



Grow the  
Movement



## SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS FUND ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2020 (5/1/2019 – 4/30/2020)

Prepared by the McGill Office of Sustainability August 2020



# SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS FUND

The Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) aims to build a culture of sustainability across the campuses of McGill University through the development and seed funding of interdisciplinary projects.

Since its creation in 2010, the SPF has allocated over \$9 million in funding and has approved 250 projects, which have yielded dramatic and lasting improvements to the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of McGill's sustainability performance.

The SPF is one of the largest dedicated campus sustainability funds of its kind in North America, the largest in Canada, and is uniquely committed to collaboration between students and staff in its financing, decision-making, and project leadership.

This report highlights the key impacts and activities of the Sustainability Projects Fund during Fiscal Year 2020: May 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020.



The largest fund of its kind  
in Canada, now valued at  
**\$1,000,000/year**

**\$0.55**/credit, per student,

**matched equally**

by McGill University



More  
than **\$9,100,000**  
awarded since 2010

**10**

Years of projects that improve the  
**social, economic, and  
environmental wellbeing**  
of our university

from Tiny Streams to Big Waves, and everywhere inbetween

# SPF AT-A-GLANCE

Since 2010

**\$9.1 million** allocated  
to sustainability initiatives



**250**  
Projects  
approved



Budgets range from **\$40** to  
**\$341,000**



**7,500+**  
People trained

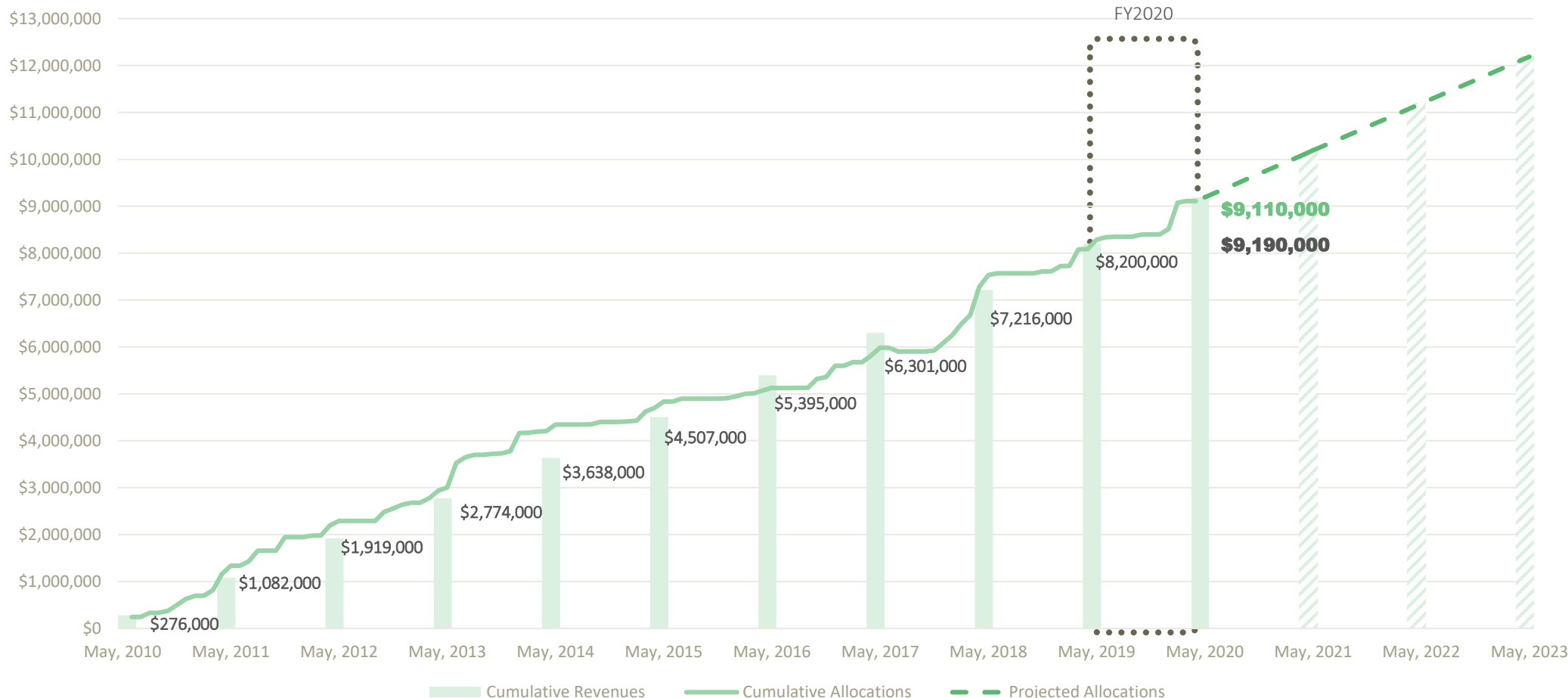


**4,500+**  
Volunteers  
mobilized

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In FY20, the SPF was funded through a student fee of \$0.55 per credit, which was matched equally by McGill University. To date, the SPF has received over \$5 million in student fees, which, when matched by the University, brings the Fund to a total value of approximately \$10 million. All allocations are approved by the Governance Council and any unallocated funding is carried forward to the next year. Since the Fund operates on a reimbursement basis, actual spending lags behind allocation. Similarly, the matching revenue is reimbursed at a delay based on Fund expenditures. At the end of a project, unused budget allocations are released and made available for new allocations.

## Cumulative Financials



Note: Allocations include approved project budgets, budget amendments awarded to teams, and SPF operations expenses. The chart has been adjusted to reflect the release of unused budget allocations over the past few years. If an amount is lower, it is because funding has been released from previous projects, reducing the total amount allocated. The released amount is then used for new project budget allocations. This process allows all of the funding received to be spent.

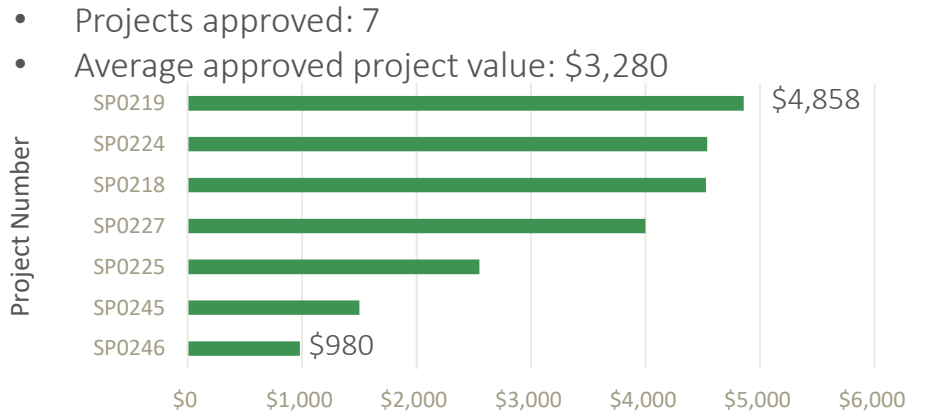
# FY2020 APPROVAL SUMMARY

Over the lifetime of the Fund, 477 applications were received, 51% of which were approved. This fiscal year, the SPF awarded funding to 34 projects, of the 49 applications received. As such, the Fund has awarded funding to 250 projects in its lifetime. FY2020 projects include those from applications received in previous fiscal years in addition to those received in the current year.

## FY2020 Applications Status

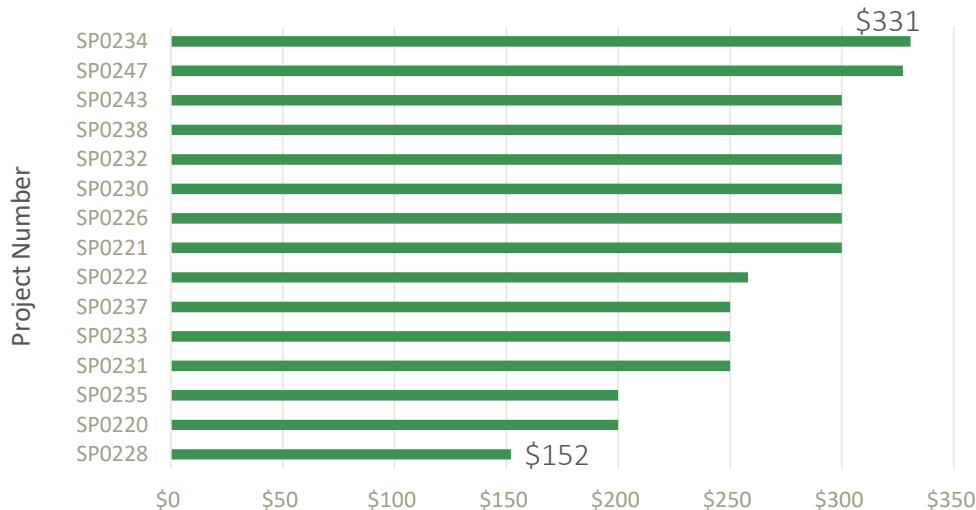


## Approved Under \$5,000 Stream Project Funding

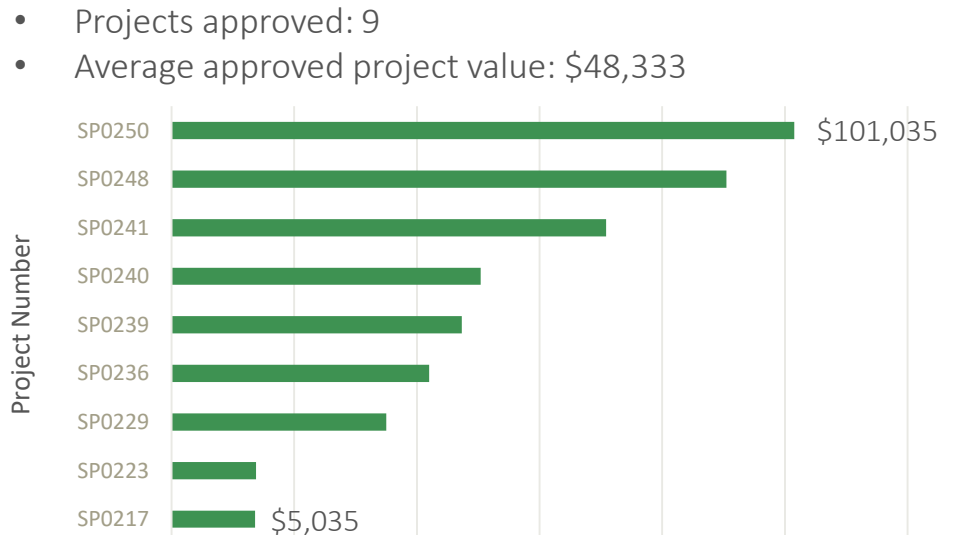


## Approved Tiny Stream Project Funding

- Projects approved: 15
- Average approved project value: \$268



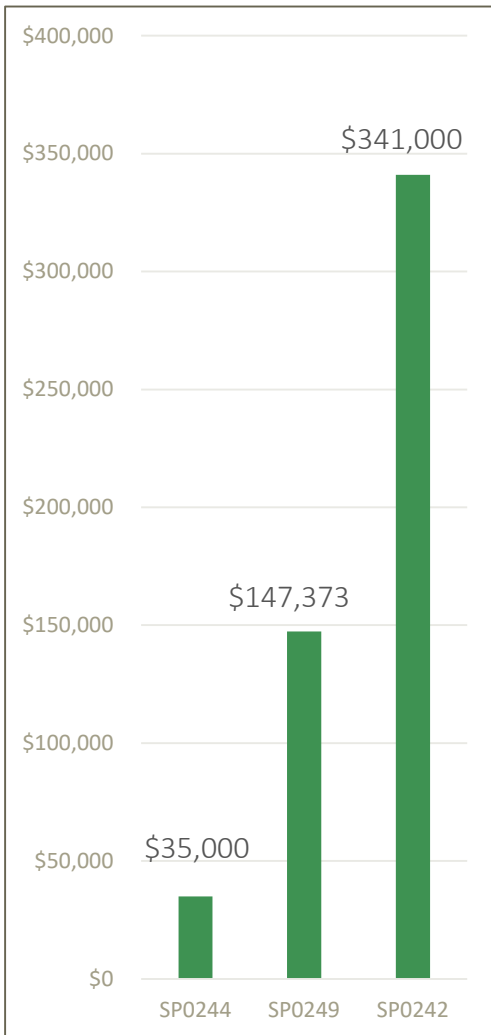
## Approved Over \$5,000 Stream Project Funding



# FY2020 APPROVAL SUMMARY

Partway through fiscal year 2020, the SPF Big Wave Funding Stream was introduced. The Big Wave supports large-scale, transformative projects that have a long-lasting impact on McGill's campuses needing between \$100,000 and \$400,000. Due to the scale of these projects, teams will have the opportunity to receive a portion of their funding for the design phase, before moving on to project implementation. This is considered Pre-Application Funding, as in the case of SP0244.

## Approved Big Wave Project Funding



### SP0242

#### Helium Recovery Project

\$341,000 Approved

A system for recovering and recycling the scarce resource helium, a critical component for the scientific technique of nuclear magnetic resonance.

### SP0244

#### Solin Hall Green Roof – Feasibility Study

\$35,000 Approved

A feasibility study to determine if Solin Hall is a suitable building for a green roof.

### SP0249

#### Season-Extension Technology to Meet the Need for Local Food

\$147,373 Approved

Installed a field high tunnel and a greenhouse to extend the production season of pesticide-free crops for downtown campus consumption.



# APPROVED PROJECTS

## Tiny Stream (Under \$300)

### SP0220

#### Reusable Dishware for Adam's Club

\$200 Approved

The Adam's Club created a sustainability committee.

### SP0221

#### Climate Change Participatory Workshops

\$300 Approved

These workshops focus on implications of climate change in the past, present, and future.



SP0221: Educational activities during the Climate Change Participatory Workshops

### SP0222

#### McConnell Plant Revival and Care

\$258 Approved

Revitalizing plants in the McConnell Engineering Building.

### SP0226

#### Amazing Race Montréal

\$300 Approved

Subsidizing the cost of using more ecological materials at the club's event.

### SP0228

#### Supplies for the Law Plate Club

\$152 Approved

The Law Plate Club expanded to provide a wider variety of items to its users.

### SP0231

#### Reusable Beaker Cups (2)

\$250 Approved

Reusable beaker cups used for the 4-day Science Games event to avoid single use plastic beverage cups.

### SP0230

#### Reduce Your Waste Sustainability Challenge Prize

\$300 Approved

Locally made soups were purchased for winners of the Sustainability Monthly Challenge.



SP0230: Student winners of the waste reduction monthly challenge

# APPROVED PROJECTS

## Tiny Stream (Under \$300)

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SP0232

### Pre-Departure Orientation

\$300 Approved

Compost bin rental for McGill's Pre-Departure Orientation program.

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SP0233

### SSMU Environment Committee Mug Re-Use Program

\$250 Approved

Mugs donated to the SSMU Environment Committee were engraved as part of this deposit based mug program at the EUS General Store.

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SP0234

### VéloVoltage

\$331 Approved

The team built a stationary bicycle that can generate electricity, used to charge a phone or laptop and power a blender, stationed at ECOLE.

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SP0235

### Three Green Spaces for Duff Medical

\$200 Approved

Plants and planters to be placed in three separate common spaces of the Duff Medical Building.

SP0237

### How You Can Get Involved

\$250 Approved

PGSS Environment Committee hosted an event informing students of on-campus sustainability oriented volunteer opportunities.



SP0232: The provision of compost services ensured the study abroad Pre-Departure Orientation could be a certified sustainable event

SP0238

### Sustainability Maintenance, Repair, and Social Justice

\$300 Approved

A speaker and workshop series highlighting the role of sustainability and social justice in technology.

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SP0243

### Reusable Dishware for the Lady Davis Institute

\$300 Approved

The Lady Davis Institute purchased a set of dishware to eliminate their need for single use items.

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SP0247

### Fixing and Maintenance of the Bike Repair Stations and Pumps

\$327 Approved

Repairs of the bike pumps and repair stations on campus.



# APPROVED PROJECTS

Under \$5,000 Stream (\$301 - \$5,000)

SP0218

## Microbiome Project

\$4,529 Approved

Workshop series on fermented foods and drinks hosted at Macdonald Campus.

SP0219

## Active Transportation at Gault

\$4,858 Approved

Staff using bicycles to travel between buildings instead of ATV or regular car or electric golf cart, in order to promote exercise and reduce carbon footprint.

SP0224

## McGill Farmers' Market Equipment

\$4,540 Approved

Purchased new and essential equipment in order for the McGill Farmers' Market to operate and grow.

SP0225

## Bringing the Flat Back on Campus

\$2,550 Approved

The Flat Bike Collective increased its visibility and accessibility on campus, in context of Mon campus à vélo 2019, to encourage members of McGill community to bike to McGill.

SP0227

## Smart Waste Bin Station for McConnell Engineering

\$4,000 Approved

Development of a smart sorting bin prototype which automatically sorts the waste thrown into it.

SP0245

## Wong Community Gardens

\$1,500 Approved

Campus garden located behind the M.H. Wong building.

SP0246

## Green Wall Rejuvenation

\$980 Approved

Support for the revitalization of a green wall located in student services.



SP0225: The Flat Bike Collective came back better than ever thanks to the SPF.

# APPROVED PROJECTS

Over \$5,000 Stream (\$5,000 - \$100,000)

SP0217

## Mac Regenerative Food Hub

\$13,612 Approved

Establishing a collaborative and resilient network of sustainable food systems around Macdonald Campus, fostering partnerships and enhancing local initiatives within the community.

SP0239

## N’We Jinan Festival and Youth Conference

\$70,837 Approved

An annual four day Integrative Arts conference for Indigenous youth across Canada.

SP0250

## Pick Your Path

\$13,780 Approved

PYP is a 4-week online learning experience for Indigenous students in which their interest for education will be nurtured through exposure to various academic fields and career exploration.

SP0223

## Walking Birds

\$5,035 Approved

The Walking Birds Initiative promotes everyday physical activity and energy saving at McGill by motivating people to use the stairs rather than elevators with the strategic placement of evidence-based signs and educational pamphlets.

SP0240

## McGill-Wide Green Labs Initiative

\$47,339 Approved

Implementation of sustainable practices across the laboratories within McGill.

SP0229

## Maude Abbott Medical Museum

\$42,000 Approved

The project aims to mount an exhibit that models sustainable practices and development of a McGill departmental collection.

SP0241

## FMAS Sustainability Push

\$101,520 Approved

The project aims at unlocking significant capital investments to make visible improvements to the environmental performance of campus facilities, while involving students in the process.

SP0236

## Climate Change Artist in Residence

\$90,500 Approved

Uses new media art as a creative catalyst to engage community & enhance the visibility of climate research through collaboration with climate researchers and hosting of public workshops.

SP0248

## Dairy Cow Pasture Project 2

\$50,373 Approved

Follows up on the Dairy Cow Pasture project by planting new wind breaks and implementing a simple irrigation system to increase productivity of drought prone pastures.



SP0233: Stickers and signs to promote physical activity



# FY2020 KEY IMPACTS & OUTCOMES

Since 2016, the SPF has tracked several key success indicators for governance and administration activities, as well as key success indicators for projects through Final Reports. Selected impacts from the 25 reports received in FY2020 are listed below.



## Project Learning Outcomes

The SPF offers a unique opportunity for McGill community members to develop project management skills. This experiential learning is a great complement to classrooms and workplaces across campus. The learning outcomes from FY2020 reports are summarized below.



# SPF GOVERNANCE COUNCIL + TEAM

In the spirit of staff-student collaboration that drives the SPF, the SPF Governance Council consists of eight voting members: four students (two SSMU, one MCSS, and one PGSS representative), two academic staff, and two administrative staff who provide decisions and feedback on project applications by consensus. To find more information about the Governance Council and to view current members, please visit the SPF [website](#).

## FY2020 Governance Council Membership

Students

SSMU



Léa Neumark-Gaudet

SSMU



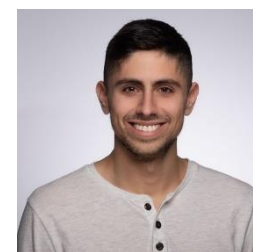
Matthew McClaughlin

MCSS



Alexander Kuijper  
Dickson

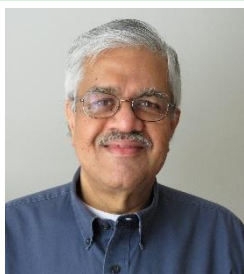
PGSS



Casey Cohen

Staff

Academic



Madhav Badami

Academic



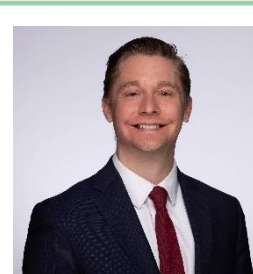
Caroline Begg

Administrative



Merika Ramundo

Administrative



Brett Hooton

Additionally, the following McGill Office of Sustainability staff directly supported the SPF in FY2020:

Stéphanie Keller-Busque, Sustainability Officer, SPF Administrator  
Krista Houser, Sustainability Officer, SPF Steward  
Shona Watt, Sustainability Officer, SPF Administrator  
Tanner Zekonic, Sustainability Officer, SPF Steward

Francois Miller, Executive Director, Office of Sustainability  
Jessica Di Bartolomeo, SPF Intern  
Aspen Murray, SPF Intern  
Kelsey Litwin, Communications Officer  
Keelin Elwood, Communications Officer

# 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

For the Sustainability Projects Fund's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, several exciting initiatives were unveiled. The Big Wave stream was announced for projects over \$100,000, and two flagship SPF Projects significantly expanded their locations. As a result, 20 indoor gardens and 12 spin bike gardens are scheduled to be set up across both campuses.



# PLANT GIVEAWAY

In celebration of its 10<sup>th</sup> year, on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Sustainability Projects Fund hosted a campus-wide plant giveaway. At both MacDonald Campus and Downtown Campus, 1500 plants were distributed to members of the McGill community in just under two hours. Students, staff, and faculty were eligible to receive a plant, and the popularity of the event should see the event become a regular occurrence in future years. Each location experienced long lines as everyone eagerly anticipated which plant they would receive.



Office of Sustainability | Bureau du développement durable

## FREE HOUSE PLANT GIVEAWAY

Thursday, October 24  
11 a.m to 2 p.m

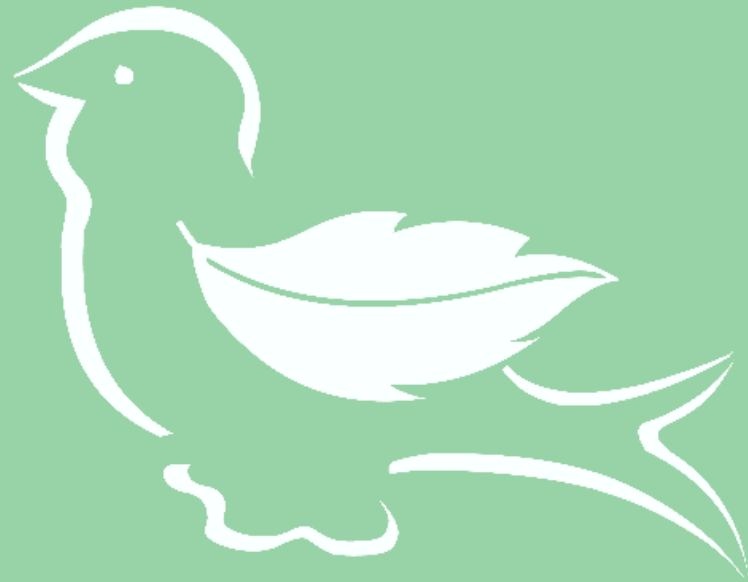
McCall MacBain Arts Lobby  
Thomson House  
Trottier Mezzanine  
Currie Gymnasium  
Healthy Living Annex  
Macdonald Stewart Lobby



Sustainability Projects Fund



# Grow the Movement



**Sustainability  
Projects Fund**