



Grow the  
Movement



## SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS FUND ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2021 (5/1/2020 – 4/30/2021)

Prepared by the McGill Office of Sustainability August 2021





# 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 \$10.1 million in funding and has approved 275 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, the largest in Canada, 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 2021: May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021.



One of the largest funds of its kind in North America, valued at **\$1,000,000**/year

**\$0.55**/credit, per student,

**matched equally**

by McGill University



More than **\$10,100,000** awarded since 2010

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

from Tiny Streams to Big Waves, and everywhere in between

# SPF AT-A-GLANCE

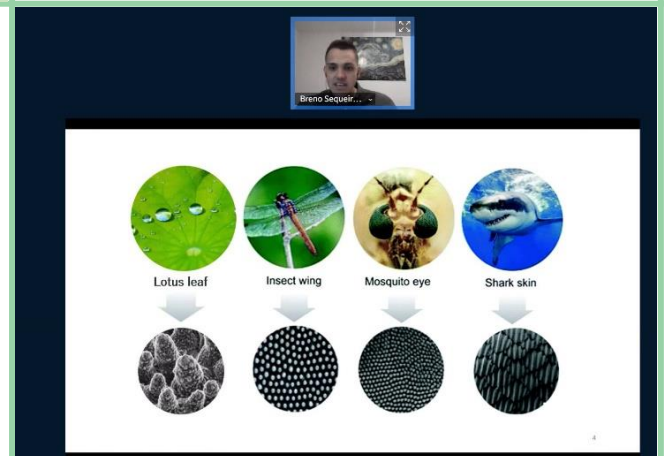
Since 2010  
**\$10.1 million** allocated  
 to sustainability initiatives



**275**  
**Projects**  
 approved



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



**7,500+**  
**People trained**

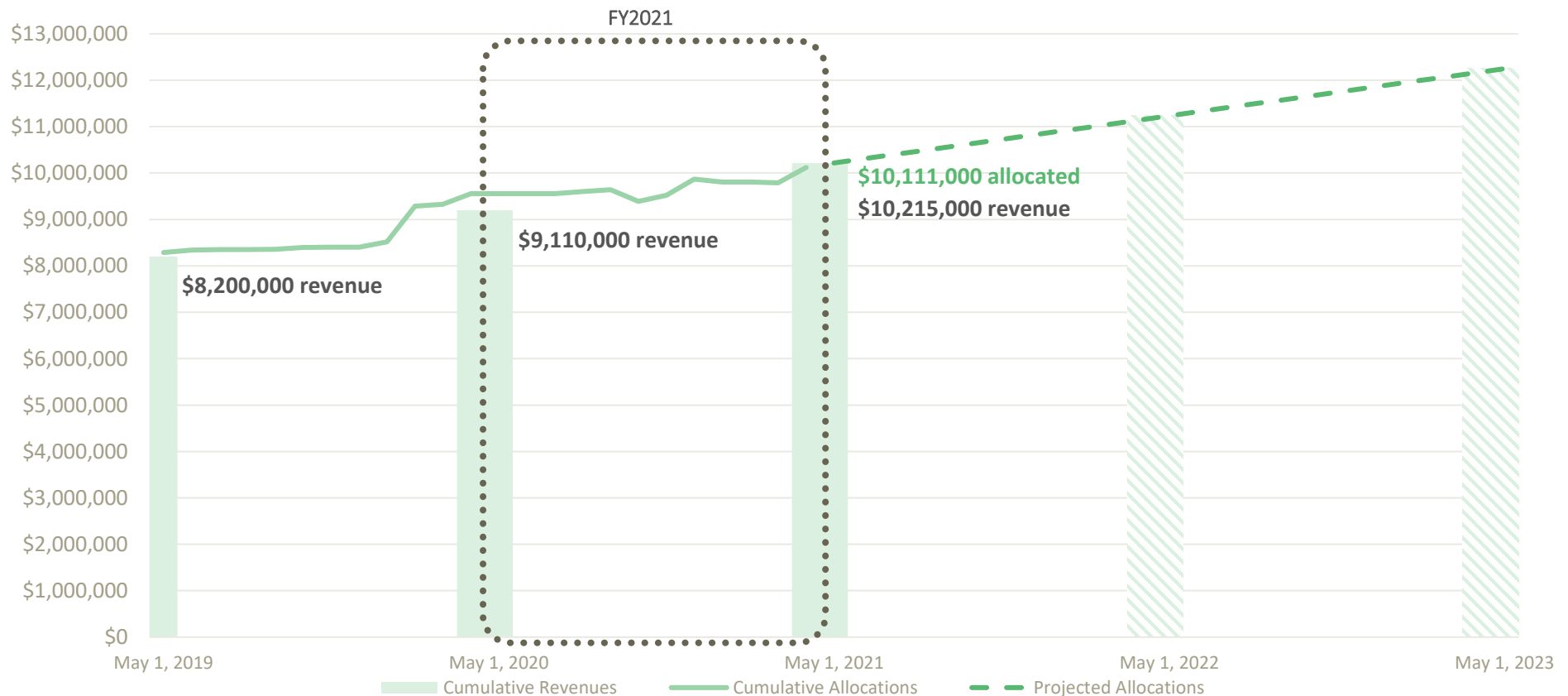


**4,500+**  
**Volunteers**  
 mobilized

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In FY21, 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 \$5 million in student fees, which, when matched by the University, brings the Fund to a total value of approximately \$10 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 (FY19-FY23)

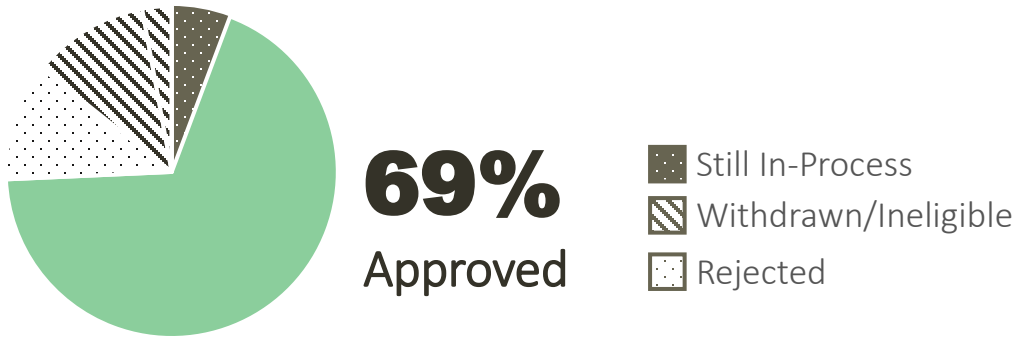


Note: Allocations include approved project budgets, budget amendments awarded to teams, and SPF operations expenses. The chart has been adjusted to reflect the release of unused budget allocations over the past few years. If an amount is lower, it is because funding has been released from previous projects,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

# FY2021 APPROVAL SUMMARY

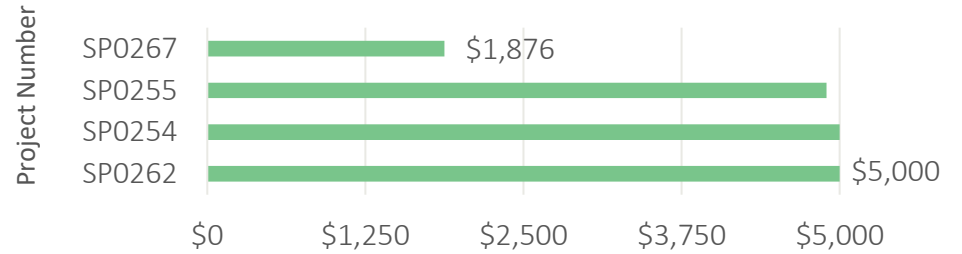
Over the lifetime of the Fund, 514 applications were received, 53% of which were approved. This fiscal year, the SPF awarded funding to 25 projects, of the 36 applications received. As such, the Fund has awarded funding to 275 projects in its lifetime. FY2021 projects include those from applications received in previous fiscal years in addition to those received in the current year.

## FY2021 Applications Status



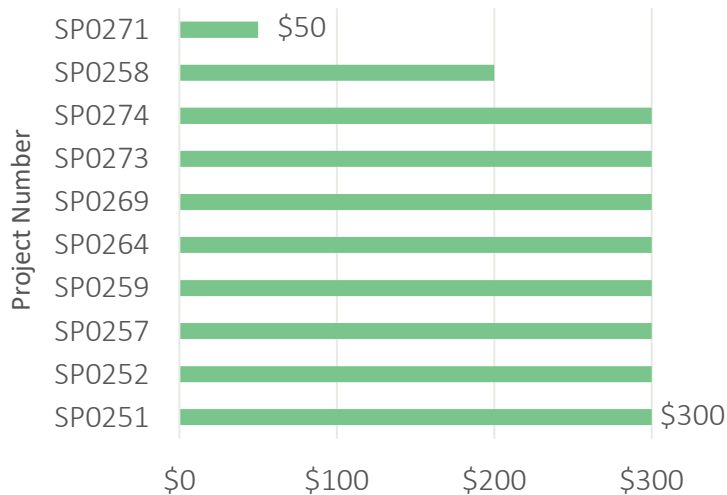
## Approved Under \$5,000 Stream Project Funding

- Projects approved: 4
- Average approved project value: \$4,192



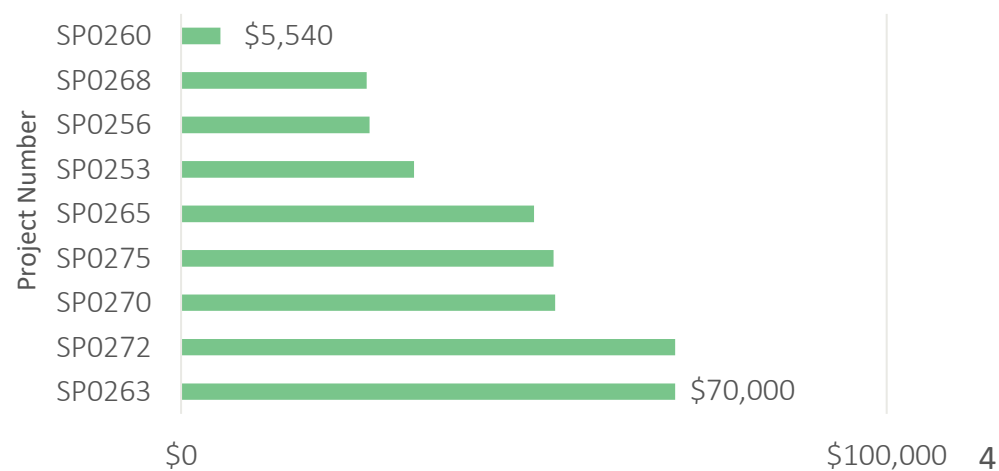
## Approved Tiny Stream Project Funding

- Projects approved: 10
- Average approved project value: \$265



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

- Projects approved: 9
- Average approved project value: \$43,033

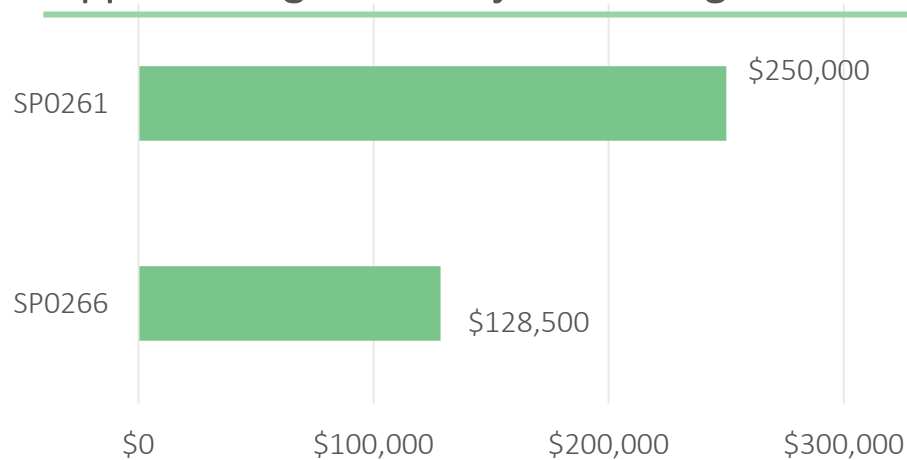




# FY2021 APPROVAL SUMMARY

In late 2019, the SPF Big Wave Funding Stream was introduced. The Big Wave supports large-scale, transformative projects that have a long-lasting impact on McGill's campuses needing between \$100,000 and \$400,000. Due to the scale of these projects, teams will have the opportunity to receive a portion of their funding for the design phase, before moving on to project implementation. This is considered Pre-Application Funding, as in the case of SP0266.

## Approved Big Wave Project Funding



### SP0261

#### Student Support for impact200 – The Bicentennial Student Sustainability Challenge

\$250,000 Approved

Financial support for students developing proposals for impact200, a student-focused sustainability challenge as part of the Bicentennial celebrations.

### SP0266

#### Toward a Sustainable Macdonald Farm – Feasibility Study

\$128,500 Approved

A feasibility study to examine steps required to pursue more ecological practices for the Mac farm.



# APPROVED PROJECTS

## Tiny Stream (Under \$300)

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SP0251

### Campus Crops 2020

\$300 Approved

Support for student-led garden.

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SP0252

### Trees of McGill – a Virtual Tour

\$300 Approved

Interactive online descriptions of several trees at the downtown campus.

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SP0257

### Interview Series on Intersectional Environmental Sustainability

\$300 Approved

Written series featuring individuals involved in environmental sustainability who identify as a member of a marginalized group.

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SP0258

### e-Digesting Cases

\$200 Approved

Virtual medical case studies to include sustainability considerations.

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SP0259

### SciComm Case Competition

\$300 Approved

Virtual event for undergrad students to learn more about sustainability science communication and conducting research.

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SP0264

### McGill Sustainable Development Goals Student Hub

\$300 Approved

Event series to raise awareness of the SDGs on campus.

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SP0269

### Reusable Dishware for Pharmacology Green Committee

\$300 Approved

Reusable dishes for events by Graduate Association of Pharmacology and Therapeutics Students.

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SP0271

### Sustainable Dinner Party

\$50 Approved

Participation incentives to attend a virtual discussion about sustainable food systems.

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SP0273

### E.A.R.T.H. Day Sustainability Series

\$300 Approved

A series of virtual events related to sustainability in research.

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SP0274

### Soil and Compost for Urban Agriculture

\$300 Approved

Landscaping materials needed for urban gardens in the 2021 growing season.

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SP0251: Student-led garden Campus Crops



# APPROVED PROJECTS

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

SP0254

## Online Redpath Museum

\$4,999 Approved

Creation of interactive educational boxes related to environmental topics.

SP0255

## Climate & Sustainability Strategy Renderings

\$4,896 Approved

Production of 10 conceptual renderings that imagine and visualize the future of sustainability on campus.

SP0262

## Anti-Racist and Decolonial Work Within the Academy

\$5,000 Approved

Event series to examine equity and diversity issues in the Department of English.

SP0267

## Macdonald Campus Native Pollinator Habitat

\$1,876 Approved

Joint initiative between Macdonald Campus and John Abbott College to showcase how to support wild bees and other pollinators.



SP0255: Renderings to accompany the 2020-2025 Climate & Sustainability Strategy  
Burnside Agriculture Hub (left) & Zero Waste Zone (right)



# APPROVED PROJECTS

Over \$5,000 Stream (\$5,000 - \$100,000)

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**SP0253**

## McGill's Agriculture in Murals

\$33,00 Approved

Initiative to add two indoor murals within McGill buildings on campus.

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**SP0263**

## Community of Support & Black Student Pathway

\$70,000 Approved

A program to support prospective health professions students who self-identify as Black.

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**SP270**

## Heating System for Season Extension Greenhouse

\$53,000 Approved

Purchase and installation of a propane heating system in season extension greenhouse (SP0249) and Horticulture Center plant production greenhouse.

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**SP0275**

## Action xDesign

\$52,784 Approved

Establishing long-term pathways for the McGill community (students, staff, faculty) to lead dynamic equity based learning experiences with youth in local marginalized communities.

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**SP0256**

## Macdonald Campus Tree Planting Initiative

\$26,693 Approved

Initiative to plant over 200 trees at Macdonald Campus to aid natural habitats and campus greening.

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**SP265**

## Green Labs Expansion

\$50,000 Approved

Funding to subsidize the cost of switching to low-waste or energy efficient lab materials and practices.

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**SP0272**

## Dent ma communauté

\$70,837 Approved

Develop and implement an outreach strategy to encourage the training of underrepresented students in dentistry.

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**SP0260**

## Campus Crops Sustainability Practices

\$5,540 Approved

Remuneration for coordinators to secure long term funding in order to keep the gardens successfully operating in the future.

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**SP0268**

## Dishwasher to Reuse Plastic Labware

\$26,281 Approved

Dishwasher to help re-use laboratory plastics in academic research laboratories in Pharmacology.

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SP0256: Macdonald Campus Tree Planting

# FY2021 KEY IMPACTS & OUTCOMES

The Covid-19 pandemic had a marked impact on SPF projects, as nearly all had to proceed remotely. Nevertheless, SPF project leads showed creativity and adaptability as many needed to suddenly adapt their project ideas. 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 12 reports received in FY2021 are listed below.

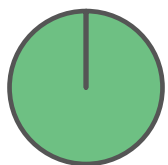
<b>1,200+</b> <b>Trees planted</b>	<b>36</b> <b>People trained</b>	<b>~\$18,000</b> <b>Raised by teams</b> from other funding sources	<b>70+</b> <b>Partnerships/ Collaborations developed</b>
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## Project Learning Outcomes

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 FY2021 reports are summarized below.



**85%** of teams reported **improved knowledge of sustainability** and **personal growth**



**100%** of teams reported **professional growth**

Top skills reported improved through project involvement:





# 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](#).

## FY2021 Governance Council Membership

Students

SSMU



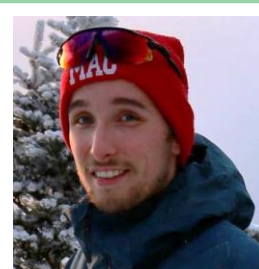
Léa Neumark-Gaudet

SSMU



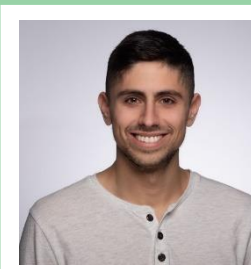
Matthew McClaughlin

MCSS



Karl-Antoine Hogue

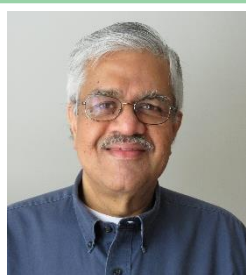
PGSS



Casey Cohen

Staff

Academic



Madhav Badami

Academic



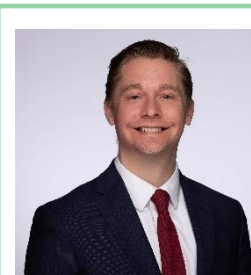
Cynthia Kallenbach

Administrative



Merika Ramundo

Administrative



Brett Hooton

Additionally, the following McGill Office of Sustainability staff directly supported the SPF in FY2021:

Stéphanie Keller-Busque, Sustainability Officer, SPF Administrator  
Shona Watt, Sustainability Manager, SPF Steward  
Francois Miller, Executive Director, Office of Sustainability

Aspen Murray, SPF Intern  
Kelsey Litwin, Communications Officer  
Keelin Elwood, Communications Officer

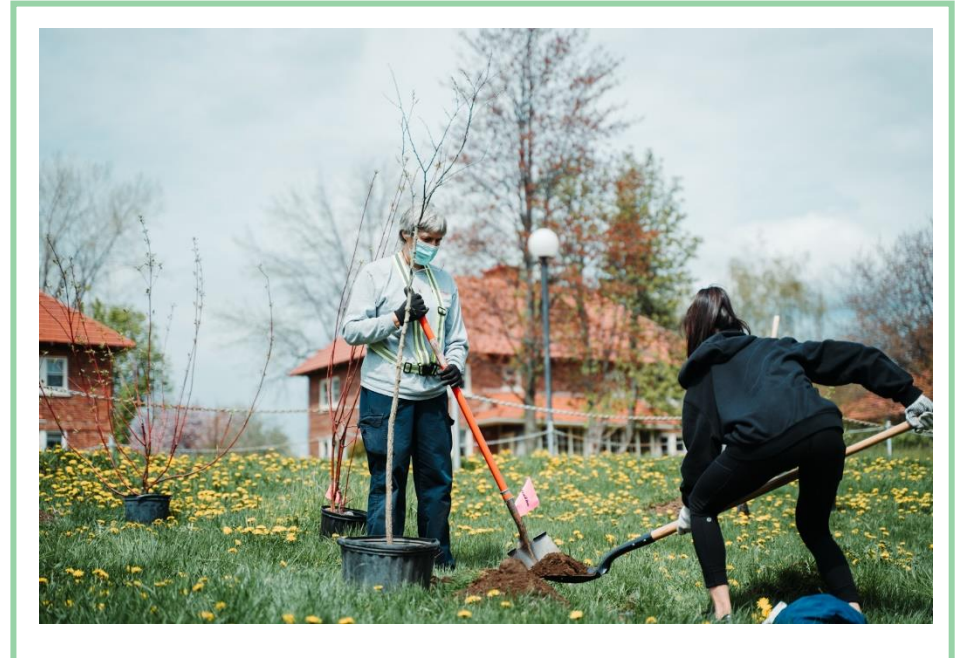
# A FEW PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

During FY2021, several exemplary projects were highlighted in online publications. Click on the photos to read more.

## Campus Crops



## Macdonald Campus Tree Planting Initiative



## Macdonald Campus Native Pollinators



## Bicentennial Student Sustainability Challenge





# THANK YOU!

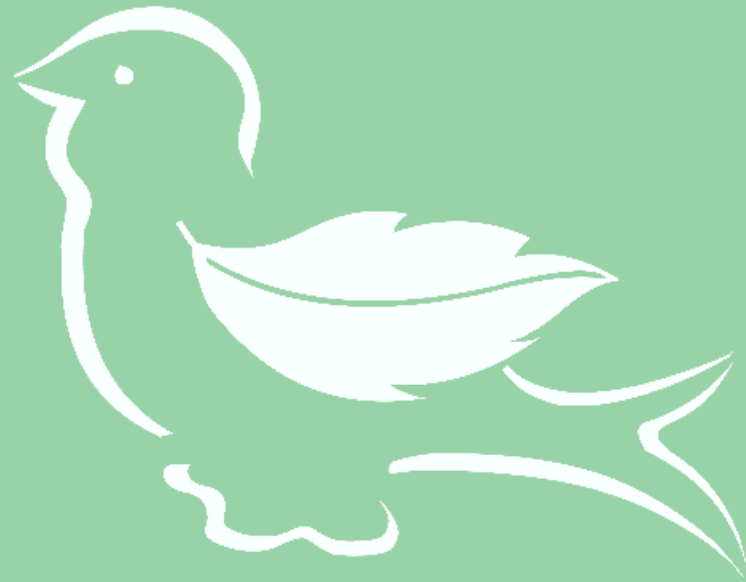


@sustainmcgill

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[sustainability@mcgill.ca](mailto:sustainability@mcgill.ca)



# Grow the Movement



**Sustainability  
Projects Fund**