

# **REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TO COUNCIL**

Submitted for: March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## **REGULAR MEMBERS**

**Alison Gu (Sustainability Commissioner), Caroline Lou (Sustainability Commissioner),** Christina Lau, Imogen Hobbs, Claire McPhee, Enola Hihi, Romy Yang, Thomas King, Maya Nicolova, Viecko Vuokila, Sandrine Boies, Sierra Francis, Makena Anderson, Maddie Wissoker, Jane Davis, Emma Somer, Joelle Moses

## **EVENTS**

### **APPLE AND PUMPKIN PICKING TRIP**

In October, SSMU Environment Committee hosted an apple and pumpkin picking trip to Vergers et Cidrerie Denis Charbonneau. The event allowed attendees to be outdoors, engage with nature, and be aware of where our food comes from. All 48 tickets were sold out, and so if a similar event is run in the future, the Committee can consider booking another bus if there is enough student interest.

### **ZERO WASTE WORKSHOPS, EVENTS, AND MOVIE SCREENINGS**

Throughout the year, the SSMU Environment Committee hosted a series of zero waste workshops, events, and movie screenings. Events included:

- **DIY Reusable Cloth Bag workshops**
- **Screening of Voices Not Heard: The Climate Fight of Malaysian Youth**
- **DIY Toothpaste and Deodorant Workshop**
- **Zero Waste Thrift Shop** – collaboration with WWF McGill
- **Zero Waste Walking Tour** – collaboration with ECOLE
  - Involved zero-waste grocery shopping at local grocery stores
- **Screening of No Impact Man**

### **SPOKES 2018 CONFERENCE**

SPOKES is an annual conference which aims to raise awareness about sustainability and environmental initiatives. Students, staff, faculty, and other members of the McGill and Montreal community were encouraged to attend, and to network with other members of the sustainability community.

- The event was successful, with around 50 participants
- The schedule for the event was as follows:
  - Sign-in, Coffee and Snacks

- Panel Discussion with Kristen Perry, Professor Shaun Lovejoy, Femke Bergsma, and Nicolas Chevalier
- Presentations from Sustainability Groups
- HOW TO URBAN GARDEN: workshop with Urban Seedling
- Free lunch
- Keynote Presentation by Professor Julian Agyeman

## **SUSTAINABLE EATING WEEK**

Sustainable Eating Week took place from March 18 to March 24. The week aimed to encourage students to make sustainable food choices, such as reducing the consumption of animal products and buying locally grown food. This was done through a social media campaign and a series of workshops, including:

- **Vegan Baking Workshop** – collaboration with The Herbivore Society for Peace and Justice
- **Discussion on food security, veganism, and accessibility** – facilitated by Gel Gibson
- **Vegan Cooking Workshop**

## **MOVING FORWARD**

Recommendations for 2018-2019

1. Increase collaboration with other sustainability groups on campus and in Montreal
  - Contact groups early on in the year to discuss potential collaborations
2. Focus on delegating specific tasks to defined positions within the Committee
3. Increase involvement of Committee members in ensuring the SSMU Sustainability Policy is being followed
4. Increase advocacy for greener practices within McGill
  - Example: improving waste management
5. Find new locations for events, such as SPOKES, which have historically been held in the SSMU Building

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Gu and Caroline Lou  
SSMU Sustainability Commissioners