

SSMU Environment Committee Council Report  
November 14, 2019

**Membership:** Enola Hihi (Co-Chair), Dasha Gousseva (Co-Chair), Clotilde Monroe, Naomi Duggan, Rebecca Klien, Olivia Steele, Coline Choraine, Vivien Bian, Mathilda Diaz, Maya-Elle Michaud-Thomas, Kevin Franceschini, Gabriel Masi, Adela Agnew, Anna Thabuis, Alua Kulenova, Daniela Pineda, Grace Commers, Juliana Xu, Sarah Seay, Shaainee Ramnawaz, Lana Kang, Insha Sohail, Nikhita Panwar, Ghislaine Fandel, Anna Mackay, Saumiyaa Pathmarajah, Eve Fraser, Ismail Ameen, Mohsin Ali, Christina Lau, Thais Georges-Picot, Soukaina Ouizzane

**September:**

- The first meeting introduced members to historical projects.
- Brainstorming sessions for events, campaigns, and initiatives the Committee could take on this year.
- Sustainable Events Training: Gave presentations to club leaders and members on how to run events more sustainably as part of SSMU Club Workshops.
- Climate Strike: Provided support for the Climate Strike and encouraged members to attend.

**October:**

- Apple Picking at Mac Farms: Purpose was to promote local food and show downtown students Mac Campus as many of them have never been.
  - Apple picking trip took place on Saturday, October 19 from 9am-2pm
- Pink it Yourself 2.0 and Think Pink: The purpose was to explain the toxins that go into our bodies and environment due to using commercial cosmetics. We made our own cosmetics and had a guest speaker from BCAQ.
  - The event took place Friday, October 25 from 6:30pm-8:30pm
- Fair Trade Baking Workshop: The purpose was to promote fair trade products and share about the importance of fair trade while making banana bread.
  - The event took place Saturday, October 26 from 2-5pm
- Seed Bombing with CJAM: Purpose was to create seed bombs to then be spread around areas as a way to promote urban vegetation
  - The event took place Sunday, October 27, 2-4pm
- Waste Education Video: Finished the video about waste sorting. Planning to have it be wrapped into a mandatory academic tutorial (through the Dean of Students)
- Nutritower Set-Up: Vertical gardens have been set up in the McGill cafeterias (RVC, BMH, New Residence). These will be maintained by volunteers, and a

video tutorial for maintenance was created. These gardens will provide fresh food for Midnight Kitchen and are a bright addition to the cafeterias.

- Mug reuse: The Engineering General store will have mugs that students can use by paying a deposit and then return them. This project is to reduce the use of single-use coffee cups in the McConnell Engineering building. We applied for SPF funding for this.
- Environmental education workshops: We are creating educational materials for high schools and will be presenting in schools around Montreal. The emphasis is on the discussion around political activism and environmental case studies. We are currently building connections with schools to come into next semester.
- SPF Plant Giveaway: This was a collaboration with MOOS for the 10th anniversary of the SPF. We had 1,500 plants in total and they were all given out within an hour.
  - The event took place on Thursday, October 24 from 11-12
- No Waste November: Planned events throughout the month to promote sustainability, especially through less wasteful lifestyles. The events are described below.

## **November**

- Zero Waste Walking Tour: The purpose of this event is to show students where to shop in bulk and without packaging.
  - The event happened on Saturday, November 2 from 2-4pm
- Tote Bags: Collect student's old reusable bags and donate them to stores to provide for customers who have forgotten their bags. We have spoken with stores and working on the logistics.
- DIY Beeswax Wrap Workshop: The purpose of this event is to show a way to reduce the use of plastic wrap when cooking. We have planned it out and are just waiting to present it. This is part of no waste November
  - This event will take place on Friday, November 15 from 5-8pm
- BYOM Coffee: This is a collaboration with SUSEC to give free coffee to people who bring their own mugs. This event is planned out we are just looking for volunteers. This is part of no waste November
  - This event will take place Monday and Wednesday, November 25,27 from 9-11 am
- Make your own Hummus: This event is to show how easy it is to make your own hummus without any waste. It is a part of no waste November.
  - This event will take place Saturday, November 16 from 2-5pm
- Smart Waste Sorting Bins: We started the discussion about applying for SPF funding for AI waste sorting bins that would instruct and demonstrate to students

how they should sort their waste as they approach a bin. This is with a company named Intuitive AI and would be huge for improving waste diversion rates.

- Climate Change Policy: Contributed to updating the SSMU Climate Change policy, which is up for renewal.
- Planting Trees in Milton Park: Applying for a Tree Canada grant for planting Edible Trees in the Milton Park community. The planting would take place at the beginning of Fall 2020.
- ECOLE Coffeehouse: Worked with the ECOLE facilitator to open up ECOLE on Thursdays between 1-4 for any students interested in coming in to meet other students or using the space.
- Updating Sustainability Website Info: Began working on changing Sustainability info on the SSMU website and will also create a new linked sustainability resource webpage.
- Student Sustainability Network: Collaborating with groups in this network and helping to plan a networking event in January.
- Waste Management in the SSMU Building: Brought up the idea of bins and signage that are uniform with other academic buildings for the opening of the building.