



SP0170 Final Report

Please answer the following questions and return the completed form to the [SPF Staff](#) via e-mail.

Project Title: Kohlrabi Collective Unheated Greenhouse

Final Report prepared by: Mathieu Ouellet

E-mail: mathieu.ouellet2@mail.mcgill.ca

Actual Project Start Date: 4/15/2017 **Actual Project End Date:** 11/15/2017

1. Please summarize the project and its key accomplishments in 1-2 sentences.

(400 characters maximum)

The Kohlrabi Collective Unheated Greenhouse aimed at extending MSEG's growing season to increase local and organic vegetable availability on campus, as well as to increase educational opportunities in collaboration with different student groups

2. Your team listed the following goal in your application:

Expand the reach of the Kohlrabi Collective to increase the diversity and supply of student-grown sustainable food on both campuses for the McGill community and increase educational opportunities.

Did your team achieve your project's goal? In your answer, please describe the impact your project had on McGill's structures, processes, and/or systems. Also, please specify how this positively transformed people's behaviors/perspectives/habits on McGill campus(es).

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

In terms of production, the project was of significant help. We estimated that MSEG's gross production increased by 25% in 2017 and that 20% of the increase is attributable to the greenhouse. It was mostly due to the fact that we could manage all the seedlings on site rather than to have them half a kilometer away. I then allowed us to do more in less time and to reduce our losses. The fact that the greenhouse also served as a drying and curing facility for storage crops such as garlic, onions, winter squash and pumpkins also allowed us to produce more than we did in the past because we did not have that kind of post-harvest facility.

As for education, the fact that Farm to School was moved outside of McGill Campus reduced our opportunities for youth education. Nevertheless, the traffic triggered by the newly established MacDonald Permaculture Showcase Garden brought a lot of attention to our new facility. We gave 1 workshop during the fall and over 40 people visited the greenhouse.

3. Please describe the key successes and challenges of your project. (Minimum of two examples for each)

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

Successes: We were able to increase production, and to increase the availability of locally produced fresh organic vegetables on campus through partnerships with different student bodies. The overall volume of production is beyond what we originally thought.

We also perfected our abilities and knowledge in the management of two extremely important aspects of farming: Seedling stage and post-harvest of storage crops. All of us have now achieved a higher level of competence and confidence in this small-scale model.

Having the seedlings on site helped us reduce the distance driven by the truck from 1 to 5 km a day (on

planting days). This is a good amount of fossil fuels that were not used because of the project.

Challenges: Respecting the deadlines for constructions. We thoughts that the greenhouse would be completely finished by July 1st, but it took a couple weeks before all the pieces were put together. Finding time to put in the construction outside of all the countless farm tasks was a big challenge, especially considering the fact that two team members injured themselves during the summer.

Since we had to build it this year, we were not able to fit early season greens into the schedule because it was not ready on time. We now know that by having it available all year long and with by planning meticulously, we could also use it to extend the season, whether in the beginning or at the end, and have fresh leafy greens when it is not possible to grow them in the field.

4. What key points of advice or *lessons learned* would you give to other SPF teams either regarding your experience managing your project or the project itself?

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

I'd have to say that even with a researched and detailed plan and budget, you're never immunized from unplanned events. It could be injuries, weather, time, but also you might discover that your project can be optimized and modified after it actually had been approved. I would then recommend to plan a high portion of the budget for unplanned events/miscellaneous. Since you sometimes have to turn around quickly, this could allow you to minimize lost bureaucratic time and maximize productivity. I would also recommend to make sure that all your purchase should be made online, since it is the simplest way to deal with your SPF coordinator. You should also pass orders at least 2 weeks before you need a piece, because it can take a lot of time for different reason. Communication with your coordinator is also very important, and you solely rely on her for any materials you need. It is important that she is updated on whatever is going on to avoid any mishearing and to be sure that you are on the same page, especially if problems arise.

5. What recommendations do you have for the future of this project to be continued and are there any opportunities for complementary projects? Who will take responsibility for the project's future and how can interested persons be in touch? The SPF team will also be in touch with this contact for updates on the project's progress in coming years, if ongoing.

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum 1 paragraph)

The MSEG Team is there to stay on campus and its personnel is constantly evolving. I have no doubt that the new managers will take on and continue to use and maintain the greenhouse, as well as push harder to create educational opportunities on campus for students. They contributed to the implementation of the project and know everything about it. I also have no doubt that they will transmit the knowledge to their new apprentices in precise way. I'm sure all campus can continue benefit from this project and I would just recommend to make a plan early of how it's going to be exploited at its full potential next year.

6. Would you or your project team member(s) be willing to serve as a mentor to SPF project teams?

Please choose one. If yes, SPF Staff will contact you with more information. (800 characters maximum)

Yes No

No, we all are (or will be) outside the island of Montreal very soon we graduated (or are on the way to do so).

7. In your application, you listed the following sources of funding: MacDonald Student-Run Ecological Gardens, \$1,215

Please confirm if you received this funding in the space below. In your response, please list the actual amount (in dollars) that you received. Note: If you received funding from a McGill Department or Unit, please attach a letter from its Financial/Budget Officer confirming the actual amount of support.

(1,800 characters maximum)

I would even say MSEG invested more than that in wages for members that built the greenhouse. We stopped to count after we reached what we had plan for but it definitely used more of our time than we thought.

8. Did you purchase equipment or make an installation on campus? Yes No

If yes, please briefly describe how these items will be maintained and used in the future.

(1,800 characters maximum)

Yes, the greenhouse and its benches are situated on MSEG's field, but only about 5 months in a year. All the installation are at the moment stored in the swine building. All of it will be reinstalled next June by the next MSEG crew.

9. The following Key Success Indicators were indicated in your project application and selected for tracking. Please indicate the actual results that you have achieved in the "Actual" column.

Selected Key Success Indicators	Target	Actual
# of production protocols and checklists produced and distributed	1	1
# of newsletters produced and distributed	18	18
% of individuals responding the end-of-season survey satisfied with greenhouse production	80%	92%

If there is a significant difference in the target numbers and the actual numbers achieved, please explain. If you have any additional information to share about these success indicators, please also include it below.

(1,800 characters maximum)

We were happily surprised by the satisfaction level at the end of the year.

10. Please report on your results for the standard SPF Key Success Indicators in the "Actual" column.

Standard SPF Key Success Indicators	Actual #
# of volunteers directly or indirectly engaged in the project	5
# of people (student, staff, or other) trained in the context of the project	6
\$ raised for project activities subsequent to SPF funding	2000
# of partnerships or collaborations developed between the project team and other McGill administrative units, student groups, community groups, other universities, and/or other groups/organizations.	4

Regarding the last Key Success Indicator, please list the groups and/or organizations that you counted.

(Unlimited characters; point form acceptable.)

McGill Farmer's Market
 McGill Permaculture Club
 Open Air Pub
 Out of Garden Project

If you have any additional information to share about the Standard SPF Key Success Indicators, please include it below. (1,800 characters maximum)

The 2000\$ mark is an estimation

11. Please indicate the McGill stakeholder groups that were involved with your project as a team member or collaborator/partner. Choose all that apply.

- Undergraduate Postgraduate Administrative Staff Academic Staff Alumni

12. Please rate your project team’s overall satisfaction with the support provided by the SPF Staff. Choose only one response.

- Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied Satisfied Very Satisfied

13. Please provide any feedback or recommendations regarding your team’s experience with the SPF.

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum 1 paragraph)

Overall, we are very satisfied. Without the SPF, this project and all its benefits would not be there and this means a great deal for us. One comment that we have is that it was sometimes very difficult to buy things efficiently. Since we could not buy materials ourselves (without having to wait 3 months to get refunded), we always had to order everything, even the simplest things such a screws. Also, concerning Rona, the closest retailer to make online orders was in Longueuil. It did not feel very productive to invest an afternoon and gas money to go get 15\$ worth of screws when we could have just driven to Ile-Perrot and get them. The fact that we could not manage our budget ourselves completely was very unproductive at times.

14. If there is additional information you would like to share about your project, please use the field below.

(Unlimited characters)

15. Has involvement in this SPF project positively impacted your team in the area of professional growth?

Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below. (800 characters maximum)

- Yes No Prefer Not to Share

Having that type of body is essential in such a renowned university. We felt supported all summer long and are very grateful.

16. Has involvement in this SPF project positively impacted your team in the area of personal growth?

Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below. (800 characters maximum)

- Yes No Prefer Not to Share

It’s hard to say, but I would say yes. Just the fact of learning how to deal with funding request and having to deal with oney that you did not produce by your work is an experience. I’m sure it will be useful in the future.

17. Which of the following skills or attributes has your team improved through involvement in your SPF project? Choose all that apply.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Budgeting | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Listening | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Problem Solving |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conflict Resolution | <input type="checkbox"/> Negotiating | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Management |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Networking | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking |

Stakeholder Engagement

Teamwork

Writing

Stakeholder Identification

Technology

Other (Please specify in the field below)

Systems Thinking

Time Management

Other: Construction and Design

18. Since starting your SPF project, has your team improved its knowledge of sustainability?

Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below. (800 characters maximum)

Yes No Prefer Not to Share

In the specific context of small scale farming, yes.

19. (Optional) If applicable, please list the total number of team members voluntarily self-identifying as members of marginalized communities:

Please identify the represented communities below. (e.g. women, Indigenous people, people of colour, LGBTTQI, student parents, members of ethnic minorities, immigrants, people with disabilities)

(1,800 characters maximum)

Thank you for completing your Final Report!

Please e-mail your report to the [SPF Staff](#) attaching any additional information that you would like to share about your project (e.g. other reports, research, documents, photos, etc.). Please note that this Final Report will be shared publicly on your SPF project's webpage.