

Environment Commissioners Fall 2011 Report to Council
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1. Coordinate Environment Committee

a) Administrative Work

- Chaired meetings
- Maintained and cleaned up environment.ssmu@gmail.com
- Distributed listserve and meeting minutes
- Held office hours
- Attended Funding Committee
- Managed Budget
- Provided advice on Green Fund application

b) Coordinated Campaigns

i) *Encourage Student Gardening Project*

- Created vision and action item list for yearlong project
- Held a Vermi-Composting workshop with over 20 participants
- Started planning the Greenhouse Project
 - Secured Funding from Class Action Project
 - Created rough design for area behind McGill School of Environment
- Created Green Living Map, postponed publishing until Spring

ii) *Bottled-Water Ban Implementation Project*

- Created Vision and Action Item List for yearlong project
- Ongoing work on creating effective signage (flyers, permanent posters etc)
- Held artistic workshop to build a bottle structure made of plastic bottles to use for campaign
- Held a Waste Audit at Y-intersection in collaboration with Greening McGill and Aramark (for their reusable mugs campaign)
- Followed-up with Office of Sustainability re: McGill's Position on Bottled Water and working closely in providing feedback for this document
- Conducting Surveys in regards to new Fill Stations to get student feedback

iii) *Reducing Energy Consumption through Behaviour Changes*

- Created vision and action item list for the yearlong project
- Begun designs on energy awareness stickers for the building
- Gathered volunteers for upcoming building lighting/energy surveys
- Started work on making the building's vending machines more energy efficient

c) Coordinated Official Volunteers

i) **Science Advisor (Mary Rocheleau)**

- Provided weekly Green Fact for Listserve
- Sat on Green Corner Working Group
- Started researching signage re: Energy Reduction

ii) **Communication Coordinator (Harriet Kim)**

- Took weekly minutes at meetings
- Maintained and updated SSMU Environment Committee Website
- Organized Green Group's Mixer
- Created and manages social networking

iii) **Inter-campus Outreach Coordinator (Yang Guo)**

- Attended Sierra Youth Coalition and Eco-Mentors Conference in Ottawa
- Attended Inter-University (CASQ) Conference Call on Sustainable Project
- Established contacts in various University and CEGEPS around Montreal to exchange ideas and resources
- Attended the Environmental Coalition Meetings (a new group formed of students from different Montreal campuses to work on campaigns such as energy reduction, bottle water ban and coffee cup ban campaigns)
- Researched making notebooks of used paper with help of UdeM and Polytechnique

iv) **Inter-Faculty Liaison (Xiao Yang Liu (Lisa))**

- Held first Faculty Round Table on the Environment of the year (end of October)
- Worked with members of ENVR 401 project group re: Incorporating Sustainability in the Curriculum

- v) Sustainability Ambassador Program Coordinators (Andrea Morden and Kari Zostevik)
 - Ran October workshop on concept of Sustainability
 - Ran November workshop on Energy Consumption and ways of winterizing apartments
 - Established a network of sustainability ambassadors & publicized events through them

d) Green Events Coordinator report - Marie-Line Sarrazin

- Recruited volunteers for Green Events Team
- Helped plate club at *Four Floors* and Styrofoam Free Day
- Participated in Student Societies Programming Network (SSPN) meetings
- Gained access to Shatner Room Bookings schedule to reach out to groups and provide support in greening their events
- Revised Green Events checklist and is working with VP Clubs & Services to get it institutionalized

e) Green Building Coordinator report - Rodrigo Jimenez

- Focused on studying and understanding the present status of energy usage, control and consumption in the Shatner building
- Collected past data on energy consumption in the Shatner building
- Studied the metering and energy billing system & compiled list of aspects to be analyzed
- Currently compiling all this information in an electronic folder for future reference
- Purchased ISO 5001-2011, Energy Management Systems, a book to help better manage energy system in the Shatner building

2. Contribute to elaboration of SSMU Sustainability Strategy and McGill Sustainability Strategy

- Visioning and setting the groundwork for the creation of a SSMU Sustainability Strategy
- Planned and conducted interviews with various SSMU clubs and services in preparation for the Sustainability Strategic Planning Summit in Late January/Early February
- Worked with SSMU Sustainability Coordinator through discussions about McGill Sustainability Strategic Strategy

3) Coordinated the 5-year plan Working Group

- Assessed entire document, identified completed action items and formulated what remains to be completed
- Assisted Green Building Coordinator
 - Establishing accurate baseline numbers of energy usage for future comparisons
 - Working on creating internal measuring system about temperature of rooms
- Contacted Meatless Monday McGill and helped with their efforts to incorporate their project into SSMU cafeteria
- Researched battery collection programs
- Currently institutionalizing compost collection in Shatner Building
- Laying groundwork for regular post-consumer compost collection in the Shatner building
- Researched e-waste disposal locations on campus

- Worked on including the increased dishwashing capacity necessary for the institutionalization of Plate Club within future cafeteria renovations

4) Formed and Attended the Sustainability Caucus Meetings

- Met on a weekly basis
- Defined responsibilities for our positions and divided tasks based on these
- Established how sustainability coordinator position would fit in with existing student positions
- Coordinated specific tasks between Commissioners, Green Building Coordinator, Green Events Coordinator, Sustainability Coordinator, and SSMU President
- Troubleshot problems and re-evaluated action items regularly

5) Formed and Chaired Green Corner Working Group

- Met and followed-up with VP Clubs & Services in regards to remodeling green corner space due to new restrictions
- Formed a new working group to re-envision space and work out details
- Coordinated with Organic Campus to establish permanent storefront space
- Rearranged furniture to help create a feeling of community
- Reached out to green groups re: posters and booking green corner

6) Looking Backwards and Forwards

This past semester has been a very exciting time for the Environment Committee. This has also been an important transition period with the appointment of the new Sustainability Coordinator. We have spent a considerable amount of time building the groundwork to develop a SSMU Sustainability Strategy; this will continue into the New Year with the first Sustainability Strategic Planning Summit in January. We look forward to enhancing our support of Green Groups over the next semester as we felt this was one of the areas that was not as successful as we would have liked. Due to the departure of one of us (Tanya is leaving on a Field Study), we will need to re-allocate our workload but are excited to see the continuing progress of our work in the upcoming months!