Proposed Recommendations:

VI. Recommendations

Recommendation 1

A permanent committee of Senate, the Senate Committee on the Environment, shall be struck
a) to monitor the implementation and success of McGill’s Environmental Policy by setting targets and measuring progress towards those targets, and to review the Committee’s mandate;
b) to review relevant University policies, decisions, and management practices to ensure consistency with McGill’s Environmental Policy;
c) to receive suggestions and refer environmental issues to appropriate services and committees;
d) to develop new environment-conservation initiatives and make recommendations to the appropriate services and committees;
e) to appoint appropriate subcommittees and workgroups that may assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate in specific areas;
f) to devise an environmental literacy/ethics program for the McGill community, so that all staff, students and visitors may be sensitized to the need for responsible environmental management and motivated to participate in McGill’s plan;
g) to report at least annually to Senate and the Board of Governors, and to the University-at-large through the appropriate channels (e.g. The McGill Reporter) on goals and performance with respect to
i) purchasing policies and practices,
ii) energy conservation (electricity, water, oil, natural gas) and use of renewable energies;
iii) fuel use for University operations and transportation of students and staff to and from the University,
iv) waste reduction and management (reduce, re-use and recycling programs),
v) environmental safety, and
vi) conservation-design, operation and maintenance of buildings and grounds, and all other issues relevant to the Committee’s mandate.
Recommendations shall be brought back at the level of faculties, departments, and services.

It is recommended that the composition of the Committee shall be composed of:
- five members of the academic staff, including at least one from the Macdonald Campus, and one of whom shall serve as Chair of the Committee;
- five student members, one each from PGSS, SSMU, MCSS, MSE, and QPIRG;
- five members of the administrative and support staff, one each from Purchasing Services, Student Residences, the Environmental Safety Office, Facilities Management, and Printing Services.

It is recommended that the Senate Nominating Committee should first approach members of the current Environmental Policy Workgroup and that, wherever possible, the members of the Workgroup should be encouraged to serve on the permanent Senate Committee on the Environment.

Recommendation 2

The Principal shall report annually to Senate on the conformity of the University’s actions and practices with each of the principles of McGill’s Environmental Policy. Specific attention shall focus on steps taken to ensure that adequate funding is made available for the implementation of the University’s Environmental Policy and that this be reflected in the University’s operating budget.
Recommendation 3

a) The Board of Governors of McGill University shall report annually to Senate on whether the University’s endowment funds are invested according to the principles of McGill’s Environmental Policy.

b) The Pension Administration Fund shall report annually to Senate on whether the pension funds are invested according to the principles of McGill’s Environmental Policy.

Recommendation 4

The Senate Committee on the Environment shall commission a comprehensive environmental audit to:

a) determine the current status of environmental management in the University;

b) identify strengths and weaknesses of the Environmental management system;

c) establish priorities for the coming years;

d) serve as a benchmark for future evaluations of the University’s environmental management system.

Recommendation 5

A full-time environmental officer shall be appointed to:

a) promote and ensure the implementation of the University’s Environmental Policy and facilitate participation and coordinate action towards this end;

b) oversee environmental audits;

c) collect and disseminate relevant documentation and information;

d) prepare progress reports, assess needs and develop further pro-active initiatives;

e) submit budget requests for implementation of McGill’s Environmental Policy and related projects;

McGill’s environmental officer shall be guided by the Senate Committee on the Environment and report directly to the Principal.

Recommendation 6

The University’s Vice-Principals shall take steps to ensure the use of full-cost accounting to:

a) help managers make decisions that will reduce or eliminate their environmental costs;

b) better track environmental costs that may have been previously obscured in overhead accounts or otherwise overlooked;

c) better understand the Environmental costs and performance of processes for more accurate full-cost life-cycle budgeting, in particular as it applies to the full life-cycle of University buildings and property, and to promote more efficient and environmentally responsible operations;

d) broaden and improve the investment analysis and appraisal process to include potential environmental impacts; and

e) support the development and operation of a comprehensive environmental management system.

Recommendation 7

Faculties and the Academic Policy and Planning Committee of Senate shall identify the means by which a McGill education can best ensure that McGill graduates are environmentally literate and numerate.
Recommendation 8

The Research Policy Committee shall continue to establish regulations and guidelines to ensure that McGill researchers meet the requirements of each of the principles of McGill’s Environmental Policy.

Recommendation 9

The Senate Committee on Physical Development shall

a) propose to Senate an amendment to its mandate to reflect McGill’s Environmental Policy;

b) invite its Gardens and Grounds Subcommittee to develop and report on a program to phase out the use of harmful pesticides, seek alternatives to the use of outdoor salt; to encourage the use of compost and indigenous plants, and the planting of trees for natural air-conditioning; to reduce noise and odor pollution and the proliferation of posters on campus; and to initiate and support efforts to landscape forgotten spaces;

c) invite its Architectural Advisory Subcommittee to establish environmentally responsible norms for the design of new buildings and renovations to which architects should conform, and to report on ways whereby it proposes to apply McGill’s Environmental Policy to material use, and the conservation, remodeling, planning, and design of McGill campus buildings.

Recommendation 10

The Building and Property Committee of the Board of Governors shall propose to the Board of Governors amendments to its mandate to reflect McGill’s Environmental Policy (e.g. to cover such issues as environmental design, life-cycle costing of buildings, etc.)

Recommendation 11

The student societies of McGill University and interested students’ groups shall be encouraged to work together in an inter-body student council for the Environment to:

a) publicize and disseminate McGill’s Environmental Policy and other relevant information to the students and facilitate student involvement in implementing the Policy, fostering environmentally responsible behaviour;

b) assess needs, make demands, monitor progress on policy implementation, consult, and report to the Senate Committee on the Environment;

c) create permanent environmental positions within McGill’s student societies.

Recommendation 12

Given that an institutional Environmental Policy cannot be effective without full individual and community commitment, dedication, and action:

Staff, students, and visitors to McGill University shall be made aware of the implications of the University’s commitment to the protection of the Environment and of the requirement that each one of us re-think our daily ways and habits, work methods, and decisions, and act responsibly so as to minimize our negative impact on the Environment.