



Legislative Council – February 8th, 2018

Motion Regarding the ECOLE Project Fee Levy Renewal

Whereas, working to attain social and material sustainability is a key challenge of the 21st century and priority to the University, as indicated in its *Vision 2020 Climate & Sustainability Action Plan*¹;

Whereas, the Educational Community Living Environment Project, hereafter referred to as the ECOLE Project, has a mandate to “bring together McGill students, faculty and staff and Montreal community members in the pursuit of sustainable living by means of applied student research, alternative education, and community building”²;

Whereas, the ECOLE Project is a student-initiated and student-run initiative;

Whereas, the Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) granted seed funding to the ECOLE Project in October 2013, thereafter, the Project has been funded by the “ECOLE Project Fee” levy since Fall 2015;

Whereas, the ECOLE Project has gained status as an Independent Student Group (ISG) with the Students’ Society of McGill University (SSMU);

Whereas, the ECOLE Project promotes community building by filling the need for a central space on campus where students, faculty and staff members can gather, connect and organize around sustainability;

Whereas, the ECOLE Project provides an open space for individuals and groups, through a study lounge available 20 hours per week, as well free space booking being used by 37 groups in the Fall 2017 semester alone;

Whereas, McGill’s upcoming *Vision 2020 Climate and Sustainability Action Plan* has identified promoting increasing access to extra-curricular opportunities in sustainability for undergraduate students, such as the programming and events provided by ECOLE;

Whereas, since its launch in Fall 2014, ECOLE has provided the McGill community alternative education programming and events to engage in topics related to sustainability, including 14 film screenings, 13+ organized discussions, 3 Zero Waste Challenges and 13+ formal skill sharing events;

¹ <https://www.mcgill.ca/sustainability/sustainability-strategy>

² <https://www.ecoleproject.com/about/>



Whereas, members of the ECOLE Project pursue Applied Student Research (ASR) around sustainability topics, develop tools and resources to support students pursuing ASR projects, and showcase research at annual ASR Symposiums;

Whereas, since the launch of the ECOLE project in Fall 2014, 15+ ASR and hands-on community-based research projects have been completed by ECOLE members;

Whereas, a 'yes' vote to the following question would ensure the financial sustainability of the ECOLE Project as it fulfills its mandate of providing meeting space, educational learning opportunities, support for student research, and a greater sense of community to McGill students;

Whereas, a 'no' vote to the following question would entail that the ECOLE project will cease to exist after the end of the Winter 2018 semester;

Be it Resolved that the SSMU Legislative Council approve the following question for the Winter 2018 Referendum period:

“Do you support the renewal of the opt-outable student levy, titled “ECOLE Project Fee,” of \$2.00 per student per semester, payable by all part-time and full-time undergraduate students who are members of the Students’ Society of McGill University, effective Fall 2018 to Fall 2023 (inclusive), at which point it will be brought back to membership for renewal?”

Moved by:

Connor Spencer, SSMU Vice-President External
Isabella Anderson, Senate Caucus Representative
Jennifer Chan, Arts Representative
Kevin Zhou, Arts Representative
Matthew Savage, Social Work Representative
Muna Tojiboeva, SSMU President

1 <https://www.mcgill.ca/sustainability/sustainability-strategy>

2 <https://www.ecoleproject.com/about/>