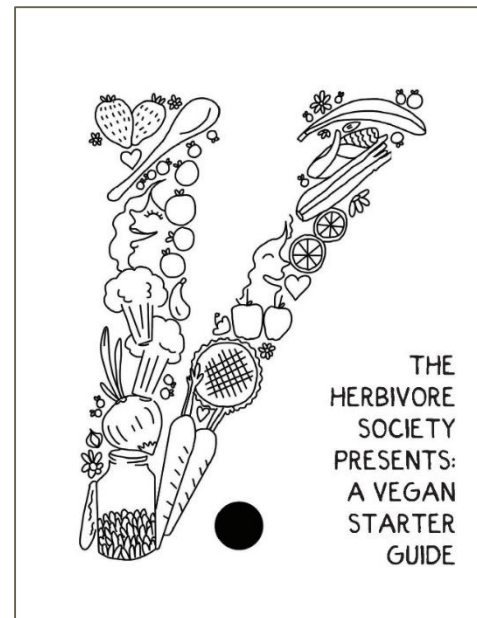
Support for an indoor tea garden at Building 21 to reduce waste and encourage self-care.

**SP0203**

### Reusable Beaker Cups

\$250 Approved

Support towards reusable beaker cups for the Science Games in order to reduce waste.



The Vegan Starter Guide created by the Herbivore Society for Peace and Justice.

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**SP0204**

### Vegan Starter Guide

\$250 Approved

Support for creating and printing an informational guide about plant-based nutrition and veganism

**SP0205**

### Reusable Dishware for Department of Family Medicine

\$250 Approved

Support for reusable dishware for daily use and at events hosted at the Department of Family Medicine.

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**SP0213**

### MealCare Education Symposium

\$210 Approved

Support for event-related costs and workshops to facilitate discussions around food waste within the McGill and Montreal communities.

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**SP0215**

### Improved Plastic Cup Recycling at Blues Pub

\$64 Approved

Support to create and install a plastic cup recycling system at the Blues Pub.

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**SP0216**

### Clean it Up!

\$288 Approved

Support for the Clean it Up! initiative, which gathered trash and recycling left on the streets in the Milton-Parc neighborhood at the end of the Winter 2019 semester.

# APPROVED PROJECTS

## Under \$5,000 Stream (\$301 - \$5,000)

### SP0196

#### Explore! Careers in Health

\$1,750 Approved

Support to improve the sustainability of the Explore! Careers in Health event.

### SP0207

#### Childcare for Architecture's Lecture Series

\$2,100 Approved

Support to provide childcare, with the goal of demonstrating need for ongoing resources for parents.

### SP0209

#### Buy Your Own Bulk

\$2,578 Approved

Support for operating materials of the Buy Your Own Bulk initiative, which aims to offer bulk food options to Macdonald Campus.

### SP0210

#### Hydroponic McGill

\$4,500 Approved

Support for three hydroponic grow towers to be installed in McGill's busiest cafeterias.

## Over \$5,000 Stream (\$5,001+)

### SP0192

#### Roots Coalition

\$5,454 Approved

Support to create a network of agriculture-related groups on the downtown campus to increase collaboration and share resources.

### SP0195

#### Sustainable Athletics Intern

\$18,704 Approved

Support to hire interns to help implement the Athletics & Recreation Climate & Sustainability Action Plan.

### SP0193

#### Interactive Accessibility Network Map

\$73,516 Approved

Support for the creation of an online, interactive campus map that shows accessible routes through the built environment.

### SP0197

#### Athletics and Recreation Gator Replacement

\$7,139 Approved

Support to subsidize the cost of purchasing a new, electric gator vehicle to replace a retiring gas-powered gator and demonstrate proof of concept for sustainable electric alternatives.



Assistant Manager of Facilities, Angelo Battista, with the electric gator replacement purchased by Athletics & Recreation.



# APPROVED PROJECTS

Over \$5,000 Stream (\$5,000+) continued

SP0206

## Sign Better, Sort Better

\$13,245 Approved

Support to replace existing waste signage on McGill campus with standardized stickers aligned with Recyc-Québec standards to facilitate the proper sorting of waste items.

SP0208

## Green Labs Initiative at the Neuro

\$11,870 Approved

Support to improve the sustainability of labs at the Montreal Neurological Institute through lab material recycling programs, online resources, and culture change-focused events.

SP0211

## Discover Sustainable McGill

\$26,483 Approved

Support to increase the overall sustainability of large scale orientation events, such as Discover McGill, through tactics such as waste education and sorting, reduction of single use plastics, and water refilling infrastructure.

SP0212

## Sustainable Alternatives for Vehicle Replacement (SAVR) Initiative

\$252,250 Approved

Support to transition McGill's fleet vehicles to sustainable alternatives by partially subsidizing the cost differential between gas-powered and electric or hybrid vehicles.

SP0214

## Ecological Improvement of Dairy Cow Pasture at the Macdonald Campus Farm

\$72,706 Approved

Support to develop an ecological pasturing system that enhances animal nutrition and comfort while providing environmental benefits, such as carbon emissions reductions.



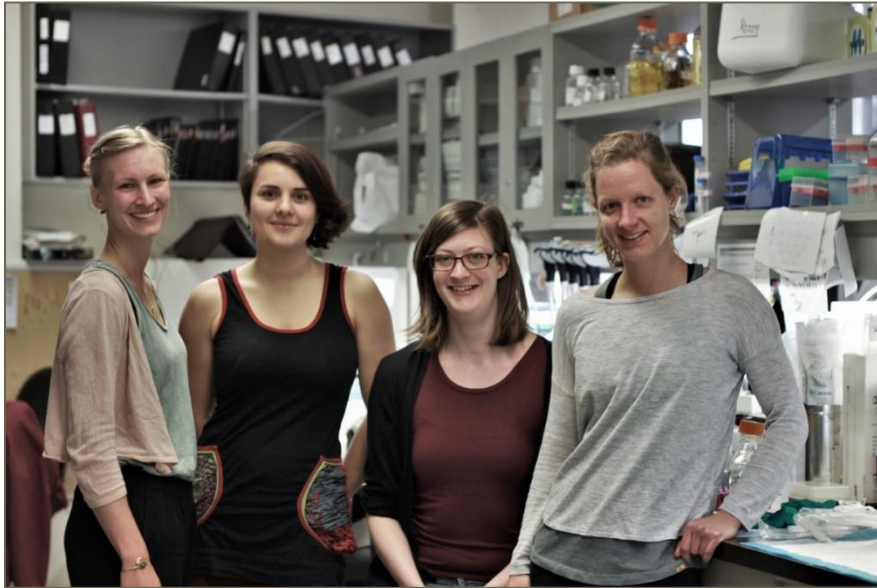
Dairy cows enjoying the new ecological pasture infrastructure at the Macdonald Campus Farm.



# A FEW PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

During FY2019, several exemplary projects were highlighted in online publications. Click on the photos to read more.

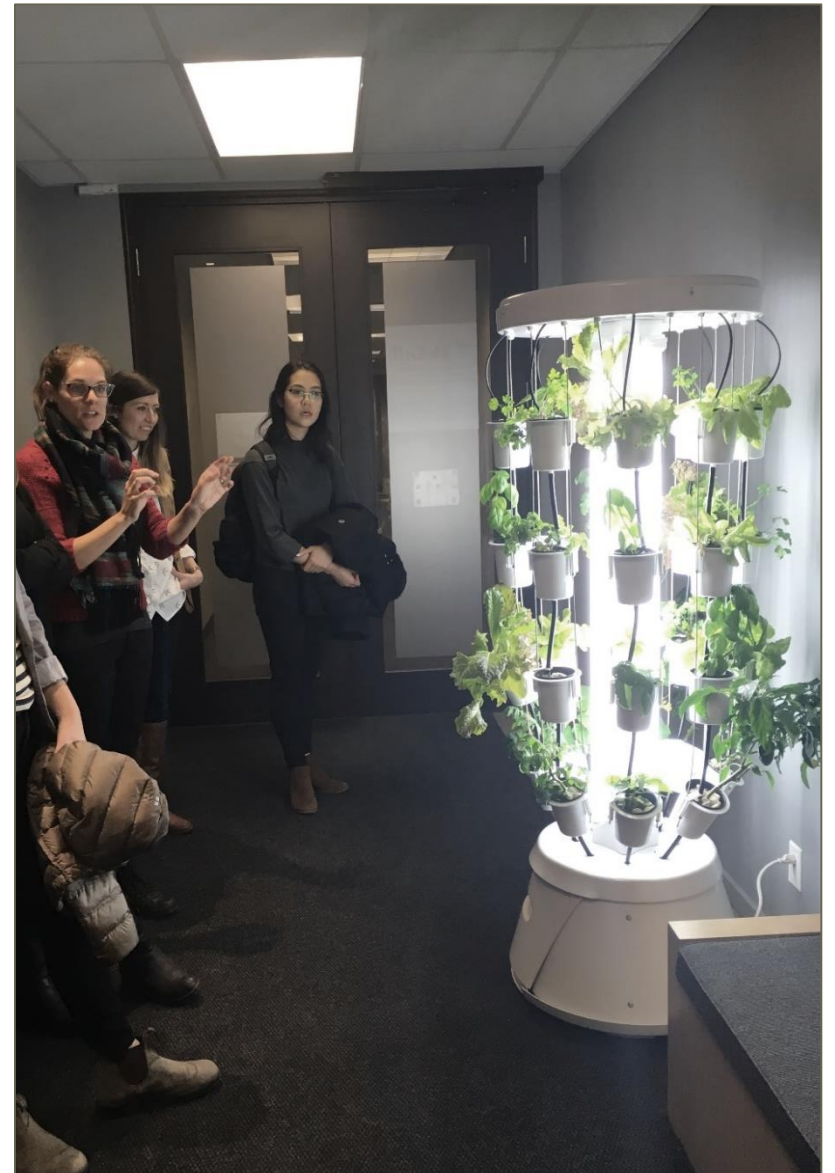
## Green Labs Initiative at the Neuro



## Refill McGill (formerly Ban the Bottle)



## Gardens Inside 365



# FY2019 KEY IMPACTS & OUTCOMES

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 18 reports received in FY2019 are listed below.

**1,625**  
**Volunteers**  
**engaged**

**196**  
**People**  
**trained**

**~\$10,000**  
**Raised by teams**  
from other funding sources

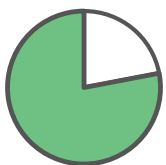
**120+**  
**Partnerships/**  
**Collaborations**  
**developed**

## Project Learning Outcomes

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. The learning outcomes from FY2019 reports are summarized below.



**89%** of teams reported  
**improved knowledge of**  
**sustainability** and **personal**  
**growth**



**78%** of teams reported  
**professional growth**

Top skills reported improved  
through project involvement:

**Networking**  
**Teamwork**  
**Time Management**  
**Communications**  
**Project Management**  
**Problem Solving**  
**Mentoring**  
**Planning**  
**Leadership**  
**Budgeting**

# FY2019 UPDATES

During FY2019, the SPF updated its application process in order to make it more accessible, transparent, and understandable by applicants. This included several elements: holding focus groups and consultations; transforming the evaluation criteria to new, eligibility and evaluation criteria with memorable key words; updating and simplifying the application forms while aligning them with the new criteria; introducing a new evaluation grid for Governance Council members; and streamlining and improving the SPF website and its resources for applicants. See these changes in action on our [How to Apply webpage](#).

## Eligibility Criteria

At McGill	Needs Seed Funding
Sustainability Focused	Action Oriented

## Evaluation Criteria

Analysis	Collaboration
Impact	Support
Feasibility	Capacity Building

	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	FIT WITH CRITERIA		
		Poor	Concerns	Great
AT MCGILL	Eligible projects are led by a current student, administrative staff, or academic staff and primarily impact the McGill campus community.	Poor	Concerns	Great
SUSTAINABILITY FOCUSED	Eligible projects focus on one or more dimensions of sustainability (e.g. environmental, social, economic). These projects advance sustainability at McGill and are managed sustainably.	Poor	Concerns	Great
SEED FUNDING	Eligible projects are either new projects or projects that complement, build upon, or scale existing initiatives. Requests for ongoing operating support are not eligible, as the funding should be used to move campus beyond business as usual.	Poor	Concerns	Great
ACTION ORIENTED	Eligible projects are action oriented and aim to make change happen on McGill campus(es). In general, research-focused projects are not eligible.	Poor	Concerns	Great
	EVALUATION CRITERIA	FIT WITH CRITERIA		
		Poor	Concerns	Great
ANALYSIS	The project team has identified an issue or need on campus, researched best practices, evaluated other funding sources, and consulted other projects for lessons learned. Given this information, the team is qualified to create the project.	Poor	Concerns	Great
IMPACT	The project creates a positive change, which can include behaviour change and/or improvements in institutional performance. The project and its impacts are shared with the community, and it is planned so that there is a lasting impact, institutionalization, or potential to scale, when possible.	Poor	Concerns	Great
FEASIBILITY	The project is well planned, has realistic goals, activities and timeline, mitigates risks, and has a budget that makes sense considering the project scale and expected impact.	Poor	Concerns	Great
COLLABORATION	The project is inclusive, collaborative, and considers the voices of undergraduates, postgraduates, administrative staff, and academic staff on the different campuses it impacts. It is interdisciplinary and collaborative between students and staff, when possible.	Poor	Concerns	Great
SUPPORT	The project team has consulted with relevant stakeholders and gained their support and/or permission for the project.	Poor	Concerns	Great
CAPACITY BUILDING	The project is a learning opportunity for involved stakeholders and, when possible, the project incorporates training, volunteerism, job creation, and/or complementary applied student research.	Poor	Concerns	Great



# SPF GOVERNANCE COUNCIL + TEAM

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

## FY2019 Governance Council Membership

Students

SSMU



Claire Paoli

SSMU (Fall, Winter)



Alec Angle

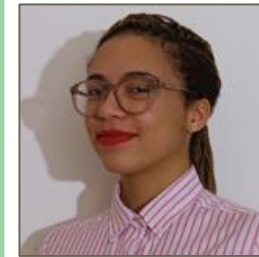


Milton Calderon-Donefer

MCSS (Fall, Winter)



Alicia Diaz-Pappas



Leela Riddle-Meritte

PGSS



Isabella Boushey

Staff

Academic



Chris Barrington-Leigh

Academic



Caroline Begg

Administrative



Carly Breger

Administrative



Paul Guenther



Additionally, the following McGill Office of Sustainability staff directly supported the SPF in FY2019:

Krista Houser, Sustainability Officer, SPF Steward  
Shona Watt, Sustainability Officer, SPF Administrator  
Francois Miller, Director, Office of Sustainability

Jessica Di Bartolomeo, SPF Intern  
Kelsey Litwin, Communications Officer  
Toby Davine, former Communications Officer

# 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 over 1,000 students and presented 13 outreach sessions across campus. The Ambassadors also held a hydroponic project design challenge in partnership with Sustainability in Engineering at McGill (SEAM) and led an initiative to revitalize the Little Free Libraries project (SP0166).

## 2018-2019 Ambassadors

Lily Chia, SSMU

Laurianne Debanné, SSMU

Hana Epstein, SSMU

Peter Garber, PGSS

Emma Melis, MCSS

Skyla Valade, SSMU

Madeleine Whitestone, SSMU

Lucille Xiang, SSMU

Izzy Xiao, SSMU

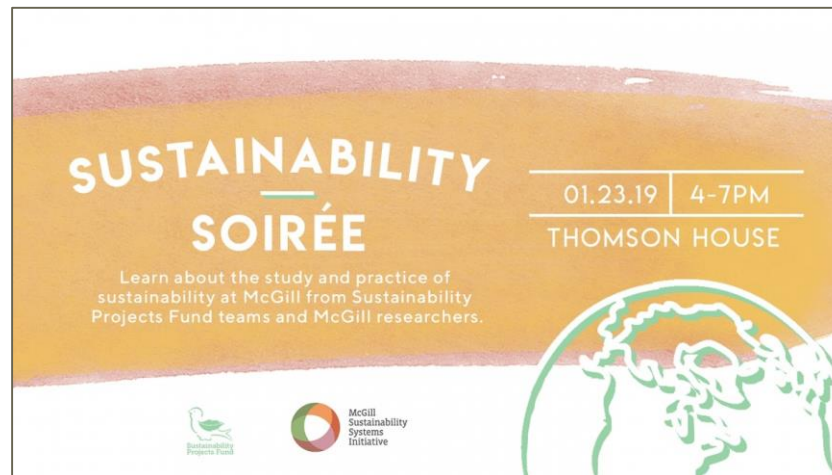


From left to right: Laurianne Debanné, Izzy Xiao, Lily Chia, Hana Epstein, Emma Melis, and Peter Garber.



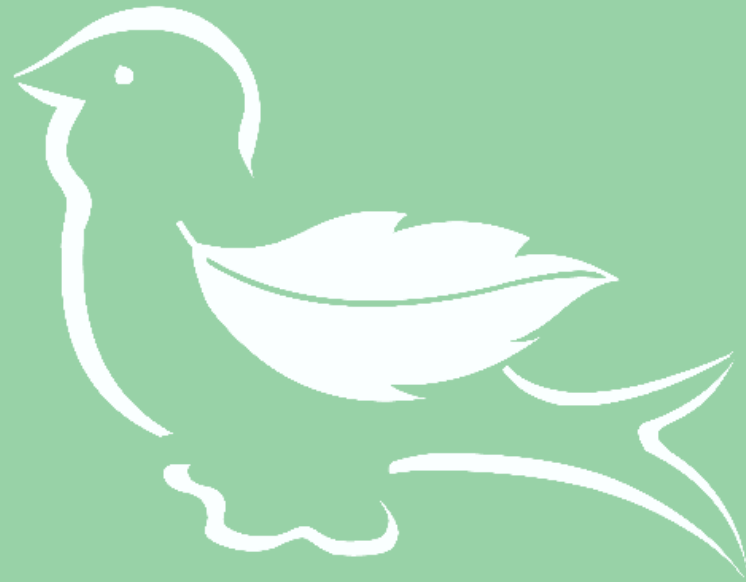
# SUSTAINABILITY SOIRÉE

On January 23, 2019, the Sustainability Projects Fund and McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative partnered to host a Sustainability Soirée celebrating sustainability projects and research at McGill. As part of the event, student researchers showcased their work alongside SPF funding recipients, who have implemented sustainability projects across campus. This event aimed to provide opportunities for shared learning and future collaboration to create a more open, connected, and sustainable university. Held at the Thomson House ballroom, approximately 150 community members attended the soirée, which was hosted prior to the annual Sustainability Research Symposium.





# Grow the Movement



**Sustainability  
Projects Fund**