



Student experience: Integrating sustainability content and concepts in course(s)

Student Participant:
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BACKGROUND

- Graduate in chemical engineering
- Outgoing Chair of SEAM “Sustainability in Engineering at McGill”
- Focus today mainly on student engagement & curriculum

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Positive experiences I've had:

- Ask for opinions during presentations
- Demonstrate critical thinking with insightful comments
- Encourage class discussions
 - Current events
 - Professional experiences

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Limitations I've encountered

- **Curriculum structure: sustainability presented as an aside**
- **Vicious cycle: subjective evaluations discourage critical thinking**
- **Disconnect between student initiatives and class examples**
 - **Applied student research (eg. 496)**
 - **Design teams**

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Constructive Ideas (Curriculum):

- Recognize students' varied understanding of sustainability
- Install sustainability metrics for clear expectations
- Use examples that are close to home
- Contact student reps for more specific feedback/suggestions
 - SEAM: sustainability@mcgilleus.ca
 - VP Academic

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Constructive Ideas (Student engagement):

- **Encourage critical thinking & opinions with in-class discussions**
- **Be a person and a role model. Share your knowledge, skills, experiences!**
 - e.g. Chat with us before class
 - e.g. Use myCourses for news articles of interest to you
 - e.g. Contribute to personal, professional, academic growth