



REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TO COUNCIL

April 6th, 2017

REGULAR MEMBERS:

Sacha Magder (VP Sustainability & Operations), **Subhanya Sivojothy** (Chair), Shania Squires, Casey Cohen, Jessica Di Bartolomeo, Capucine Lechartre, Caroline Lou, Courtenay Lord, Imogen Hobbs, Emily Chima, Claire McPhee, Hana O'Neill,

EVENTS

SPOKES

SPOKES is an annual conference to educate students on environmental issues and best practices, and serves as a platform to create connections within the sustainability community at McGill and beyond.

- This year's event was a success – nearly 60 participants who attended the entire event
- Our event was structured as follows
 - Networking + Breakfast
 - Workshop set #1 in parallel: Composting & Waste Management / WindownFarming 101
 - Workshop set #2 – Panel with Philippe Saint Jean, Kristen Perry, Maggie Boroweic, and Cameron Stiff
 - Vegan Lunch
 - Keynote → Dr Julia Freeman re: “Civic Agency in Urban Sustainability Challenges”
 - World Cafe + dessert Topics: Intersectionality in Activism, Transportation, Waste reduction, Art Activism



ZERO WASTE WEEK

Environment Committee x ECOLE challenged students to go waste-free for an entire week. To celebrate and encourage participants, we hosted a number of events including:

- March 14th: Clothing and book swap
- March 16th: Screening of “Waste Land” at ECOLE house
- A picnic at the Saint-Michel Environmental Campus was scheduled, but postponed due to bad weather

To promote the event we ran a raffle for a Green Panther gift card – each event that students participated in gave them one raffle ticket.

PROJECTS

GARDEN PROJECT

- Jessica Di Bartolomeo, Courtenay Lorde, and Caroline Lou have been working tirelessly on implementing the garden project. They have developed a template map for the vegetables to grow, researched the gardening techniques, and have created a timeline for implementation
- Environment Committee has committed \$4,000 to create two paid positions to tend to the garden and coordinate volunteers over the summer

MISCELANEOUS

- Thank you to Courtenay Lorde for confirming that we do not need cold storage in the basement of the SSMU building. This will be taken into account to maximize the number of bicycle racks in the bicycle facility plans
- SSMU Environment Committee Sponsored the IDSSA Event: *The Future of Cities: A Screening and Discussion*, featuring Oscar Boyson
 - Screening of the Film: “A Future of Cities”, and discussion with the director, Oscar Boyson
 - Panel Discussion featuring Professor Sarah Moser (Department of Geography, McGill), Philippe St. Jean (Sustainability Construction Agent, McGill), and Professor Mazdak Nik-Bakht (Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Concordia)



MOVING FORWARD

Reccomendations for 2017-18

1. Environment Committee to act as a caucus for the Sustainability Advisory Board
2. More collaboration with other campus sustainability groups for events
 - a. Use the Cross-Campus Sustainability Council as a resource to foster connections
3. More policy work – evaluate if the SSMU policy is being adhered to and propose changes as necessary (especially with respect to procurement)
4. Promote a stronger McGill procurement policy, in collaboration with admin
5. More collaboration between the Equity and Indigenous Affairs commissioners
6. Assign specific positions within the committee (i.e. social media coordinator, outreach coordinator, etc) to ensure that all major responsibilities are consistently covered

Respectfully submitted and signing off,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sacha M.', written in a cursive style.

Sacha Lefebvre Magder

2016-17 SSMU Vice-President (Sustainability & Operations)