

## APPENDIX 1

### PERMACULTURE CLASSES AT MAC CAMPUS

#### **Sustainability Project Fund Application Form Requirements**

**Project Title:** Permaculture classes at Mac Campus

**Budget Requested:** \$2,000

**Applicant/Project Leader:** Lorine Dargazanli

Faculty/Department: McGill School of Environment

Email: lorine.dargazanli@mail.mcgill.ca

Daytime Phone: 514-562-5933

**Project Team:** Stephanus Rossouw

Faculty/Department: Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences/Plant Science Department

Email: stephanus.rossouw@mail.mcgill.ca

Daytime Phone: 483-934-8431

#### **I. Project Overview**

- Project summary

Our vision is to implement a permaculture curriculum - including theoretical classes and practical design application. The classes will consist of 8 sessions, to be held on alternate Saturdays from January to April 2014. Throughout these 8 sessions, students will be introduced to the permaculture principles and applications, and will also have the opportunity to discover the growing movement of permaculture and the projects that are already happening in Montreal. The classes will be facilitated by Stephanus Rossouw, MSc-student in Plant Science at McGill, who has years of practical and theoretical permaculture experience – see included résumé.

Additional teachers will include academic teachers (from McGill and Permaculture Institutes), and guest speakers presenting their projects and experience, in the area of Montreal. We aim to connect the growing community of inspired students at McGill (and especially Mac Campus), fueled by the energy of bringing positive change in our contemporary world.

- Project eligibility

Permaculture may be defined as the intersection of science, art, and ancestral wisdom that is concerned with the design of self-perpetuating and regenerative systems useful to the biosphere. The methodology may be applied to any dynamic system – for ex. agriculture, water management, energy,

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housing, finance, governance etc., and always focusses on a harmonious integration with the natural surroundings by mimicking the patterns and relationships inherent in nature. Permaculture is thus an ideal discipline to introduce to a wider audience for cultivating an ecological awareness and empowering students with practical tools to enhance sustainability on multiple scopes. The link with existing permaculture movements in and around Montreal will be particularly emphasized. Bringing sustainability on campus both theoretically (through knowledge for students) and concretely (with the implementation of a permaculture project) constitutes the core of the project.

Permaculture, though still relatively isolated from mainstream academia, has already made an impact in a number of universities, particular in the United States. Established permaculture curricula exist at North Carolina State University, Oregon State University, and Naropa University. There are already numerous permaculture clubs/societies at various universities such as Cornell University, Indiana University, and Manitoba University.

A prime example of what is possible may be sought in the extensive on-campus permaculture project that took place at University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The project was initiated by Ryan Harb, and transformed numerous marginal landscapes located on campus into edible gardens. This project was awarded the White House Champions of Change Challenge.

Institutes in permaculture are present worldwide, with significant establishments located in Australia and the United States. There are numerous permaculture institutes or projects in Canada, primarily located in British Columbia. Les Fermes Miracle Farms is a renowned 20 year-old permaculture orchard in Quebec owned and operated by Stefan Sobkowiak, a McGill alumni that is intent on collaborating with us on this project by providing a 3-hour lecture and tour of his farm.

Permaculture is only a term enlarging a wide range of concepts such as ecological agriculture, economic sustainability, ecosystem resiliency, green building, social justice; concepts which are already taught at McGill through different courses (AGRI350-Principle of Ecological Agriculture, ECON326-Ecological Economics, ARCH515-Sustainable Design...). This motivated our idea to provide the opportunity for students to discover this movement which connects all those principles within the same worldview.

Furthermore, we are experiencing an incredible growth of permaculture-related movements in and around Montreal, particularly with regards to agriculture, social community actions, and cooperative work (Les fermes Lufa, Garden without Boarders, Radical Montreal, Le Milieu, Ferme du Zephyr....); thereby creating a network of perspectives for students to get involved here. Our project to create a community permaculture garden on campus would be accomplished hand-in-hand with the experience and knowledge of other local leaders in the fields of permaculture, agroecology, and sustainability as a discipline.

- Timeframe/Milestones

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The project will be happening in the Winter 2014 semester, from beginning January to mid-April. Depending on the success and attendance, we have also in mind to reschedule it in the Fall 2014 semester. The classes will be taught on alternate Saturdays, from 10am to 1pm, in the Ceilidh located at Mac Campus. There will be 8 classes total, 4 being given by Stephanus Rossouw, and the rest by guest speakers. We already contacted several speakers: Graham Calder - teacher in Permaculture in Montreal, Wen Rolland - permaculture consultant in the area of Montreal, Stefan Sobkowiak - from the Miracle Farms in Cazaville, and Liza Charbel-from the association Garden without Boarder in Montreal. We are also inviting students, involved with MSEG in particular (Vincent Bonnet), for them to present how MSEG is integrating permaculture practices.

Lastly we are going to contact teachers at Mac Campus, already involved in bringing a change in our agricultural worldview.

The last sessions will be dedicated to the design of a permaculture garden.

The designed plot will be ideally realized with volunteer students next summer at Mac Campus, integrated within the MSEG field.

The potential education value of this garden as well as the creation of a local food source for students would strongly enhance the impact of our project in term of sustainability.

We plan furthermore to collaborate closely with MSEG, both for us to discover how permaculture is illustrated in their garden, and also for them to collect ideas or practices they could apply in their next season.

The attendance to classes will be free for everybody, and if our main goal is to target students from McGill, we also want to open our doors to the Sainte Anne community (in partnership with the Coop du Grand Olme), and to anyone interested to share and learn with us.

Our outreaching is currently mainly based on groups and associations at Mac Campus (MAEG, CERES, PGSS, Global Food Security), posters in the school buildings, and in public places in Sainte Anne (café, library, Coop). We are also working on a Facebook page (see

<https://www.facebook.com/Macpermacultureclasses>), a twitter account, and ways to integrate the Downtown community.

### • Stakeholders

The project is supported by MAEG (the Mac Agro-Ecology Group) which promote alternative agriculture practices through field trips, talks or movie screenings.

Having already planned some events for the Winter semester, MAEG will however not be able to cover 100% of our expenses which is why we are applying for the Sustainability Funding. The costs are entirely associated with the price of the guest speakers (which is around \$500/speaker for one class).

We (Lorine and Stephanus) do not ask monetary compensation for organizing and facilitating the classes. We will provide the possibility of donations, but we valued to make the attendance free, so as to really attract the broadest audience.

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### II. Project Implementation

Type of Activity – Task	Estimated Time Required	Group Member in Charge
Outreaching (web pages, posters...)	3h	Lorine
Classes preparation (contact with speakers)	20h	Lorine + Stephanus
Classes given	12h	Stephanus
Collaboration with MSEG to implement the garden	5h	Lorine

### III. Financial

Expense Description	Estimated Cost
Guest Speakers	\$500×4=\$2,000
Furniture, raw material (paper, pencils, earth, seeds, mycelium...)	\$200

Revenue Source	Amount Requested	Confirmed?
Sustainability Projects Fund	\$2,000	No
MAEG	\$200	YES

### IV. Additional information:

Please see included résumé for an overview of the facilitator's experience. We will be very happy to answer your questions, detail our project and we look forward further collaboration with the Office of Sustainability. Thank you for reading!

#### References:

Permaculture for agroecology: design, movement, practice, and worldviews. A Review, 2013, Rafter Fergusen & Sarah T. Lovell, Agronomy and sustainable development (open access online at Springerlink.com)

# Permaculture classes

Join us bi-monthly on Saturdays  
from January until April in the  
Ceilidh from 10 to 1, to

- Discover
- Learn
- Share
- Design



**Along with teachers, guest speakers,  
students, farmers in permaculture....**

*Coming next semester at Mac with MAEG...*

**FREE**

*Want to get involved? have more informations?  
contact: Faan (stephanus.rossow@mail.mcgill.ca) or  
Lorine (lorine.dargazanli@mail.mcgill.ca)*