



**FACULTY  
OF LAW**

**CLIMATE AND  
SUSTAINABILITY  
ACTION PLAN**



**McGill**

# 1. About the Faculty of Law

McGill's path-breaking legal education is one of the best in the world. The Faculty of Law believes that creative thinkers, educated in law and sensitive to difference, have much to contribute to understanding our globalized world and tackling its pressing problems. Proudly rooted in Montreal, we reach out to the world with our ideas and our people.

## Démographie

Le programme de droit de McGill comprend 700 étudiant.e.s de premier cycle (B.C.L./J.D.), 75 étudiant.e.s de deuxième cycle (LL.M.), entre 50 et 100 étudiant.e.s de troisième cycle (D.C.L), 46 membres du corps professoral à temps plein et 67 membres du personnel administratif. Nous sommes situés dans le complexe Chancellor Day, combinant un manoir historique avec des bâtiments modernes. Cette architecture présente des défis ainsi que des opportunités de gestion énergétique et d'infrastructure.

## Sustainability Mission

As a leader and ally, the McGill Faculty of Law seeks to use its unique position at the crossroads of legal traditions to champion a culture of sustainability within the Faculty, the University, Montréal, and the broader community.

## Current Initiatives

La Faculté s'engage à répondre aux Appels à l'action de la Commission de vérité et réconciliation du Canada de façon continue en soutenant les postulant.e.s et étudiant.e.s Autochtones et en facilitant la recherche et les études sur les traditions juridiques Autochtones.

Numerous Faculty members focus on environmental themes in their research and teaching. In addition to the courses Environment and the Law, International Environmental Law, and Sustainable Development Law, faculty members supervise a range of sustainability-related student research projects. One administrative unit at the Faculty has sustainability certification, and many of our events are also certified for sustainability. A number of student-led clubs and organisations are active at the Faculty, including a student-run environmental organisation which engaged in research projects on the Faculty's environmental footprint and ways in which to reduce it, and which advocated for the creation of the Sustainability Committee.

## 2. University Context

McGill adopted a Climate and Sustainability Action Plan that covers the 2017-2020 period. It outlines the University's commitment to reach two ambitious long-term targets:

- Achieve carbon neutrality by 2040
- Attain a Platinum sustainability rating by 2030.

To start closing the gap towards these targets, the Climate and Sustainability Action Plan includes 22 actions to be implemented by 2020, separated among 5 categories:

Research

Education

Connectivity

Operations

Governance & Administration

Beyond the actions laid out in the Climate and Sustainability Action Plan, a widespread effort from specific units is essential to advance the climate and sustainability agenda at McGill and to reach our long-term targets.

Student initiatives taken prior to the formation of the Sustainability Committee include reports on LEED certification for Faculty of Law buildings and on a greenhouse gas inventory and emissions reduction strategy.

## 3. Action Plan

### Portée

Ce document présente le Plan d'action facultaire qui s'arrime à la démarche universitaire plus globale annoncée dans Vision 2020. Il est le reflet des besoins, défis et opportunités propres à la Faculté de droit. Ce plan se veut un projet collectif en constante évolution.

Étant donné le caractère complexe et interconnecté des institutions McGillloises, certaines avancées sont inévitablement en dehors de la juridiction de la Faculté. À ce stade et pour lancer la démarche, les actions incluses dans le Plan d'action sont celles sur lesquelles la Faculté a un pouvoir d'action directe. D'autres projets de plus grande envergure comme les rénovations, la gestion des déchets, l'amélioration des services alimentaires devront s'effectuer sur une plus longue période et nécessitent la mise en place et l'entretien de partenariats avec plusieurs acteurs clés au sein de la communauté McGillloise et au-delà.

### Processus de consultation

Ce plan d'action est le résultat d'une collaboration entre le Comité de développement durable de la Faculté de droit et le McGill Office of Sustainability. Il s'appuie sur le résultat de consultations menées au cours de l'année académique 2018-2019.

- Deux assemblées publiques
- Un sondage en ligne envoyé à tou.te.s les étudiant.e.s, membres du corps professoral et à tous les membres du personnel de la Faculté
- Un tableau placé dans l'Atrium
- 11 entrevues ciblées avec des acteurs clés

### Structure of the plan

Feedback from all phases was compiled and evaluated based on the depth and strength of consensus, perceived impact, alignment with mission, and priorities of the Faculty, feasibility, avoidance of redundancies within the University, positioning the Faculty as a sustainability leader, and the basis of evidence-based research. Based on these criteria, the following seven actions and seven deliverables were assembled to create the Faculty of Law Climate & Sustainability Action Plan.

## Education

1. Educate the community on how to reduce our ecological footprint.
  - Integrate sustainability information into orientation of all students and staff

- Provide education on the sorting of waste at the beginning of the year

## Operations

2. Improve the sustainability of events hosted by and at the Faculty.
  - Encourage those responsible for events planning and organisation to receive sustainable events training from the McGill Office of Sustainability
  - Achieve Sustainable Events Certification at major events hosted by students and staff
  - Pursue funding opportunities within the university to facilitate investment in equipment to tackle sustainability barriers faced by event planners
3. Reduce air travel emissions.
  - Encourage faculty and staff to calculate their air travel emissions, and to participate in air travel offsetting programs where available.
4. Decrease the amount of paper printed at the faculty.
  - Encourage units at the Faculty to identify ways to reduce printing.
5. Pursue funding opportunities to purchase recycling bins for all classrooms and kitchens.

## Governance and Administration

6. Encourage management staff and supervisors to incorporate sustainability objectives into performance dialogues where appropriate.
7. Establish lines of communication between the Sustainability Committee and other committees and units within the Faculty to create new partnerships.

## 4. Mise en oeuvre

Des processus seront créés pour la mise en œuvre de ce Plan d'action, ainsi que pour l'évaluation du progrès. Le Plan d'action est considéré comme un processus évolutif, et les objectifs devraient être modifiés régulièrement afin d'assurer qu'il reste ambitieux et que les projets de développement durable de la Faculté continuent à progresser.

### Partners

The Faculty's actions cannot be achieved in isolation, and will require close and consistent collaboration with partners on and off campus. The Sustainability Committee will create partnerships with McGill Travel Services, Buildings & Grounds, IT Services, Teaching and Learning Services, and University Advancement.

**Funding**

Most of the actions in this plan require no additional resources. New projects have the potential to be funded by the [Sustainability Projects Fund](#), University Advancement projects, or the Law Students Association.

**Reporting**

The Action Plan will be reviewed regularly with a view to updating it periodically to align with current campus initiatives. A report assessing progress and setting out new objectives will be produced and submitted to Faculty Council annually.

**Communication**

A page will be added to the Faculty website, outlining our current and upcoming sustainability initiatives. The page will include a link to the Action Plan, as well as annual progress reports.

Internally, social media and student publications such as the *Quid Novi* will be used to communicate successes, challenges, and opportunities for involvement. We aim to collaborate with student events when possible, including coffee houses and orientation events. The McGill Office of Sustainability will help us communicate our efforts to the rest of the University.