

Sustainability Projects Fund

Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2023
(5/1/2022 – 4/30/2023)

Report prepared by the
McGill Office of Sustainability
August 2023



SPF AT-A-GLANCE

since 2010

\$12 million
allocated

to sustainability initiatives



338
Projects
approved



6,100+
Volunteers
mobilized



15,000+
People trained

Budgets range
from **\$40** to
\$400,000



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 \$12 million in funding and has approved 338 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 the largest in Canada. It 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 2023: May 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023.



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 **\$12,100,000**
awarded since 2010



Funding projects that promote a
culture of sustainability
at our university

from Tiny Streams to Big Waves, and everywhere in between

SPF RENEWED IN FY2023

This fiscal year, the SPF was successfully renewed for an additional five years (FY2023-FY2028) 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, SSMU, and MCSS held referenda regarding the existence of the SPF that passed resoundingly, with a “Yes” vote of 66%, 81% and 86%, respectively. The University has also confirmed its commitment to funding its half of the SPF. Read more in the McGill Reporter article, [here](#).



COMMUNITY BUILDING EVENTS

To forge fruitful partnerships and promote awareness of approved projects, the SPF hosted two student-focused events:

The **Sustainability Soirée** was hosted in collaboration with the McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative (MSSI) to showcase funded projects.

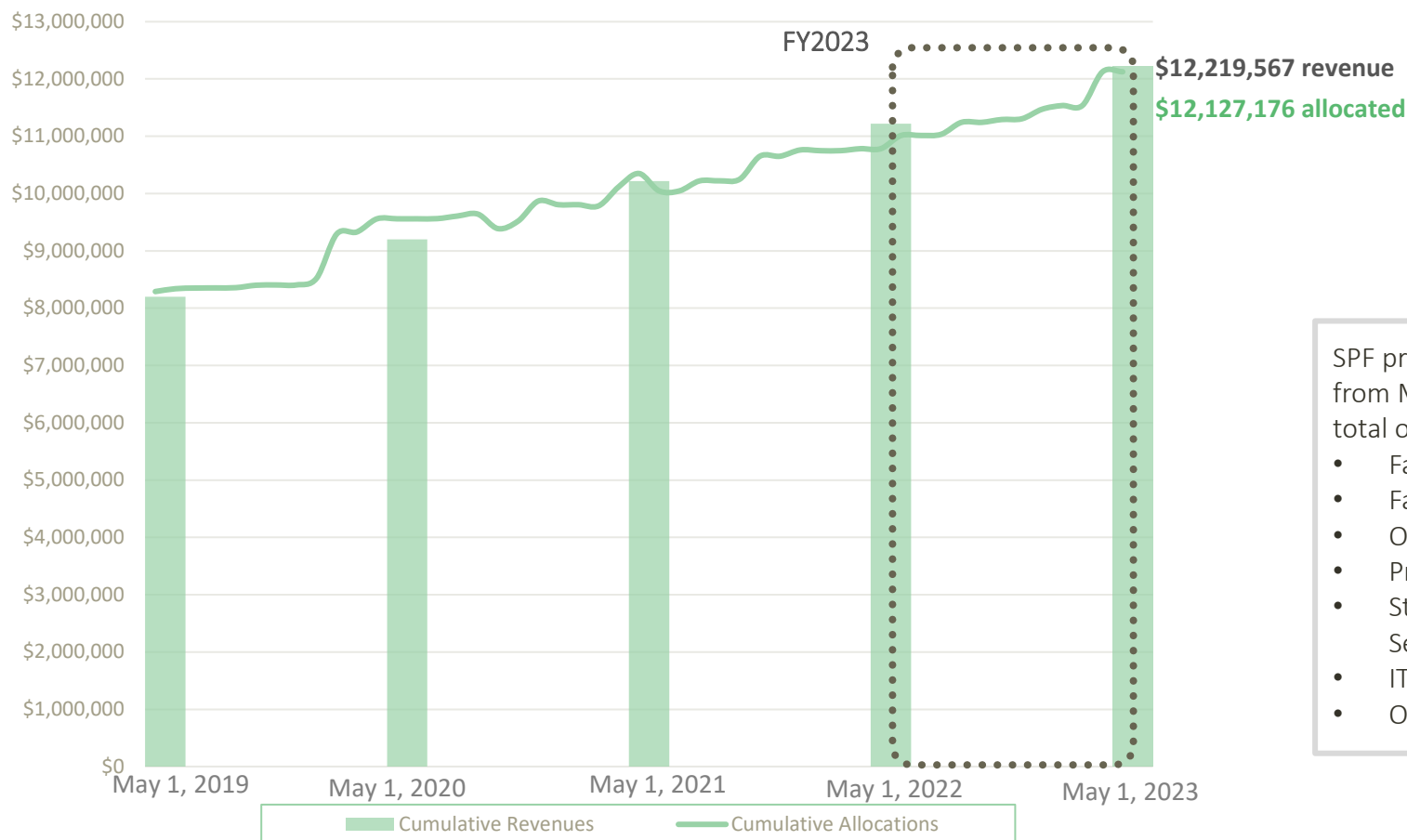
The **Student Sustainability Network (SSN)** brought student groups together for an evening of networking and brainstorming potential SPF projects.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In FY23, the SPF was funded through a student fee of \$0.55 per credit, which is matched equally by McGill University. To date, the SPF has received over \$6.1 million in student fees, which, when matched by the University, brings the Fund to a total value of approximately \$12.2 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, which can include department contributions and benefits, 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)



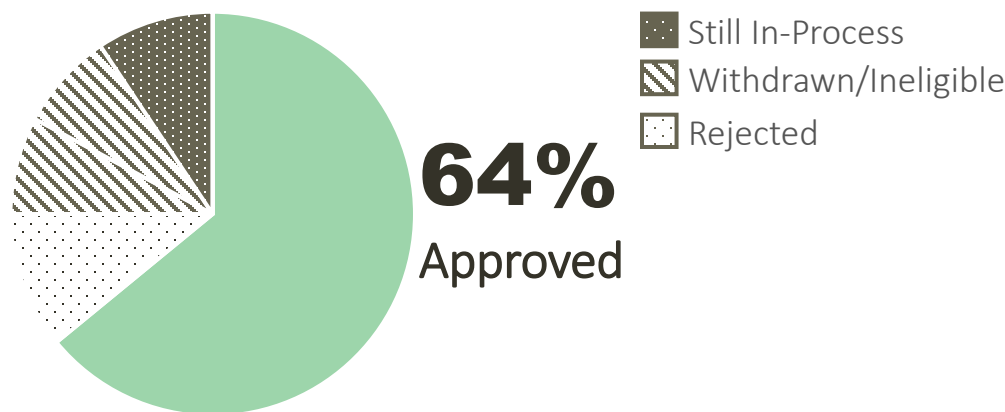
- SPF projects have also received support from McGill units and departments, for a total of \$161K. Examples include:
- Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences
 - Faculty of Engineering
 - Office of Principal and Vice-Chancellor
 - Provost Office
 - Student Housing and Hospitality Services
 - IT Services
 - Office of Sustainability

Note: Allocations include approved project budgets, budget amendments awarded to teams, and SPF overhead expenses. The chart has been adjusted to reflect the release of unused budget allocations over the past few years. If the allocations amount decreases, 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.

FY2023 APPROVAL SUMMARY

Over the lifetime of the Fund, 612 applications were received, 55% of which were approved. This fiscal year, the SPF received the second-highest number of applications (64). The SPF awarded funding to 44 projects, the most in a single year. As such, the Fund has awarded funding to 338 projects in its lifetime. FY2023 projects include those from applications received in previous fiscal years in addition to those received in the current year.

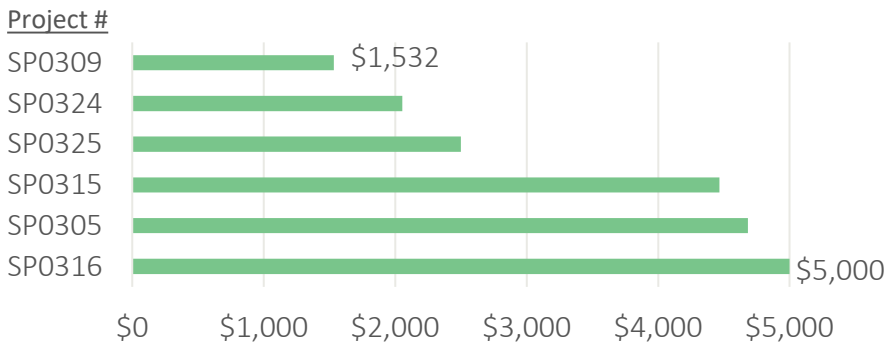
FY2023 Applications Status



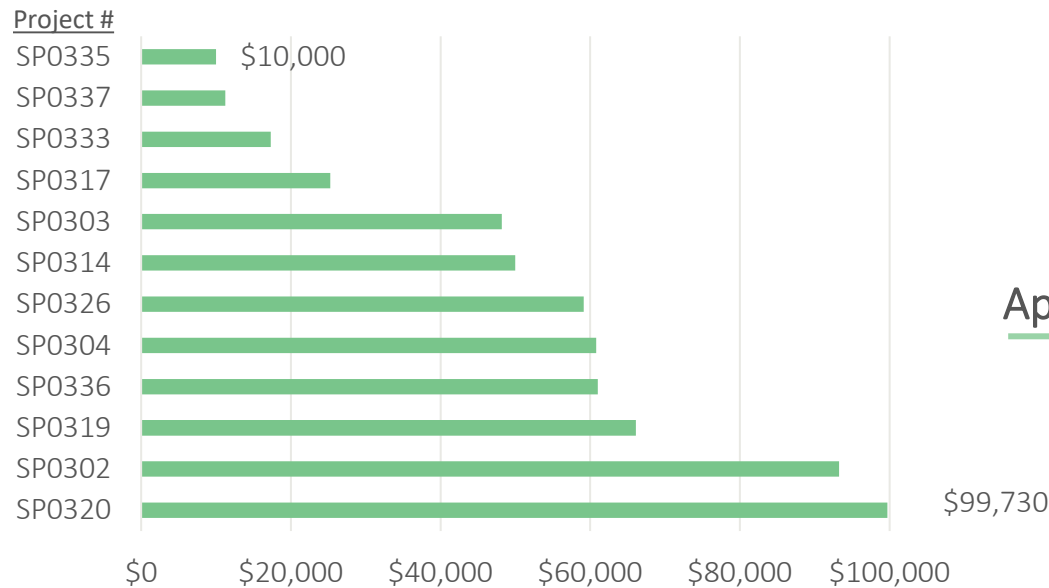
Approved ≤\$300 (Tiny Stream)

25 applications were approved, receiving on average \$264.

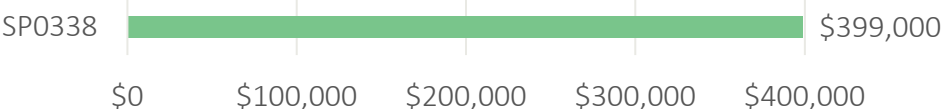
Approved Under \$5,000 Stream Project Funding



Approved Over \$5,000 Stream Project Funding



Approved Big Wave Project Funding




APPROVED PROJECTS ≤\$300 (TINY STREAM)

- SP0295 Soil and Compost for Urban Agriculture \$300 Approved
- SP0296 Out Loud The Queer Voices \$300 Approved
- SP0297 McGill Community Garden Revival and Transition \$300 Approved
- SP0298 Pizza Picnic: Sustainability in the Classroom \$300 Approved
- SP0299 Compost Montreal for Frosh Park Party \$300 Approved
- SP0300 MealCare Delivery Equipment \$300 Approved
- SP0301 Education Frosh 2022 – Compost \$300 Approved
- SP0306 World Oyster Podcast \$240 Approved
- SP0307 CSA Wine & Cheese \$75 Approved
- SP0308 Welcome Back to the Hub \$200 Approved
- SP0310 Green Lab Office Supplies - Zeytuni Lab \$280 Approved
- SP0311 Anti Black Friday Clothing Swap \$300 Approved
- SP0312 Eco-Anxiety Workshop \$263 Approved
- SP0313 Climate Fresk Workshop @ Desautels \$300 Approved
- SP0318 Smith's Tea Goes Sustainable \$170 Approved
- SP0321 Kitchen Supplies for Nursing Floor \$300 Approved
- SP0322 Plants for Wellness in Nursing PhD Office \$275 Approved
- SP0323 DECAP \$300 Approved
- SP0327 Sanctuary for Native Medicinal Plants at McGill \$300 Approved
- SP0328 3D Printer Filament Recycling Assessment \$100 Approved
- SP0329 Plant Giveaway and Awareness Campaign \$150 Approved
- SP0330 The Rennet - Sustainabowl Edition \$300 Approved
- SP0331 Greenery in Engineering Buildings Project \$200 Approved
- SP0332 Reinvigorating the Little Free Libraries \$300 Approved
- SP0334 The Lab Garden \$250 Approved



SP0298: Attendees of the sustainability module launch participate in reflection activities.

APPROVED PROJECTS UNDER \$5,000



SP0324: Attendees of the Plant-Based Awareness Conference fill their reusable plates with free plant-based food.

SP0305

Sustainability Futures Festival at Bellairs

\$4,682 Approved

An all-day event involving the distribution of plants and scholarly presentations.

SP0309

INgineer Your Path

\$1,532 Approved

An experiential learning program that empowers student engineers to actualize their creative potential and become transformational leaders in their communities.

SP0315

Styrofoam Recycling at the Lady Davis Institute

\$4,465 Approved

Collaborating with Group Gagnon for Styrofoam recycling at the Lady Davis Institute (LDI).

SP0316

Sustainable Finance Summit

\$5,000 Approved

A conference to help students understand how to leverage capital towards sustainability in their career in finance and related industries.

SP0324

Plant-Based Awareness Conference

\$2,054 Approved

An event to raise awareness on the environmental impacts of animal agriculture & provide resources on plant-based nutrition.

SP0325

Student Sustainability Network Meets SPF

\$2,500 Approved

An event to encourage members of the Student Sustainability Network to engage with one another—and with the wider McGill community—in order to build connections that lead to SPF projects.

APPROVED PROJECTS OVER \$5,000

SP0302

Sustainability Education Fellows

\$98,260 Approved

A program to foster a community of faculty across ranks and disciplines committed to infusing sustainability into their academic practice.

SP0303

Sustainable Commuting Program

\$47,500 Approved

A program that offers three incentives to encourage sustainable commuting to campus: an OPUS & Cie annual pass rebate, access to showers for bike commuters, and a carpool ride-matching platform.

SP0304

McGill Studios - Upgrade to Facility

\$60,800 Approved

Providing an alternative to air travel in the form of a live-streaming studio and services to deliver lectures remotely for international conferences.

SP0314

Sustainable Menstrual Products Campaign

\$50,000 Approved

Offering free reusable menstrual products to all members of the downtown McGill community and an educational campaign to increase adoption.

SP0317

Organic Waste Collection in Residences

\$25,244 Approved

Implementing organic waste collection across all downtown McGill student residences.

SP0319

Showcasing Sustainability of Products & Services Sold On Campus

\$66,112 Approved

Improving the accessibility and sustainability of the products sold on-campus by showcasing their details, photos, ingredients, and sustainability practices using an online platform.



SP0314: Sustainable Menstrual Products Campaign

APPROVED PROJECTS OVER \$5,000

SP0320

Zero-Waste Dining Halls

\$99,730 Approved

Implementing purchasing, signage, and programming changes in dining halls that will facilitate and encourage residents to make choices that contribute toward waste reduction and diversion.

SP0335

Design Team Summer Sustainability Internships

\$10,000 Approved

Hosting summer interns who will explore projects focused on sustainability.

SP0338

Launching Systemic Solutions to Lab Waste Management at McGill

\$399,000 Approved

Implementing systemic solutions to lab waste management challenges at McGill by developing University-level infrastructure and procedures to reduce and recycle non-hazardous waste.

Big Wave Project

SP0326

SAD Green Lab Glassware Transition & Genome Dishwasher Accessory Upgrade

\$65,054 Approved

Helping 5 research labs transition to glass labware, providing the dishwasher accessories/detergent needed to wash these glass alternatives quickly/effectively, and wash/reuse plastic labware as well.

SP0336

McGill Robotics - Sustainability Transition

\$61,026 Approved

Promoting a culture of sustainability at McGill by 1) building robots and using them for environmental data collection and 2) hosting sustainability-oriented tech workshops and hackathons.

SP0333

Reuse, Redevelop and Redesign: Maude Abbott Medical Museum Displays

\$17,394 Approved

Repurposing 14 fire hose stations in the Strathcona Anatomy Building to display artifacts from the Maude Abbott Medical Museum (MAMM) along with images from manuscripts and anatomical atlases.

SP0337

Zero-Waste Zone

\$11,238 Approved

Implementing a clearly delineated area to educate, inspire, and share a vision for what a zero-waste McGill looks like.



SP0338: Collection of PPE materials to be recycled as a pilot project to reduce waste in labs.

PROJECT LEARNING OUTCOMES



SP0316: Attendees of the Sustainable Finance Summit listen to an expert panel.

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 FY2023, the SPF received 27 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:

problem solving
teamwork time management
budgeting planning
communications
listening
systems thinking
stakeholder identification
networking

FY2023 KEY IMPACTS

The SPF tracks several key success indicators for governance and administration activities, as well as key success indicators for projects through Final Reports. Selected impacts from the 27 reports received in FY2023 are listed below.

1,800 LBS

FOOD LEFTOVERS REDISTRIBUTED

2,100

SUSTAINABLE MENSTRUAL
PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTED

200+

DISHWASHER LOADS OF REUSABLE
LAB PLASTIC

104

PARTNERSHIPS/ COLLABORATIONS
DEVELOPPED



SP0300: The student group Mealcare purchased containers to divert over 1,800 lbs of edible surplus food from the landfill.

SPF GOVERNANCE COUNCIL + TEAM

In the spirit of staff-student collaboration, which 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](#).

FY2023 Governance Council Membership

Students

SSMU



Erica Lin

SSMU



Makena Kristen

MCSS



Liam Buckley

PGSS



Yannick D'Mello

Staff

Academic



Patrick Cortbaoui

Academic



Cynthia Kallenbach

Administrative



Joan O'Malley

Administrative



Sarah Heiberg

Additionally, the following McGill Office of Sustainability staff directly supported the SPF in FY2023:

Megan Toth, Sustainability Officer, SPF Administrator
Kelsey Litwin, Communications Officer
Katya Teague, Communications Officer

Peter Garber, Sustainability Officer
Shona Watt, Associate Director, 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 interacted with approximately 4,000 students through class presentations and tabling. Their 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:

Taarini Andlay
Stephanie Wang
Edwin Murr
Meg Baltes
Victoria Puga
Giancarlo Buonamici

Shivani Salunke
Azélie Blanchette
Annelies Koch-Schulte
Sravani Pentapati
Maia Bergeron
Lilas Aubriot-Bertot

Amaal Dawood
Joseph Boonen
Osman Abdalazez
Alexandra Nitu
Afees Agboola
Cameron Toy Kluger



A FEW PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

During FY2023, several exemplary projects were highlighted in online publications. Click on the photos to read more.

McGill Receives Government Recognition for Waste Management Practices



Creating Buzz for Pollinators across McGill Campuses



McGill launches new Sustainable Labs Guide to Implement Greener Practices



Connect with the SPF



@sustainmcgill

mcgill.ca/sustainability/spf
sustainability@mcgill.ca



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