

# Sustainability Projects Fund

## Annual Report 2013

# HISTORY



Founded in 2009, the SPF is a beacon of collaboration between McGill students and administration. That year, students voted to allot a \$0.50 per credit fee, which was matched dollar-for-dollar by the administration, to form one of the largest sustainability funds in North America. To date, the SPF has allocated some \$3 million to finance over 120 unique sustainability initiatives across both McGill campuses.

The Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) was created to help build a culture of sustainability at McGill. With an estimated \$840,000 each year in funding, the SPF provides the McGill community with the financial resources, institutional knowledge, and network of relationships to promote such a culture. It was created for an initial three-year pilot period, which served as the basis for future decisions regarding possible extensions and changes to the fund. This past spring, McGill students voted for the renewal of the SPF for another five years. Students of the Post-Graduate Students' Society voted 65 per cent in favor of renewing the SPF, while undergraduates belonging to the Students' Society of McGill University voted 88 per cent in favour, and Macdonald Campus Students' Society, 78 per cent. The McGill administration has also maintained its commitment to the fund, once again providing full matching.

The renewal of the SPF underlines the support and enthusiasm for sustainability across the University – and is proof that the concept behind the SPF is sound. Iconic projects like the McGill Farmers' Market, Aboriginal Awareness Week and the La Cave bike collective have become mainstays of campus culture. Given opportunity and funding, visionary individuals are taking their ideas and implementing them in a collaborative way. Over 80 per cent of SPF funded projects have teams composed of staff, faculty and students.

Over the past year, the SPF has provided funding for 31 projects spanning 10 themes. This annual report is an effort to track and communicate the impacts of these projects. For a summary of impacts from prior years, see: <http://www.mcgill.ca/sustainability/vision-2020-sustainability-strategy/governance-administration>.

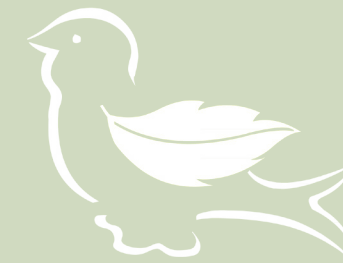
## OUR MANDATE

To fund projects led by students and staff of McGill University that will build a culture of sustainability among our campus community.

## OUR VISION

A McGill campus community working together, in transformative and engaging ways, towards a shared vision for a flourishing future.

# UNDERSTANDING SUSTAINABILITY



*“McGill University aspires to achieve the highest possible standards of sustainability on its campuses and in its day-to-day activities through its academic practices, in its facilities and their operations, and by its outreach to the broader community.”*

- McGill Sustainability Policy, 2010

In October of 1987, Our Common Future, also known as the Brundtland Report, was published by the World Commission on Environment and Development, and the term sustainable development was officially defined for the global community:

*“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”<sup>1</sup>*

Since this influential beginning, sustainability has shed its explicit connection to development and expanded into an interdisciplinary dialogue on social, economic, and ecological wellbeing.<sup>2</sup> The rich diversity of contemporary approaches to sustainability, however, means that a universally agreed-upon definition of the word remains elusive. While basic principles, such as the consideration of interconnected systems over longer time scales, are common across the board, actions are often tailored to local scenarios.

Here at McGill, the Sustainability Policy (2010) asserts that the mission of the University “will be attained responsibly by carrying out its activities in a manner that achieves a balance between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability.” With this in mind, we can define sustainability for our purposes as working together toward a shared vision for a flourishing future in a manner that considers social, economic, and environmental dimensions. These dimensions form the foundation of Vision 2020: A Sustainability Strategy for McGill University (2014), and are well aligned with the norms established by organizations such as the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and the Global Reporting Initiative.

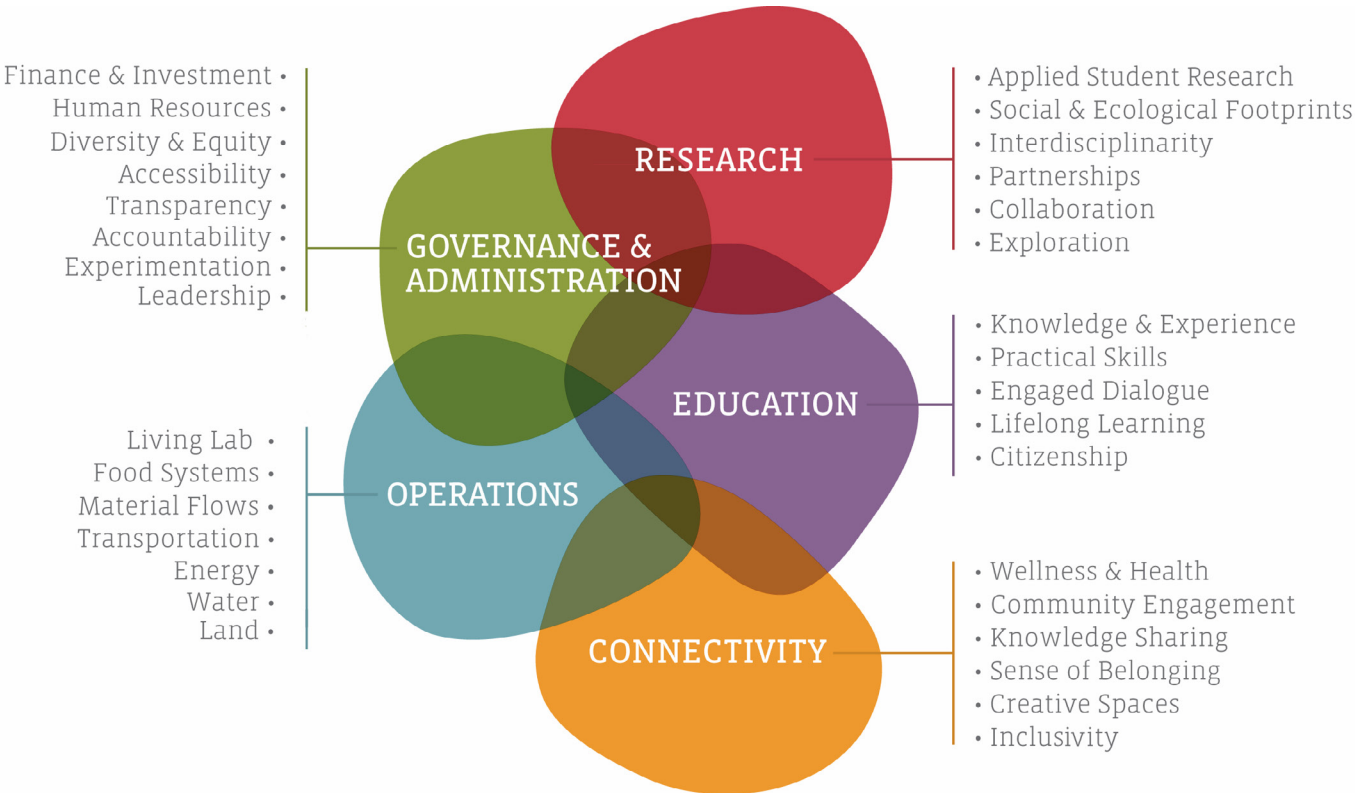
<sup>1</sup> United Nations. 1987. Our Common Future; The World Commission on Environment and Development. Available: [conspect.nl/pdf/Our\\_Common\\_Future-Brundtland\\_Report\\_1987.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/pubs/pdf/082017en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Adams, W.M. 2006. The Future of Sustainability: Re-thinking Environment and Development in the Twenty-first Century. Available: [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)

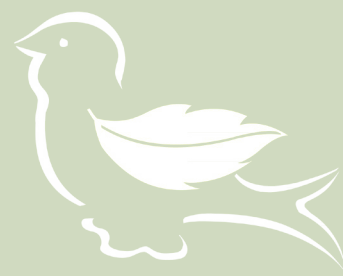
# FIVE CATAGORIES OF SUSTAINABILITY AT MCGILL



Here at McGill we take a broad view of sustainability. It's not just green, and it's not just about our operations. Sustainability involves recognizing the interdependence and complexity of systems. In many cases, moving toward a sustainable future will involve building connections and breaking down boundaries. We frame sustainability around five key ways through which a university can make a difference to society: research, education, connectivity, operations, and governance & administration. This framework for sustainability is integrated into the Sustainability Projects Fund evaluation criteria for applicants.



# APPLICATION PROCESS



## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

*Projects must:*

- Contribute to the advancement of sustainability at McGill, from a life-cycle perspective
- Primarily impact the McGill campus community
- Be led by a current McGill student or (academic or administrative) staff member
- Not be normally funded within an existing University operating budget
- Not be eligible for research grants (evaluated case-by-case)
- Have S.M.A.R.T. objectives: specific, measurable, agreed-upon, realistic and time-limited

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

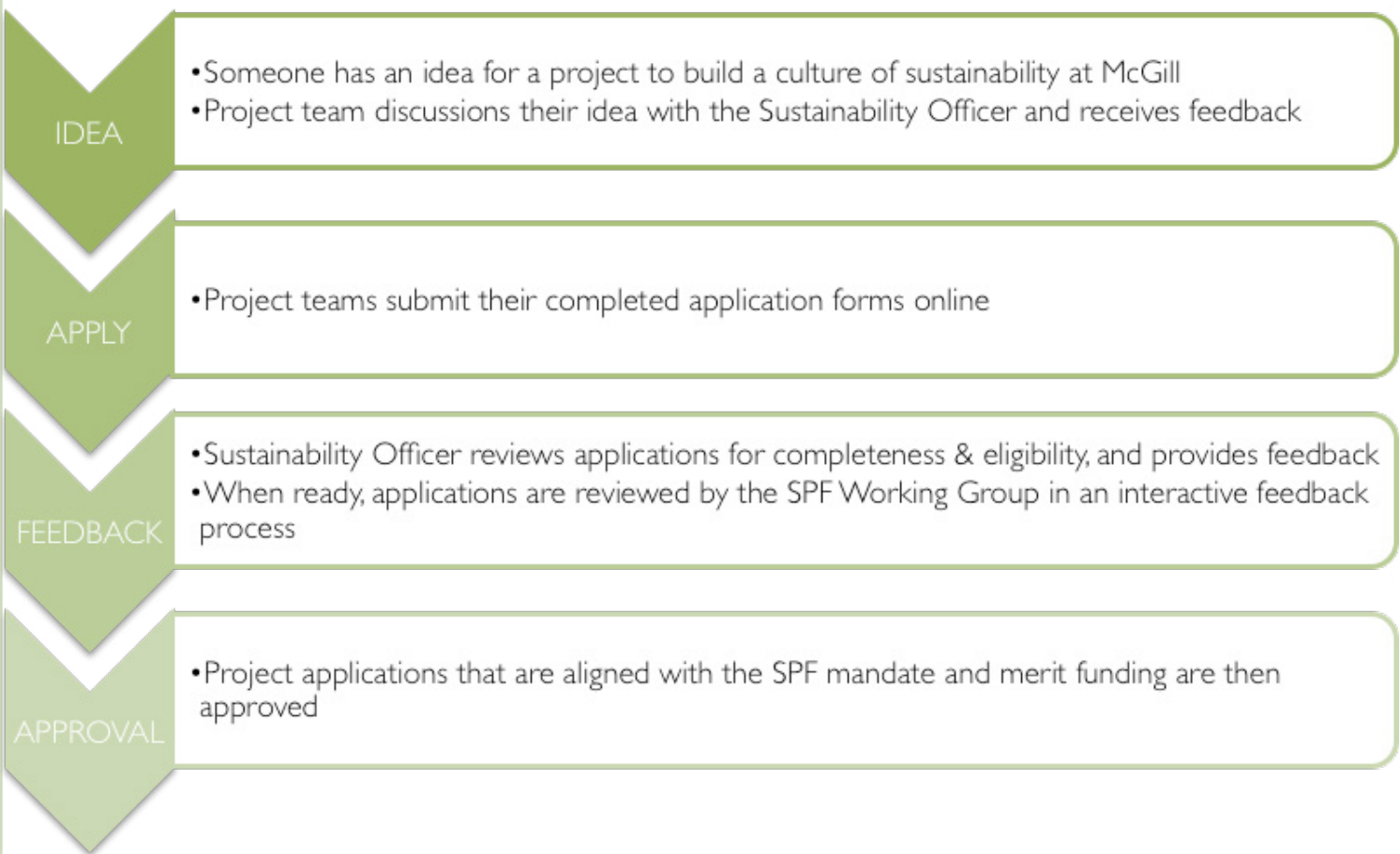
Projects must align with the mission of the Sustainability Projects Fund: to build a culture of sustainability among the McGill campus community. Toward this effort, they must:

1. Shift business as usual at McGill
2. Engage the McGill community at large, one community segment, or key decision makers
3. Effectively communicate why the project is being undertaken
4. Nurture learning and change in behavior

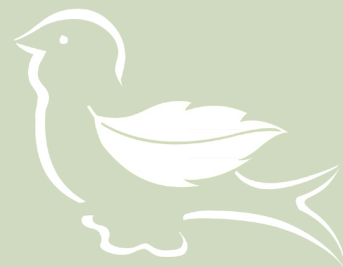
## Applications must:

5. Address how the project aligns with Vision 2020, McGill's sustainability strategy
6. Demonstrate clear commitment from project team members and all necessary partners
7. Be comprehensive and well thought-out
8. Demonstrate that the positive impact of the project is worth the investment
9. Address the potential for institutionalization by providing a long-term vision, which may include identifying future leaders and funding sources
10. Provide a plan to evaluate the project's success and impact
11. Identify other potential benefits, such as applied student research, innovation, etc.

# APPLICATION PROCESS



# APPLICATION PROCESS



## **SPF FUNDING PROCESS**

The Sustainability Projects Fund is financed partly by a ‘non-opt-out-able’ student fee of \$0.50 per credit (with a maximum of \$15/year). Funds collected from students are matched by the McGill administration. The estimated annual total of the fund is \$840,000. Any unspent funds remaining from one year will be rolled over into the Fund balance of the subsequent year. No moneys from this Fund may be allocated to any project or undertaking that does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Sustainability Projects Fund Working Group.

## **SPF FUND ALLOCATION**

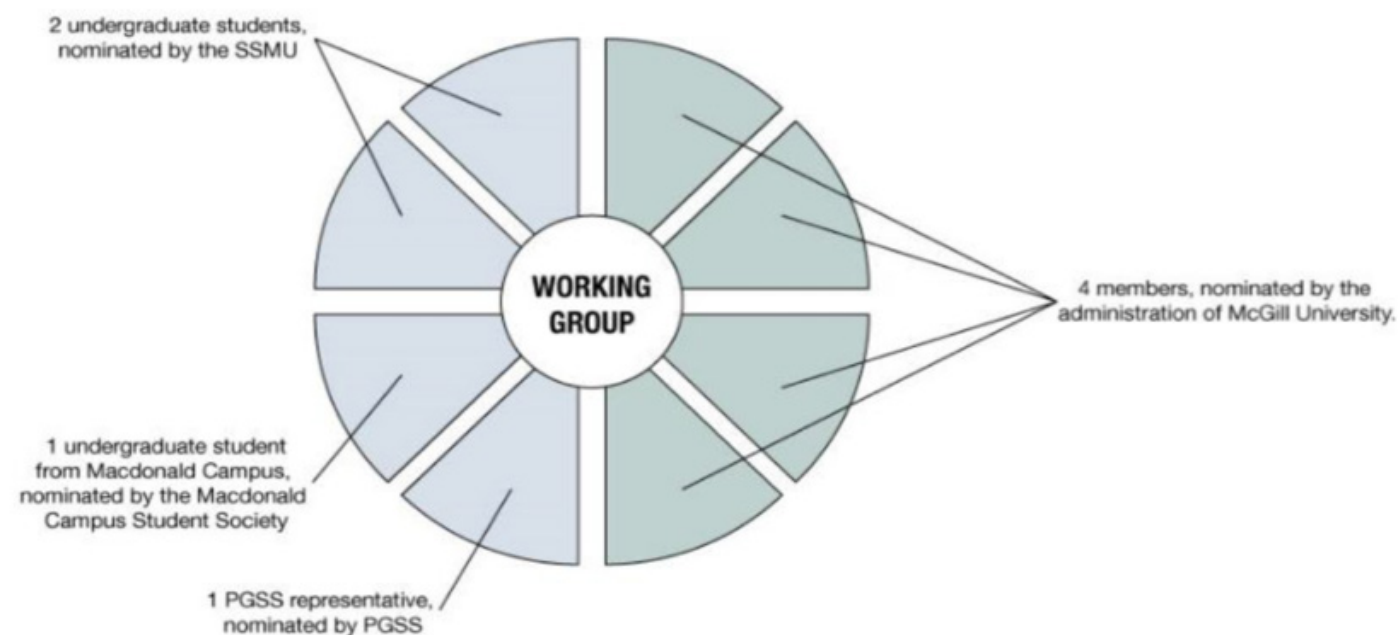
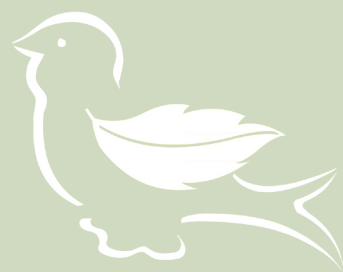
The Fund monies will be dedicated to a wide variety of student- and staff-led sustainability projects. A portion of the Fund monies will be reserved for the following overhead purposes:

- To hire a Sustainability Projects Fund Administrator and other staff as required (as determined by the SPF Working Group in consultation with the Office of Sustainability) for the term of the Fund, as well as student intern positions in tandem with these staff. These staff will reside in the Office of Sustainability and will serve functions that include stewarding of the SPF Working Group, coordinating applied student research, facilitating the SPF application process, ensuring that approved SPF projects are executed as planned, and monitoring and reporting on sustainability accomplishments achieved through the SPF.
- To cover the costs of outreach materials and events.
- An evaluation process to ensure the impact of the SPF is thoughtfully monitored and reported on by both staff and a periodic arm’s length review committee.

The balance of Fund monies will be dedicated to sustainability projects that align with the above criteria.



# THE SPF WORKING GROUP



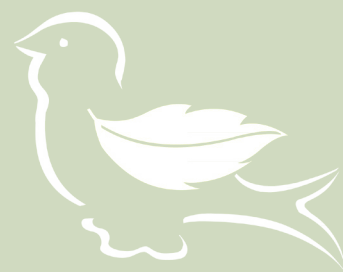
Each project is reviewed by the parity (half-student and half-staff) Sustainability Projects Fund Working Group (WG) in order to ensure its alignment with the SPF mandate. The WG is responsible for governing the SPF, reviewing and approving project applications by consensus, and providing feedback and guidance to project teams. The WG is comprised of four student representatives and four administrative representatives (two faculty and two administrative staff) at any given time. Representatives are chosen based on their experience with and commitment to sustainability efforts at McGill.

The Sustainability Officer and SPF Administrator act as liaisons between the WG and project teams. They are also responsible for ensuring that approved projects are executed as planned, advising on all SPF processes, and reporting on the challenges and achievement of SPF projects. Additionally, the Sustainability Officer acts as steward to the SPF Working Group.

During review meetings, any working group member in conflict of interest with the project being reviewed does not take part in the review process for that project.

*Current Steward of the SPF Working Group: Lilith Wyatt, Sustainability Officer*  
*Current Chair of the SPF Working Group: Martin Kraye von Krauss, Sustainability Director*

# NUMBERS AND IMPACTS



## 2013 DATA <sup>3</sup>

o Total # of applications received:	65
o Total amount of money applied for:	\$1,645,677
o Amount of money allocated <sup>4</sup> :	\$670,381
o Total # of funded (approved) projects:	31
o Total # of rejected projects:	11
o Percentage of projects led by staff/students:	60 by students (45%), 74 by staff (55%)

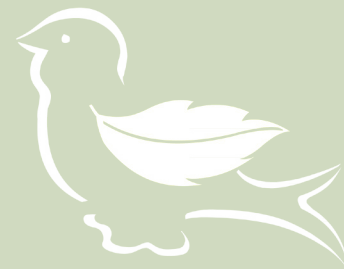
## 2013 IMPACTS

- o Events hosted: 105
- o Total event participants: 1812
- o Volunteers: 53
- o Departments engaged: 27
- o Students receiving credit for projects: 27
- o Courses linked to projects: 13
- o Community partners: 91
- o Jobs created: 21
- o Reports and papers published: 4
- o 12 lectures published
- o Students in courses with integrated SPF learning materials: 300
- o 25,000kg of food produced locally and delivered
- o 8 local farms supported
- o 250 kg of honey extracted and sold
- o 4,000L of gasoline saved, 100L of oil, 4,700kg reduction in GHG emissions
- o 34 learning modules written
- o 3 ASR opportunities created
- o 55,000L of waste diverted from landfills

<sup>3</sup>From 13-167 – 13-231

<sup>4</sup>Approved budgets from SP0092 onward

# NUMBERS AND IMPACTS



With the recent renewal (Winter 2013) of the Sustainability Projects Fund following its three-year pilot period, the opportunity has been granted to continue efforts for a further five-year period. Since last year, we – the SPF Working Group, staff and interns – have reflected on the SPF and its processes, seeking feedback from the McGill campus community, particularly via the arms-length Review Committee. This feedback has helped to evaluate the pilot period and to inform recommendations for the next five years.

The Sustainability Projects Fund is no longer a pilot project. It is now an established mechanism to provide seed funding to projects with the potential to advance sustainability at McGill, and its practices and processes have matured as a result.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

One of the key recommendations of the Review Committee was to allocate more resources to communications and outreach. We have done so, by increasing our web capacity, hiring an SPF outreach intern, and prioritizing the SPF in all of our sustainability communications. The communications team has successfully leveraged social media and has helped the SPF undergo a thorough web redesign. This was necessary to advance our goals of reaching out to staff, students and faculty. This communications push has resulted in a dramatic increase in applications, as well as increased interest from professors who have begun to see the SPF as relevant to their core research and teaching activities.

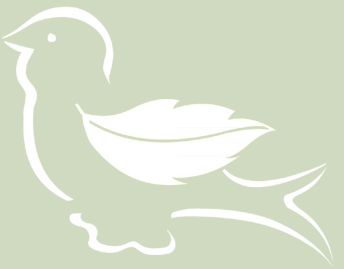
## **INSTITUTIONALIZING PROJECTS**

We are delighted with the success of this outreach effort. We are, however, still learning to manage its effect—namely, an increase in the number of applications received. In addition to being more numerous, recent applications vary widely in their maturity and degree of alignment with the SPF's funding criteria. They also reflect a broad understanding of what constitutes sustainability. In response to this, the SPF Working Group is grappling with its mandate and evaluation criteria, and is beginning to articulate norms (e.g. not providing funding for one-time events or travel to competitions) that preserve the focus of the SPF as a source of seed funding for projects that have potential to build a culture of sustainability at McGill through institutionalization over time. We have also recently been concentrating more on building financial literacy among projects—for example, by educating them in budgeting and tracking expenses. This, again, helps the projects to become self-sustaining and institutionalized.

## **OVERHEAD**

The Review Committee also highlighted as problematic the fact that during the pilot period SPF overhead costs were being kept artificially low. While this presented a superficially healthy picture, it was an unsustainable situation because the successful operation of the Fund relied on outside sources of support for some key services. Some of the true costs of running the SPF were being borne by the operating budget of the Office of Sustainability (e.g. outreach & communications support) while others (e.g. financial & record-keeping support) were being financed as projects of the Fund, rather than overhead costs. The SPF Working Group has now approved an annual overhead of up to 16%, which compares favourably with best practices in the non-profit sector and better reflects the real costs of running the Fund.

# NUMBERS AND IMPACTS



We embark on our new five-year mandate full of plans and energy. In addition to continuing to review our evaluation criteria and processes, we are also undertaking a project to better document and clarify the Fund's operations through a review of all our documents (e.g. evaluation criteria, application form, etc) and the development of updated ones when needed. As we build a sizable base of past and current projects, we are also exploring ways to analyze what makes individual projects successful. We have noticed some characteristics that effective projects have in common, in the future, we plan to do more rigorous analysis in this area. To date the top three are:

1. Collaboration between various stakeholders (faculty, students, staff, external community, alumni) to use projects as a chance to build community and change how things are done at McGill.
2. Doing the research to connect with like-minded people or those required for the project to advance, define the problem together, understand the current situation, and then develop a solution.
3. Approaching the campus as a living lab by using the campus as a sandbox for rich, experiential learning, that can in turn improve the campus itself.

The next five years will no doubt bring further lessons. We look forward to continuing to learn how to maintain a transparent and accountable Sustainability Projects Fund that helps transition McGill University toward a flourishing future.

## **CONTRIBUTORS**

*Jassi Pannu, Reporting and Outreach Intern*

*Keelin Elwood, Multimedia Associate*

*Julia Solomon, Senior Communications Specialist*

*Lilith Wyatt, Sustainability Officer*

*Jameson Jones-Doyle, Sustainability Projects Fund Administrator*



# The Projects



This report covers all projects from the Three Year Report (completed in March 2013) up to December 2013. This and other previous reports can be found here:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/sustainability/vision-2020-sustainability-strategy/governance-administration/spf-reports>.

## Sustainability Symposium 3

SPF 092	The 2013 edition of the McGill Sustainability Symposium, “Adapting to a Changing Climate”, took place March 14th. It featured guest speakers, a poster session, presentations of student work, and a “world-cafe” round table discussion. We were joined this year by keynote speakers Dr. David Wolfe (of Cornell University) and Dr. Lea Berrang Ford (McGill University). The symposium provided all McGill students with the opportunity to engage in an interdisciplinary discussion on sustainability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 84 attendees</li><li>• 14 departments represented</li><li>• Students from both Downtown and Macdonald campuses</li><li>• 5 faculty members presenters</li><li>• 20 student presenters</li></ul>
Completed		
\$9,250		

## Montréal à Votre Service... Écologique

SPF 093	McGillians and Montrealers rely on ecosystem services (ES) – the benefits people obtain from ecosystems – but we are often unaware of their importance in our daily lives. We will create a bilingual blog to tell the stories of Montreal’s ES. Our goal is to engage with and educate McGillians and Montrealers about the ES they use. We will produce at least two stories each week, with many contributions from McGill clubs and classes, create an interactive map of ES used and produced on the island, and train undergraduate students as project ambassadors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 200 monthly page views</li><li>• 2 posts per week</li><li>• 500 Twitter followers</li><li>• 6 media interviews</li></ul>
Active		
\$30,130		

## Macdonald Student-Run Ecological Gardens 4

SPF 094	The McGill Student-run Ecological Gardens (MSEG) is a student-initiated and student-run group dedicated to ecological agriculture. MSEG’s vision is to feed academic investigation into ecological agriculture by cultivating land for sustainable vegetable production on university grounds. MSEG is committed to connecting and helping groups that work towards local and sustainable food sourcing for McGill and Macdonald food systems. By bringing together students, staff, and members of the community through workshops, market stands, education, and employment opportunities, MSEG strives to become a living laboratory for ecological food systems and practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 27 students receiving credit for the project</li><li>• 13 courses linked to the project</li><li>• 77 community partners</li><li>• 9 jobs created</li><li>• 33 events held with 325 attendees</li></ul>
Active		
\$22,811		

# The Projects



## McGill Energy Project 2

SPF 095	The McGill Energy Project is a student-led cooperation of students, faculty and staff working together to find ways to use the McGill University Campus as a living laboratory for applied research with the objective of developing energy solutions for a sustainable future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Construct a sustainable energy “Applied Student Research learning outcomes list”</li><li>• Co-host “Code Jam @ McGill”</li></ul>
Active		
\$3,962		



## Childcare Access Study

SPF 096	The McGill downtown campus currently has a serious shortage of available child care spots. This undoubtedly impacts child care accessibility for both graduate students and professors. Unfortunately, there has been no formal research examining the nature or extent of this problem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Publish an informative report</li><li>• 16 research study participants</li><li>• 485 hours worked by student researcher</li></ul>
Active		
\$7,320		

# The Projects



## Library Multi Bins

SPF 097

Active

\$28,750

The McGill Library Sustainability Working Group was formed in March 2012. We are a group of librarians, library assistants, and administrators working to green library operations and to support social sustainability, as well as sustainability research and education at McGill. We are applying for funds to continue, and build on, the excellent work begun by TEVA.

The McGill Library's Sustainability Working Group would like to convert the remaining three library branches the same successful centralized multibin system that was implemented in five branches in during the Winter 2012 term. The remaining three branches are the Islamic Studies Library, the Macdonald Campus Library, and the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, which, as the largest library on campus, functions as McGill's "main library".

- 3 public events per month
- 25 bins added to library public spaces
- 10 bins added to library staff spaces
- 46 new recycling bin signs



## Dew Water Harvesting

SPF 098

Active

\$38,950

Rainwater collection can be a remarkable source of freshwater for irrigation and other purposes. But the only problem is – it has to rain! We intend to build a unique and fully functional dew water harvesting system, which can collect water on both rainy and dry days. The system will be put in place at the Horticultural Research Center, on the Macdonald Campus, and will complement the current rainwater harvesting system. Water is a precious resource, not only for farming, but for the general public as well. We envision the dew water system to act as a hands-on teaching and training tool for students and the public to learn about sustainable water management. Our team consists of Dr. Bahaa Khalil, Professors Adamowski, Prasher and Lefsrud, and two graduate students (Mr. Amin Ahmadfard and Ms. Kate Reilly). Installation of the unit system is expected to be complete by September 2013, and will be followed by a series of short lectures about interesting, unconventional and sustainable sources of waters (like dew water).

- 300 students in courses with integrated SPF learning materials
- Publish 2 papers
- 60 event attendees

# The Projects



## McGill Feeding McGill 4

SPF 099

Active

\$30,607

The objective of the project is to provide locally grown fruits and vegetables from the Macdonald Campus's Horticultural Center to McGill's downtown residences and the general student community.

- 25,000kg of food produced and delivered

## Farm to School

SPF 100

Complete

\$1,298

The farm to school project seeks to re-establish the link between the food students eat, and where it comes from, through the medium of hands-on constructive education. The pilot project is in collaboration with the elementary school Joseph-Henricot located in Baie- d'Urfé, where learning will take place through the establishment and integration of a schoolyard garden.

Our goal is to bring context back to the knowledge surrounding agriculture as sustenance in children's lives. This project is headed under the course AGRI 482 Special topics: Education and school gardens with Dr. Caroline Begg.

- 1 permanent garden plot in the schoolyard, used to teach students
- 34 learning modules written
- 7 activity days for children held

## McGill Apicultural Association

SPF 101

Active

\$10,360

For such tiny creatures bees are incredibly important, and not just for your sweet tooth. These hardworking insects also make beeswax and pollinate almost a third of everything we eat. The McGill Apicultural Association is a student club founded in 2007 to promote beekeeping as an important aspect of human interaction with the natural world. Besides training new beekeepers in the art of keeping bees, the MAA promotes related goals of informing the public about environmental issues facing honey bee populations as well as wild pollinators. We also offer workshops, public events, and produce honey and lip balm sold at farmers markets and across McGill's two campuses.

- 3 interns hired
- Sold honey at 5 locations
- 250 kg of honey extracted and sold
- Expanded to 15 hives
- Free weekly workshops



# The Projects



## Reducing Chemical Lab Waste

SPF 102

Active

\$40,318

Getting to experiment with chemicals in amazing ways is one of the exciting aspects of being a science student. But multiply the chemicals used in one experiment by hundreds of students, doing experiments every day, and you've got a whole lot of hazardous waste on your hands. What we want to know is - what are the environmental implications involved in the handling, transportation, treatment and incineration of this hazardous waste? Armed with this knowledge, we will develop managerial, chemical and education ways to reduce the negative impacts we find. Just a few possible solutions include solvent recycling, acid-base neutralization and other changes to standard operating procedures. Cost-benefit and environmental impact analyses will also be performed, to demonstrate possible economic incentives for these sustainable improvements.

- 1 research report written
- 1 solvent recycler purchased
- Acetone recycling program launched
- 1 waste minimization guide published

## McGill Waste Project

SPF 103

Completed

\$4,725

The 40,000 strong McGill community produces mountains of waste each day – anything from food packaging, to chemical waste, to animal carcasses. This waste is disposed of through a multitude of different systems, all of which ensure that you never have to see the waste that you produce. The McGill Waste Project aims to bring much needed visibility to the issue of waste at McGill. Our team researches waste systems and raises awareness through videos and infographics. We also create applied student research opportunities through partnerships with staff and faculty, to create new solutions for waste sustainability on campus.

- 5 videos created
- 3 ASR opportunities created
- Webpage and infographics published

## Vision 2020 2

SPF 104

Active

\$89,412

Vision 2020: Moving Beyond the Plan aims to institutionalize and initiate the implementation of the long-term sustainability strategy developed for – and from – the McGill community. This work will enable Vision 2020 to perpetuate itself as a living process without SPF project funding in the future.

- Finalized Sustainability Strategy for McGill University
- Established & institutionalized Oversight Body and 5 sustainability hubs
- Developed researches for unit-level sustainability action planning

# The Projects



## Sustainable Procurement Officer

SPF 105

Active

\$80,000

Procurement Services recently engaged in a series of reflection sessions with its core team to develop a vision statement and goals for sustainable procurement. The vision statement declare that "Procurement plays a central role as a strategic partner, is empowered and provided with the resources to promote and lead the way to establish sustainable practices and culture at McGill and in the wider community." While we are progressively instructing our Procurement agents in sustainable procurement, we are faced with their obvious lack of experience and formal training which limits their role as change agents and the Office of Sustainability can only offer limited capacity to compensate. A Sustainable Procurement Officer would therefore greatly facilitate transition of the unit, and through it of the whole University, to sustainable procurement and the achievement of our sustainability goals.

The support of a Sustainability Procurement Officer is critical to increase capacity in this domain to facilitate and support the Procurement Services team in its transition to sustainable procurement, who is otherwise entirely dependent upon the Sustainability Office.



## Community Engagement Day 2

SPF 106

Active

\$19,000

Community Engagement Day 2012 was an experiment in how to celebrate, develop and document the culture of engagement and sustainability, both social and environmental, at McGill University. It was successful in a number of areas that reflect the eligibility of this proposal: 1) advancing sustainability efforts at McGill and within Montreal 2) engaging the McGill community at large to include students, staff and faculty and 3) creating a space for new relationships and collaborations to develop between all participants and groups involved with the project. The goal for the 2013 edition of Community Engagement Day is to build on the accomplishments of our first year and ensure whatever lessons learned help us improve upon the organization, accountability, network-building, activities, impact and meaningful learning that is possible through action and reflection. As will be expanded on below, we believe CED continues to fulfill the criteria for funding as outlined by the Sustainability Projects Fund.



# The Projects



## Bike Repair Station

SPF 107

Active

\$2,950

The McGill Community of students, staff and visitors is often quoted as being over 40,000. As of 2011, approximately 29% of the McGill community came to campus by walking or cycling; the number of cyclists is unknown. McGill supplies approximately 1800 bike parking spaces downtown, which are regularly at capacity, in addition to the large number of informal parking spaces which are regularly in use. We can assume that McGill has a large, and increasing bike-riding population McGill actively encourages the community to commute by bike to campus. Beyond the student bike repair collective, The Flat, there aren't many repair locations nearby, and even fewer self-repair locations. We would like to install an outdoor, public bike repair rack in addition to two manual tire pumps.

- 1 mounted pump and 1 repair toolkit purchased



## Campus Crops 4

SPF 108

Active

N/A

Campus Crops is a student-run urban gardening collective on the downtown McGill campus. This SPF project aims to increase the institutionalization of knowledge and organization of the group's activities. Rapid volunteer turnover has resulted in difficulties in retaining knowledge in the group, Hiring a summer garden coordinator to create documentation on garden operations will help us secure a long-term knowledge base and a stable group structure. Students and non-students can get involved by coming to our gardening and meeting hours, posted on our website, at <http://campuscropsmcgill.blogspot.ca>. We garden from April until November and have indoor garden planning and workshop meetings in the winter months.

- 2 events held with 20 total attendees

# The Projects



## Electric Grounds Equipment

SPF 109

Active

\$24,000

The aim of this project is to purchase battery-operated equipment for the Grounds Department, in order to be more sustainable and utilize battery operated equipment (leaf blowers) versus mixed fuel equipment. We believe that air pollution will be reduced – as mixed oil and gas equipment will be replaced by battery-operated equipment. Noise pollution will be reduced by approximately 50%. Equipment will be safer for the employees, and there will be fewer complaints from the McGill community regarding equipment usage.

- 4000L of gasoline saved
- 100L of oil saved
- 4700L reduction in GHG emission
- 84 dB noise reduction
- 14 employees involved

## Under the Weather

SPF 110

Active

\$34,358

Climate change, with its melting glaciers, shifting coastlines and rising oceans is transforming the world we live in. But it has also given rise to a new group of very vocal activists, the climate justice actors. If you want to understand both the causes and impacts of climate change, and hear from some of the people who are working to promote climate justice, listen to Under the Weather. These monthly Radio CKUT broadcasts present current and former members of the McGill community who are environmental specialists and climate justice actors. The broadcasts from this year-long project will be packaged together as an audio lecture course on climate change and climate justice and distributed to independent media outlets.

- 12 lectures recorded and published

## Mac Composting System

SPF 111

Active

\$14,660

Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue has accepted to collect and process compost from Macdonald Campus and John Abbott College from August 2013 until March 2016. Currently, composting at Macdonald campus is accomplished by various parties and lacks infrastructure. The city's offer will allow us to replace the existing system which relies heavily on student volunteers and depends on their interest and dedication. The main objective of this project is to ensure a smooth transition to the new system. This will address infrastructure needs, the provision of educational tools for users and general communications with stakeholders and users for support, advertisement and questions. The funds from SPF would pay for a student position to accomplish these goals, supporting the department of Facilities in the transition. It will also pay for the initial investments for materials required for start-up. This will allow for a sustainable integration of the new system where all members of the community will be involved.

- 2 waste audits per year and 1 recycling audit per year
- 7 McGill departments engaged
- 2 annual vermicomposting workshops
- 55000L of waste diverted from landfills

# The Projects



## Justice Alimentaire Montreal

SPF 112

Completed

\$6,500

The JAM (Justice Alimentaire pour Montreal) is a grassroots initiative working to meet this challenge of community building. This work began in January of 2013 as a response to the pressing need, expressed by a variety of stakeholders, for better integration and communication surrounding food issues in Montreal. This project was initiated by McGill students based on the great work that is happening internally at McGill and the need to expand that work to incorporate our broader community and improve our own practices through resource and information sharing across Montreal.

- 3 events held with 170 total attendees
- Launch website and publish video elements
- 1 project coordinator hired

## Out of the Garden 2

SPF 113

Active

\$16,227

The Out of the Garden Project is a student directed café at the Macdonald Campus of McGill. The café is a place on campus where members of the Mac community can go to enjoy healthy and affordable food. The café currently serves breakfast and lunch one day per week and is located at the Ceilidh pub in the Centennial Center. The café prioritizes local sourcing with a focus on on-campus farms such as the Macdonald Student Ecological Gardens (MSEG) and the McGill Horticultural Center. The café also hosts workshops and community events. In the Fall 2013 semester, the café served over 800 customers delicious, nutritious, locally sourced meals. OGP plans to expand service in the Winter 2014 semester, offering both lunch and breakfast two times per week

- 830 plates served
- 9 breakfast and 10 lunch events held
- 33 volunteers involved
- 4 students trained for Food Safety Certification
- 8 local farms supported

SPF 114

Active

\$22,811

No one is here to talk about time. The research-creation event Time Forms: The Temporalities of Aesthetic Experience 2013 is dedicated to the aesthetic experience of time. But instead of lecturing about the temporalities of their respective art, each of the presenters at the event will offer a "time form" to be shared and experienced by the audience. Their various contributions – ranging from a concert-lecture by Roger Reynolds on the animation of time through musical material, movement workshops, lunchtime clubbing, dérives with a Dutch dance company, an acceleration run racing from artwork to artwork, real time app-based interactions with the Montreal Sound Map, a Time Lab where participants can pick up assignments to modulate their own bodily rhythms, and a live graphic score improvised throughout the event – will make the event itself a complex time form that allows for the audience's participation and experimentation. The aim of this project, which brings together musicians, dancers, performance and new media artists, architects as well as curators, is to give creative impulses to our thinking about how time factors into our experience of art and the everyday. In the times of the 'creative economy' where 'affective labor' makes leisure time and work time increasingly indiscernible, such a project is bound to raise political questions of divergence and resistance.

- 300 participants
- 10 partners and 3 McGill departments engaged
- 20 events held
- 4 community partners
- 6 student jobs created

# The Projects



## ECOLE

SPF 115

Active

\$9,400

After reflection on an initial SPF application submitted one year ago, the ECOLE project has undergone a year of networking and research. With this base, the new coordinators feel prepared to make the project happen and are hoping to see the project realized for a pilot year in September 2014. Through modeling a sustainable lifestyle, the ECOLE project will demonstrate the opportunities, challenges, and solutions associated with living in this manner as a McGill student. By providing this tangible experience to the McGill and Montreal community, ECOLE hopes to increase accessibility to sustainable living for the average McGill student and Montreal resident.

- 1 MORE house rented
- 3 ECOLE coordinator hired and 2 internships created



## CodeJam

SPF 116

Active

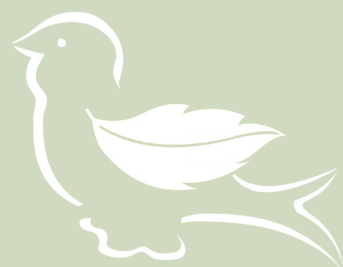
\$2,000

The annual CodeJam at McGill is a 48 hour programming competition, run by the Electrical Computer and Software Engineering Student Society (ECSESS) with the goal of developing software solutions to a pre-defined real life problem centered around an all encompassing theme. We hope to build awareness and encourage innovation and creativity in software development.

- 117 event participants
- 20 volunteers
- 4 McGill departments engaged



# The Projects



## Fume Hood Experiment

SPF 117

Active

\$48,000

McGill's 1300+ fume hoods consume an estimated \$4M of the University's \$19M annual energy budget. Build off the Shut Your Sash project, McGill Energy Project Lab Energy Savings ASR project, and work at other institutions to develop a scalable method to get deep, we hope to create quantifiable reductions in the energy consumption of VAV fume hoods through behaviour change. Phase 1 will establish a method to monitor fume hood energy use and, through experimentation, develop a scalable add-on "prompt system" that consistently changes user behaviour in a way that saves energy. Phase 2 will deploy monitoring and behavior change services throughout campus.

- 1 ASR project: senior design bio-resource engineering project
- 1 root vegetable washer which will help MSEG long into the future



## MSEG Barrel Root Washer

SPF 118

Active

\$2,000

The McGill Student Ecological Garden (MSEG) is a student run organization that operates on a 1 1/4 acre ecological farm on MacDonald Campus. MSEG applies sustainable agricultural practices to produce local vegetable crops. Current practices involve a substantial amount of manual labor associated with planting, harvesting, and cleaning all the produce. MSEG has expressed the need for a innovative cleaning method that can effectively clean, produce and maintain this student-run organization's level of environmental sustainability.

The goal of our proposal is to develop a small scale root crop washer that MSEG can implement such that they can greatly increase the efficiency and efficacy of the cleaning process while decreasing the amount of physical exertion required.

- 1 ASR project: senior design bio-resource engineering project
- 1 root vegetable washer which will help MSEG long into the future

# The Projects



## Cinemas out of the Box

SPF 119

Active

\$19,087

Cinema Out of the Box is a project to develop practical tools for a mobile cinema. Today, our media is defined by mobility, and for some, this means that a "cinematic specificity" has been lost. On the contrary, the new mobility of cinema (portable devices, such as our laptop screens) means that we can have "cinematic experiences" in new and unexpected ways. Many filmmakers and performers are experimenting with this. Our project proposes to do three things: 1) design portable infrastructure for a mobile cinema that can take the capacity to project audiovisual materials anywhere: on campus in unexpected locations, up the mountain, in the pool, and beyond 2) develop a year long screening series experimenting with the potential of this new mobility and 3) find the most ecological and sustainable ways to equip our cinema, focusing in this first year on the potential for bicycle powered generators, low energy projectors, and passive sound amplification.

- 720 participants
- 24 events held
- 6 McGill departments engaged
- 2 students gaining research experience

## B-shack

SPF 120

Active

\$25,000

B-shack is an outreach, education and research hub anchored with a pavilion at the Macdonal Farm designed, fabricated and assembled by a diverse group of students to creatively engage the extended McGill community and the citizens of Montreal in addressing the imminent threat to the world food supply by honeybee colony collapse disorder (CCD).

## Permaculture Classes

SPF 121

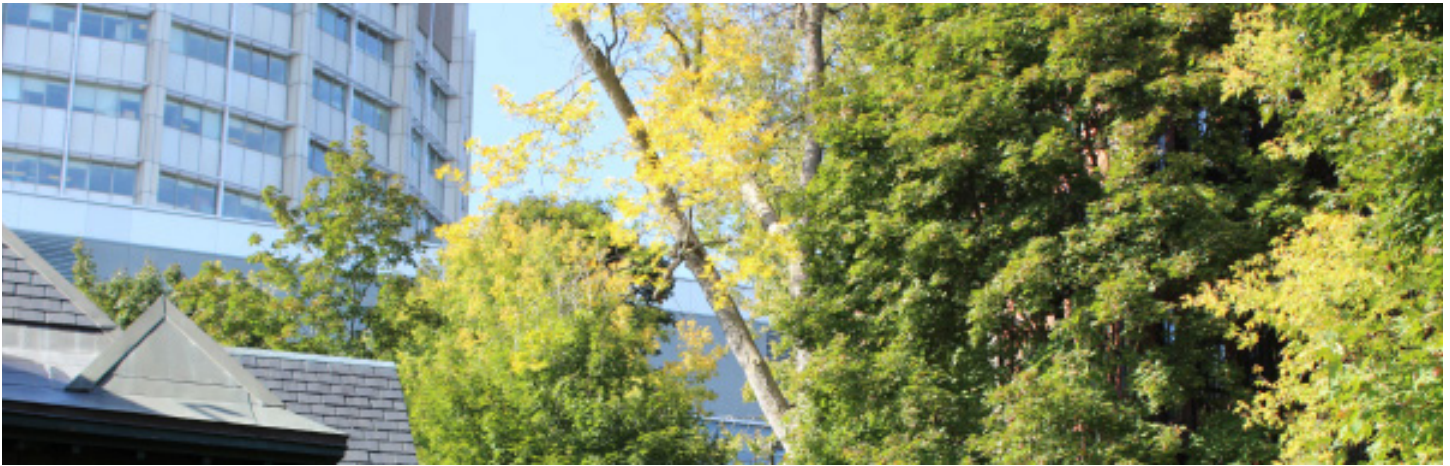
Active

\$2,000

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.



# The Projects



## Out of the Garden 3

SPF 122

Active

\$14,230

The Out of the Garden Project is a student directed café at the Macdonald Campus of McGill. The café is a place on campus where members of the Mac community can go to enjoy healthy and affordable food. The café currently serves breakfast and lunch one day per week and is located at the Ceilidh pub in the Centennial Center. The cafe prioritizes local sourcing with a focus on on-campus farms such as the Macdonald Student Ecological Gardens (MSEG) and the McGill Horticultural Center. The café also hosts workshops and community events. In the Fall 2013 semester, the café served over 800 customers delicious, nutritious, locally sourced meals. OGP plans to expand service in the Winter 2014 semester, offering both lunch and breakfast two times per week.

