



Students' Society of McGill University
Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

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Five Year Plan for Sustainability Progress Report

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Compiled by Ari Jaffe and Maggie Knight

Note from the Environment Commissioners: SSMU's Five Year Plan for Sustainability was passed in March 2009. This semester we have been working out the kinks in terms of how to implement the various goals, the degree of collaboration between Execs and FYP Portfolio Coordinators, and so on. This semester good working relationships have been established and some of the smaller goals accomplished. We expect that there will be considerable progress next semester. If you do not have the Five Year Plan for Sustainability on hand, you can also access it from the home page at www.ssmu.mcgill.ca/environment.

President Portfolio:

(Submitted by Allison Cooper)

The Hiring section of the portfolio (Green Buildings Coordinator, Green Events Coordinator) is taken care of already!

What's left are the three points under 'Waste management:'

Institutionalizing the Plate Club: Plate Club not ready in its current state to be institutionalized as described in the FYP. I have been talking with members about it/what they need (dishwasher broken -- major obstacle). Also many/most members are graduating soon; however now working with a group of potential next-generation plate club supporters to see what we can do to take the reigns when they leave. (Dennis says he can push McGill admin to make dishwasher plumbing fixes a priority, but could still take a LONG time...)

Installing Composting in SSMU: Group offices not feasible? How to organize this so that there wouldn't be too many bins (which need to be picked up regularly) in offices where they aren't used? Instead, looking into SSMU Cafeteria as potential composting location: work-study position pilot project for a student to work on this next semester?

Recycling signage: Dennis Fortune is developing new campus-wide signage for the same purposes; he can get signs for Shatner too (still in final design stages). Also we can put SSMU logo ones above the bins.

VP Internal Portfolio:

(Submitted by Toby Davine)

- Have met with Alex Brown with Green Events Coordinator and are currently working on a Green Events Workshop that would happen in early January (post-break). The event would be open to any club members that are interested in creating more sustainable events on campus. The workshop is building upon the SSMU Green Events Guide and its main objective is to rethink the way we plan and run events on campus.

- * We've discussed that the creation of a Green Events Service will only be possible once we have explored and tested out all the elements needed for the service. This green events workshop is an initial step in both the creation of the service (goal #3) and Promoting environmental awareness (Goal #5)

- Currently working on Sustainable Wine List that can go into the Green Events Guide, the SSMU Environment Website, etc., possibility of having sample wines from local Quebec wineries at Workshop

- Creating simple waste audit guideline for events. May first be tested at SSMU Winter Holiday event to see how well it works.

VP Finance & Operations Portfolio

(Report from Lucy Wang)

Vending Machines

- set one machine to energy- saving mode from 10pm-8am

- the rest are already on energy-start mode 24/7, except for one that has frozen food, cannot alter the temperatures for that

Eliminate funding to clubs for the purchase of bottled water

- cannot control what clubs do with their funding

- going to include in the Greening Events Guide, in the beverage section, info about the Plate Club having water coolers and pitchers

- going to ask Alex Brown to have the guide posted on the main ssmu website

- going to ask Sarah Olle to send out a mass email to all clubs, letting them know of the change

Phase out CRT monitors

- Emailed Sarah Olle to have a count of the number of CRT monitors still being used

- Developing a business proposal to phase out CRT monitors

Accounting Department going paperless+ all forms digitized

- going to ask John the SSMU IT guy about any databases systems and possibly develop a business proposal

VP University Affairs Portfolio

(Submitted by Jessie Miller)

- Met with Dennis Fortune to identify current progress of all points on agenda
- Met with Rebecca Dooley (VP University Affairs) to review agenda; identified the need to consolidate other portfolios to ensure that they do not overlap
- Identified this issue during FYP meeting; next semester to work together to align portfolios?

- Next semester
 - Plan to meet with Sarah Olle (VP Clubs and Services) to assist in energy projects for SSMU
 - Metering for energy consumption
 - Cooling/heating system
 - Focus on the renegotiation with lease as to receive benefits from energy efficiency initiatives
 - Increase awareness/present sustainability concerns to the McGill community through a variety of initiatives (with funding from the sustainable project fund)

VP External Portfolio

(Submitted by Cameron Butler)

Organic Campus

- Organic Campus is getting the resources needed to expand (partially through the Generations Pact), and is in the act of doing so. I'm doing what I can to help make it happen.

Gorilla Composting

- The industrial composter has been ordered and paid for and will be delivered soon. So that point was finished without any help from 5YP.

Cafeterias

- I will be meeting with Sebastian, José, and Pauline to figure out what is possible to do to promote organic and local ingredients in the cafeterias and use recyclable/reusable take-out containers. I should be able to report on more significant progress next semester.

Compiling resource of green funding opportunities

- Over the winter break and in the next semester, I will be researching and compiling a comprehensive document about funding sources for green initiatives on campus.

VP Clubs & Services

(Portfolio Coordinator: Linda Zhang)

- Will soon be contacting vending machine companies to have them activate the vending misers (energy saving devices)
- Concerning setting guidelines/standards for renovations in Shatner, I'm waiting to get a copy of McGill's Standards from McGill Facilities, which will include lighting. The copy will be of the already approved standards, however McGill facilities is working on a new one which has not yet been approved.
- Have invested significant time in research around the complexities of changing the operations of the building.