

PROJECT OVERVIEW + PLAN

Instructions: Please answer the questions as clearly and concisely as possible; then, submit your draft online. SPF Staff will respond with feedback on your application within two weeks. Once finalized, the application will be provided to the SPF Governance Council for their review and decision. As a reminder, all SPF applications are assessed using the [SPF Eligibility & Evaluation Criteria](#):

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA		EVALUATION CRITERIA		
AT MCGILL	SUSTAINABILITY FOCUSED	ANALYSIS	IMPACT	FEASIBILITY
SEED FUNDING	ACTION ORIENTED	COLLABORATION	SUPPORT	CAPACITY BUILDING

Before starting, you may find it helpful to consult the [SPF Sustainability Brief](#) and the [Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025](#).

CONTEXT

Criteria assessed in this section: **SUSTAINABILITY FOCUSED, ANALYSIS**

- 1. What specific sustainability-related need/issue have you identified at McGill and aim to address through your project? In your response, please describe clearly how the need/issue is related to sustainability and what research you have done on this issue.** *Note: Please wait to detail your project idea in Question 2. Limit ~200 words*

At the Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research there are over 200 researchers and about 175 graduate students from McGill working in laboratory and clinical research settings. Most of these laboratories order temperature-sensitive goods that come packaged in styrofoam (extruded polystyrene foam) containers. While some of these can be repurposed, most are thrown out as waste because this kind of material cannot be recycled through Montreal's municipal recycling program. Through an audit over the course of one week we determined that two 360 litre bags of styrofoam waste were going to be thrown in the garbage at the Lady Davis Institute. The appended image shows this collected styrofoam contained in smaller bags (about 200L). Assuming this is a typical amount of waste, over 37,000 litres-worth of styrofoam may be entering the environment from our facility every year. We believe that this is an important avenue to target for recycling which will help reduce the amount of non-biodegradable waste entering our ecosystem.

PROJECT IDEA

Criteria assessed in this section: **ALL ELIGIBILITY & EVALUATION CRITERIA**

- 2. What is your project idea? Please describe the idea thoroughly and concisely. Identify how SPF funding will be used, key contributions to sustainability at McGill, and, if your project is happening in different stages, core phases of the project.** *Note: You may also share how the project is new or how it complements, builds upon, or scales existing initiatives. Limit ~400 words*

We hope to institute styrofoam recycling at the LDI, given the large amount of styrofoam waste which is thrown in the garbage from research laboratories and the environmental impact of this waste. Individual laboratories will only need to put styrofoam waste outside of their rooms once or twice every week, depending on need. Then at least two GLI members, who will take turns with rotations occurring weekly, or volunteers will collect the polystyrene and store it in large bags in the sub-basement of the Lady Davis Institute, at a location we have gained permission to use for this purpose. Once we have nearly filled that space we will contact the recyclers (Group Gagnon) and arrange a pickup. Each pickup will have a flat cost, with additional fees applied per bag being transported. On the day of pickup at least one GLI member, selected on a rotating basis, will bring the bags outside to be loaded. Group Gagnon is a Quebec-based company that has been diverting polystyrene from landfills since 2017. They will condense and pulverize the material and then repurpose it in one of several ways, for example by building street furniture. In addition to this, we hope to raise awareness about this issue, while also promoting the new recycling program in order to make this a part of the regular recycling mandates of the Lady Davis Institute for future years.

UNDER \$5,000 APPLICATION FORM

3. Is your project related to the University's [Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025](#)? Yes No
4. Is your project related to the University's [Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Strategic Plan 2020-2025](#)? Yes No
5. If you answered yes to Question 3 or 4, how does it relate? Please refer to the relevant strategy category, theme, goal, and/or action in your response. *Limit ~200 words*

Our project is in line with the waste management category of the university's climate and sustainability strategy. Our project will lead to recycling of materials (styrofoam) which are currently thrown in the garbage and end up in landfills, leading to negative impacts on ecosystems and populations in Canada and around the world.

IMPLEMENTATION

Criteria assessed in this section: **ACTION ORIENTED, FEASIBILITY, IMPACT**

6. List the key **activities** for your project and indicate the timing for these on the right. Please be specific and realistic when formulating your activities, ensuring that they are achievable within the indicated timeframe.

Key Project Activities	Start Date (DD-MM-YY)	End Date (DD-MM-YY)
Raising awareness for the program - sharing information for recycling	2022-12-01	2023-06-1
Ongoing weekly LDI pickup of styrofoam recycling	2023-01-01	2023-12-31
Ongoing monthly styrofoam recycling pickup by Groupe Gagnon	2023-01-01	2023-12-31
Educational Awareness Campaigns	2023-09-01	2023-12-31
Project Proposal to LDI Administration	2023-09-01	2023-12-31

7. Please describe what will happen to your project after the SPF funding ends. Additionally, please share if anything will be produced or installed (e.g. a workshop guide, equipment, a toolkit, a network, website, etc.) and indicate future maintenance plans. *Limit ~200 words*

Once the project has been running successfully for 2-3 months, we will prepare a document to instruct future GLI members in the nature of the project, how best to continue the work, and any other relevant information. This will provide practical support for continuing the recycling effort. After our funding ends, we will present our overall waste reduction accomplishments for the year in a proposal to the Lady Davis Institute administration in the hopes of getting their support (financial and otherwise) to continue this program as a part of their regular waste management program. We also hope to share our accomplishments at the annual Green Lab Initiatives conference to promote this program at other sites at McGill University.

TRANSFORMING CAMPUS

Criteria assessed in this section: **AT MCGILL, IMPACT**

8. In the table below, describe your proposed project's 1-3 main impacts on the McGill community or its main goals to accomplish. Please check the McGill stakeholders that will be impacted. Finally, list at least one key **success indicator** for each impact (e.g. # people engaged, % waste diverted, # buildings certified, etc.). *Note: Indicate a realistic target for each success indicator (e.g., rather than "# people engaged," list a target such as "50 people engaged").*

Main Impacts/Goals	McGill Stakeholders Impacted (check all that apply)	Key Success Indicator(s)
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REQUIRED	1	Recycle styrofoam produced in the LDI equivalent to 100x360 Liter bags.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Academic Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Postgraduate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admin. Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Alumni	≥80% of goal achieved
OPTIONAL	2	Set-up a long-term recycling program at the LDI with funding from the institution.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Academic Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Postgraduate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admin. Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Alumni	Funding for continuation of the program
	3		<input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate <input type="checkbox"/> Academic Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Postgraduate <input type="checkbox"/> Admin. Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Alumni	

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Criteria assessed in this section: **AT MCGILL, COLLABORATION, SUPPORT, CAPACITY BUILDING**

9. Please list 3-5 key stakeholders involved in your project, indicating their role and support. If the stakeholder has provided a support letter, please indicate so here and attach it as an appendix document. *Note: Projects involving modifying a space on campus, making a permanent installation, hiring a full-time staff, or adding/modifying a garden, etc., must seek permission from the appropriate stakeholder(s) (e.g. building director, Campus Planning and Development Office, staff supervisor, etc.). SPF Staff can help you assess if any key stakeholders need to be added to your list.*

Stakeholder's Name(s)	Title	Role in the Project	Support/Permission	Support Letter
Mike Giavonnazo	Facility Coord.	Storage space for collections	Confirmed	N/A
Dr. Stephen Robbins	Institute Dir.	Institutional contact	Confirmed	No
Juliet Guay	GLI LDI Rep.	Project Manager	Confirmed	No
			Choose one.	Choose one.
			Choose one.	Choose one.

10. How will you communicate about your project and share its impacts with the McGill community? Please describe your key tactics (e.g. social media, workshops, tabling, etc.). *Limit ~200 words*

Firstly, GLI representatives will go to labs in person to share information about this initiative before beginning the program. Later we will make use of our social media accounts (twitter/facebook/instagram) to promote our styrofoam recycling program and the importance of recycling in general. Posters (both paper and digital posters that can be put up on TV screens around the Lady Davis Institute) will be produced to further disseminate our message and promote the recycling program. Finally, We will also include information about the program in presentations for new students during orientation. The same methods will be used to share the impact of the program later by describing approximately how much material we have diverted and how this impacts the environment.

11. If applicable, are there any training, volunteer opportunities, jobs, or complementary applied student research integrated in your project? Please describe. *Limit ~100 words*

Since our program will be entirely student run for this first pilot year, we will provide other students at the Lady Davis Institute with the opportunity to volunteer for our weekly styrofoam collection pickups.

APPENDIX

Relevant Support Documents

List any appendix documents in order in the table below.

Please keep the total number of pages as low as possible (recommended maximum is 5). Please include any relevant support letters.

Doc #	Appendix Document Title	# of Pages
1	Styrofoam containers collected in one week	1
2	Dr. Robbins confirmation of support	2
3		
4		
5	Staff Position Information Appendix , if applicable	