

# SSMU Sustainability Assessment 2012-2013

October 24, 2013

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# About the Author

- Me!
- Probably biased.
- Mandated by policy

# Sustainability at SSMU 2012-13

- Sustainability is about everything everywhere all the time
- Context
  - “Big Happenings on Campus”
  - McGill Daily’s *SSMU Year in Review* (April 4, 2013)
  - McGill Tribune’s *Year in Review* (April 9, 2013)

# Sustainability Policy

- 5-Year Plan in 2009
- New format in 2012
  - Updated in 2013
- Framework for the assessment and for my job

# Executive Profiles

Compared to previous year:

- Less sustainability expertise
- Similar championship at SSMU and beyond
- Similarly wanted more training and time for reflection

	Status	Comments and Recommendations
Coordination	doing well	Led good efforts, some communication challenges remain
Facilitation	doing well	Eg: Green Groups Forum in winter a success
Purchasing and Investments	doing well	FERC has done great work, need to keep the momentum
Understanding Sustainability	needs work	Ambiguity remains (eg: equity-sustainability interaction)
The role of SSMU in fostering a community of sustainability	needs work	SSMU has been active but could improve its approach
Outreach	needs work	Need to reach out to groups before leading initiatives
Responsibility	needs work	Sustainability is not present in all decisions. Frameworks are being developed
Communication & Collaboration within SSMU	needs work	Problem areas have been identified, solutions are developing
Reporting & Annual Review	needs work	Not enough. More updating to execs, council, staff, etc.
Leadership	needs work	Need to work towards creating distributed responsibility for sustainability
Clubs & Services	needs work	Clubs and Services do great work, need work on events
Events	needs work	Waste management and equity issues remain
Human Resource Practices	unsatisfactory	Largely an equity issue. Also should provide better training
Shatner Building	unsatisfactory	Heating and cooling are energy-wasters. Lease saga...
Awareness	unsatisfactory	Messaging around building and on the web is inadequate

**Legend**



# Conclusions & Looking Forward

- New Principal & Deputy Provost
- Vision 2020 momentum
- Connectedness of efforts
- Bridging equity and sustainability efforts
- Better training within SSMU
- Knowing role and when to defer
- Better governance of Green Fund
- Sustainability Coordinator job description review

Questions?



# Vision 2020 & SSMU Commitments

- Vision 2020 / “Sustainability at McGill” history
- What is commitment?
- What commitments?

# Vision 2020 / Sustainability at McGill

- McGill undergrads pushing sustainability for decades
  - 1990 Talloires Declaration
  - 2001 Environment Policy
  - 2009 Sustainability Projects Fund
  - 2010 Sustainability Policy
- Fall 2011, SSMU & PGSS Presidents meet with McGill Office of Sustainability (MOOS)

# Vision 2020 / “Sustainability at McGill”

- Winter 2012: Vision 2020 launches with SSMU collaboration and representation
- Fall 2013: Vision & Goals and Action Plan together forming the Sustainability Strategy. Hubs around 5 categories and 1 Senior Advisory Board.



# What is Commitment?

- “At this point, commitment requires no deadline, target or additional resources. Committing to a V2020 action is an expression of goodwill, of the willingness to pursue the action over the next 5 years, using the resources already available to the unit”
- “Hey, we thought you were in on this?!”

# Already Committed

Campus & Space Planning  
Communications & External Relations  
Design Services  
Environmental Health & Safety  
Human Resources  
MacDonald Campus Students Society  
McGill Energy Project  
McGill Food Systems Project  
McGill School of Environment  
McGill Waste Project  
Office of Sponsored Research  
Office for Students with Disabilities  
Office of Sustainability  
Office of the Associate Provost (Academic Staff & Priority Initiatives)  
Procurement Services  
Secretariat  
Senate Sub-Committee on Race and Equity Relations  
Social Equity & Diversity Education Office  
Student Services  
Teaching & Learning Services  
Transportation Research at McGill  
Utilities & Energy Management  
VP Research & International Relations Office

# What Commitments?

## Research

- Hold periodic networking events to foster collaboration and raise the profile of collaborative research
- Incorporate sustainability principles into travel practices, and track the carbon footprint

# What Commitments?

## Education

- Encourage embedding sustainability in course content, outcomes, pedagogical strategies, and assessment
- Series of student workshops and learning opportunities to complement in-class sustainability education
- Coordinate, facilitate, and promote opportunities for applied student and faculty research
- Offer workshops for staff that provide resources for integrating sustainability into their workplace

# What Commitments

## Connectivity

- Provide incentives for French acquisition
- Participate in a multi-stakeholder working group on student mental health
- Community hubs



# What Commitments?

## Operations

- Sustainable purchasing practices
- Comprehensive waste reduction campaign
- Develop a Food Charter

# What Commitments?

## Administration & Governance

- Take a learning-focused approach by publicly reporting failures and lessons learned public
- Incorporate sustainability as a criterion in staff performance reviews
- Ensure there is a centralized and easily accessible location to address matters of harassment, discrimination, and sexual harassment
- (Lobbying) Develop and adhere to a proactive, specific, and transparent responsible investment policy

# Summary of Commitments

## SSMU Activities

- Hold periodic networking events to foster collaboration and raise the profile of collaborative research
- Incorporate sustainability principles into travel practices, and track the carbon footprint
- Encourage embedding sustainability in course content, outcomes, pedagogical strategies, and assessment
- Series of student workshops and learning opportunities to complement in-class sustainability education
- Coordinate, facilitate, and promote opportunities for applied student and faculty research
- Offer workshops for staff that provide resources for integrating sustainability into their workplace
- Provide incentives for French acquisition
- Participate in a multi-stakeholder working group on student mental health
- Community hubs
- Sustainable purchasing practices
- Comprehensive waste reduction campaign
- Take a learning-focused approach by publicly reporting failures and lessons learned public
- Incorporate sustainability as a criterion in staff performance review
- Ensure there is a centralized and easily accessible location to address matters of harassment, discrimination, and sexual harassment

## SSMU Lobbying

- Develop a Food Charter
- Develop and adhere to a proactive, specific, and transparent responsible investment policy

Questions?