



MOTION REGARDING THE SSMU SUSTAINABILITY POLICY 2023-04-06

Submitted for: 2023-05-11

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2023-05-11-003
Moved by:	Risann Wright <i>President</i>	Current Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR APPROVAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> POSTPONED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Amelia Whitcomb <i>Science Representative</i>		

Issue

SSMU's commitment to sustainable practices and leadership on campus, in Canada, and around the world, led to the adoption of the Sustainability Policy in March 2012. It is currently up for revision and approval as it expired in January 2023. The policy does not refer exclusively to environmental considerations, but also encompasses economic and social viability, and sustainability in regards to justice and equity. It lays out the guiding principles upon which multi-year goals and efforts to continually improve sustainability shall be based at SSMU.

Background and Rationale

The revised sustainability policy takes a holistic approach to sustainability at SSMU, and recognizes that sustainability is an approach and practice that allows present generations to meet their needs without compromising the needs of future generations, and includes environmental, social and economic considerations. It also touches on the UN SDGs and recognizes that these goals can be a guideline towards sustainability at SSMU.



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In addition to defining sustainability, the policy outlines the scope and the role of SSMU in fostering a community of sustainability. It also applies the role of sustainability and emphasizes its importance in internal practices and procedures, building operations in the SSMU University Centre, and practices of clubs and services. The Sustainability Policy then outlines reporting and accountability measures to ensure that sustainability continues to take priority at SSMU. Finally, the Sustainability Policy outlines the roles specific positions and committees within the SSMU including the roles of the SSMU executives, the role of council and councillors, the role of senate and senate caucus, the role of the Environment Committee and Sustainability Commissioners, and the role of the Equity Committee and Equity Commissioners.

Alignment with Mission

The Sustainability Policy aligns broadly across all the SSMU values and missions.

The SSMU serves as an umbrella organization to coordinate and support the student groups that make up civic life in the McGill community. The Sustainability Policy would serve as a blueprint for groups, clubs and services to adopt sustainably sound actions and practices in their mandates.

SSMU acts as the official *voice* of our Members, and the adoption of the Sustainability Policy would ensure the growing demands from students to achieve sustainability on campus and beyond, is represented.

The SSMU commits to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice and environmental protection, and to groups, programs, and activities that are devoted to the well-being of disadvantaged groups. As mentioned before, the Sustainability Policy would be a blueprint for SSMU to continue to commit to leadership, sustainability, social justice and accessibility.

The SSMU Sustainability Policy recognizes that sustainability does not refer exclusively to environmental considerations, but also encompasses sustainability in regards to justice and equity. Adopting the policy would



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firmly establish SSMU's recognition of the holistic nature of sustainability and the importance of addressing environmental, social, and economic viability.

Consultations Completed

The following have been consulted regarding the SSMU Sustainability Policy: the SSMU President, SSMU VP External, the External Affairs Portfolio, and SSMU Senators. Sustainability focused groups and clubs were also consulted, including McGill SNAC (Student Nutrition Accessibility Club), Divest McGill, and ECOLE.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

If the Sustainability Policy is not adopted, it will be detrimental to the long-term goals and intergenerational progress of sustainability on campus. SSMU members would not have access to tangible recommendations and strategies to improve sustainability, as well as measures of accountability, to ensure that initiatives and goals are implemented and executed.

Sustainability Considerations

The Sustainability Policy took into consideration the social and economic considerations to sustainability, not just the environmental aspect. It also recognizes the overlap between sustainability and human rights, social justice and accessibility. It outlines the role of sustainability across all student activities and actions including through building operations and practices of clubs and services. At its core, the policy will help SSMU members consider and prioritize sustainability in their actions.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

If adopted, the Sustainability Policy will be renewed to directly support students in their sustainability efforts, as well as ensure sustainability is being prioritized at SSMU. It will have a significant impact on the future of sustainability, accessibility and equity for SSMU members. The SSMU Sustainability Policy has led to great initiatives including the SSMU Green Fund and the SSMU Grocery Program.

Voting in favor of the SSMU Sustainability Policy will ensure that the SSMU continues to achieve environmental, social, and economic sustainability.



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**Motion or
Resolution for
Approval**

Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approve the Sustainability Policy in Appendix A.

**Results of the
Vote**

In favour	(14)
Opposed	()
Abstain	(2)

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Appendix A : Sustainability Policy

The SSMU Sustainability Policy

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SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Adopted by Legislative Council: 2018/04/05

Expires: 2023/01/01

[Adopted Motion](#)

Introduction: Mission and Vision

This policy lays out the guiding principles upon which multi-year goals and efforts to continually improve sustainability shall be based. Crucially, this policy seeks to provide more tangible recommendations and strategies to improve sustainability in the SSMU context, as well as measures of accountability to ensure that initiatives and goals are implemented and executed.

Students at McGill and across Canada have led efforts to make our campuses more sustainable. At McGill, for example, student leadership has established a Green Fund, a Sustainability Projects Fund¹, a Climate Justice Policy, conducted a major environmental sustainability assessment of the SSMU, established and revised the SSMU's Equity Policy, and led McGill to hire staff specifically to make its food system more sustainable.

Students operate a large number of important services for students and are leading movements to improve sustainability at McGill, including the work and advocacy done by groups such as Divest McGill, ECOLE, McGill Permaculture Club, Midnight Kitchen, the Flat Bike Collective, the Union for Gender Empowerment, the Sexual Assault Centre of the McGill Students' Society, Queer McGill, WalkSafe, Drivesafe, Nightline, the Black Students Network, and many more.

Historically, the pursuit of a sustainable campus has largely been led by students, and SSMU must continue to be the joint effort of Executives, Councillors, and staff, and will be strengthened by the active participation of student groups and the student body at large.

Mission

To achieve sustainable practices by balancing and integrating economic, social, and environmental considerations in the way it acts, and by having people collaborate to achieve this balance. The SSMU's commitment to sustainability is first and foremost outlined in the Preamble

¹ <https://ssmu.ca/resources/funding/>; <https://www.mcgill.ca/sustainability/engage/spf>;
<https://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Climate-Justice-Policy.pdf?x21981>



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of the SSMU Constitution²:

- “VI All Students’ Society endeavors shall be undertaken with full respect for human dignity and bodily sovereignty and without discrimination on the basis of irrelevant personal characteristics that include but are not limited to race, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, sex, gender identification, age, mental or physical disability, language, sexual orientation or social class.
- VII The Students’ Society commits to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice and environmental protection. The Society shall be mindful of the direct and indirect effects corporations, businesses and organizations have on their social, political, economic, and environmental surroundings.
- VIII The Students’ Society commits itself to groups, programs and activities that are devoted to the wellbeing of a group disadvantaged because of irrelevant personal characteristics that include but are not limited to race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, gender identification, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or social class.”

Further, the SSMU shall demonstrate leadership for sustainability by:

- fostering sustainability across campus and beyond through our advocacy, leadership, and all public actions;
- engaging students and student groups, connecting people who share the same ideas for change and coordinating projects with multiple stakeholders;
- promoting awareness of sustainability through its communications, informational resources and mandatory annual, in-depth trainings for SSMU executives and staff, and by leading by example in the delivery of events, services, and political action;
- Applying sustainability within its internal operations, through creating a just, empowering community within SSMU staff that encourages, incentivizes, and supports sustainability initiatives by minimizing barriers, providing tools and knowledge, and sets high standards for the SSMU’s sustainability practices;
- setting ambitious and feasible multi-year goals, drawing on best practices from other organizations to achieve them, reporting both qualitatively and quantitatively, and annually reviewing the goals to ensure that change is iterative and adaptive.
- ensuring that actions and activities are furthering progress on the Sustainable Development Goals



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Vision

As efforts for a sustainable SSMU and a sustainable campus intensify, the SSMU should not only successfully and meaningfully support grassroots student initiatives, but also serve as a leader for social, environmental, and economic sustainability, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

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1. Definitions

Sustainability: As defined in section 2, Sustainability is an approach and practice that allows present generations to meet their needs without compromising the needs of future generations, and includes environmental, social and economic considerations.

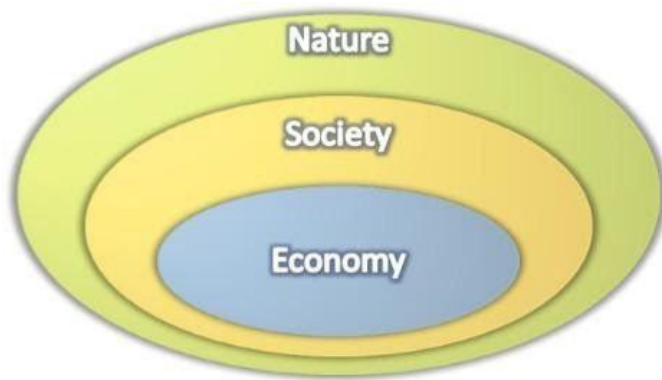


Fig. 1. This image, which consists of nested spheres, illustrates how we should consider and understand the 3 spheres or pillars of sustainability. “Nature” encompasses all of the physical world we are in, commonly referred to as the “Environment”. A sub-section of that is all of human “Society”, and “Economy” is a sub-section of human society. The two images together provide basic visuals that can help contextualize thinking about sustainability.

From <http://www.projectcss.eu/description/objectives.jpg> accessed March 20, 2012.

Student organizations: all clubs and services operating under SSMU.

Student Associations: University-level or faculty-level groups that are governed by elected student representatives.

Officers vs Executives: Both refer to the elected SSMU Executives.



SDGs: The SSMU Legislative Council and Board of Directors ratified the UN Sustainable Development Goals in 2017³. The 17 SDGs are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. They provide a shared blueprint of sustainability and prosperity for people and the planet, for generations to come. The SSMU recognizes that there are nuances and critiques regarding the UN Sustainability goals and takes a holistic and rounded approach to these goals at the SSMU.

From <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Accessed: Dec 2022



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2. Scope

This Policy shall apply to:

- Staff, elected representatives, operations, Clubs, and Services, of the Students' Society of McGill University.
- All activities and events hosted, funded, and promoted by the Society and SSMU-affiliated Clubs and Services.
- Written or graphic material, which is published, distributed, endorsed, or funded by the Society.
- Activities, events, campaigns, and promotions held in the University Centre.

3. Understanding Sustainability

Sustainability in this context is about striving to achieve the SDGs by balancing and integrating environmental, social, and economic considerations in the way we act, and having people collaborate to achieve this balance. Different definitions are used in this document, within in the McGill community, and in many Canadian and international scholarly articles. These definitions provide a common framework, not to be exhaustive or definitive, and can be refined in the future.



3.1 Environmental

Practices that lead to resilient ecosystems which can support healthy life and lifestyles. To that end, the SSMU will strive to:

- Eliminate its contribution to the progressive buildup of substances extracted from the Earth's crust (for example, heavy metals, fossil fuels, greenhouse gas emissions) by reducing unnecessary purchasing of materials, opting for more sustainable materials when possible, encouraging, advertising, and incentivizing the usage of reusable materials and containers at events, and reconsider traditional methods of distribution of information through promotional materials;
- Eliminate its contribution to the progressive buildup of chemicals and compounds produced by society (for example, dioxins, PCBs, and DDT) by transitioning to materials that do not contain such chemicals⁴ and by more strongly advertising and supporting the current electronic recycling program;
- Eliminate its contribution to the progressive physical degradation and destruction of nature and natural processes (for example, over harvesting forests and paving over critical wildlife habitat) by prioritizing the minimal use of these materials in general, and choosing products and/or vendors/corporations that adhere to socially and environmentally responsible guidelines.

3.2 Social

The SSMU will strive to promote a strong, safe, and empowering community by endeavoring to minimize systemic power imbalances within society and to foster a culture of anti-oppression. Socioeconomic inequality has been shown to be well correlated to ecological degradation.⁵ This potential positive feedback loop of inequity exacerbating biodiversity loss which exacerbates inequity is one example of how equity struggles are, or should be, an inseparable part of the sustainability movement. The SSMU will aim to be of service to the communities of which it is a part, in keeping with the values laid out in the Constitution and Equity Policy. Please refer to the Equity Policy updated in April 2018 for more information on SSMU and equity. Beyond the Equity Policy, SSMU will approach social sustainability by ensuring that:

- it supports student initiatives that contribute to the aims stated in this section, and it will liaise with different groups to do so.
- it encourages and provides additional support for projects and initiatives that address multiple aspects of sustainability, such as environmental and social.

⁴ For example: sustainably-sourced and manufactured LED lighting

⁵ Mikkelsen GM, Gonzalez A, Peterson GD (2007) Economic Inequality Predicts Biodiversity Loss. PLoS ONE 2(5): e444.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0000444 (Accessed on April 8, 2013 at <http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0000444>)



3.3 Economic

The SSMU is tasked with managing fees collected from many thousands of students. The SSMU undertakes to manage these funds in a manner which respects students and the communities of which SSMU is a part. The SSMU will strive to:

- be stewards of students' money in an ethical manner, as per the Ethical Investment Policy, the Purchasing Policy, and this Sustainability Strategy;
- be transparent, accountable, and open to student participation in budgeting students' money;
- be responsible in its long-term planning of finances to ensure year-to-year financial stability and flexibility as major expenses arise;
- work to prioritize funding to initiatives that will (a) lead to cost-savings for the SSMU in a reasonable time-frame or (b) lead to considerable social and / or environmental benefit.
- Emphasize, communicate, and advocate to partners, donors, sponsors, administration, and other relevant parties that short-term investments in sustainability projects virtually always lead to long-term financial gains as long as the necessary maintenance is carried out.

4. SSMU's role fostering a community of sustainability

4.1 Overview of the SSMU's role

The SSMU will, through the actions of its elected representatives, staff, committee members, clubs, and services:

- Seek to be a catalyst for change in the McGill community;
- Represent student interests pertaining to sustainability issues on campus to the relevant community members;
- Work to build awareness of sustainability issues, and work to ensure that its internal practices adhere to a high standard of sustainable behaviour;
- Show leadership beyond the SSMU bureaucracy and the University Centre for the good of the student body as a whole and the broader community and society.
- Take on the responsibility of reaching out to other groups to learn more about their activities, advocacy, mobilization and research, what is going on and informing others of what is happening with the SSMU.

4.2 Coordination

The SSMU will use its relationships and its understanding of the community to connect members who are working on similar topics, problems, campaigns, efforts, research, etc. while ensuring it does not create extra or unnecessary burden for its collaborators



4.3 Facilitation

The SSMU will facilitate sustainability advocacy, resources and education for its members by:

- Hosting an annual SPOKES (Students Pursuing Opportunities and Knowledge in Environment and Sustainability) conference
- providing mandatory and non-mandatory workshops on sustainable event planning (See Section 7)
- Communicating sustainability opportunities through the Sustainability Corner (see Appendix A)

4.4 Outreach

The SSMU, in an effort to create a more sustainable community, will reach out to relevant groups in the community to (a) look for beneficial collaborations (b) Inform the community at large as to what the SSMU is doing for their reference (c) prevent the duplication of efforts on campus and (d) seek out best practices.

4.5 Awareness-Raising

The SSMU will work to make its members and the community more aware of how to live an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable lifestyle. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Providing structured educational opportunities, for example, Mini-Courses and workshops, that help students practice sustainable lifestyles that may be otherwise financially inaccessible, such as living zero-waste;
- Providing educational signage about sustainable practices such as using reusable dishes in dining areas in the building.
- Promoting other ongoing educational opportunities and events in the community, promoting collaboration to increase the scope and impact of beneficial initiatives⁶;
- Providing and compiling resources on SSMU's outreach and communication platforms to help all members of the Society fulfill the goals and act according to the values outlined in this policy

Responsibility for determining what issues and campaigns to focus resources falls on relevant Executive Officers, SSMU Committee(s), the society's General Assembly and its Legislative Council. More information on responsibilities can be found in the Appendices.

⁶ Relevant people include the VP Student Life, General Manager, Building Committee for University Centre projects, Environment Committee, Sustainability Commissioners



5. Internal practices and procedures

The SSMU will strive to be a model for sustainable internal practices insofar as is possible given organizational constraints. This includes learning from peer organizations, drawing on student research capacity and innovation, and proactively engaging students in projects and decision-making processes

5.1 Executive-Commissioner relationship

- Sustainability Commissioners will provide sustainability trainings for Executives during their training periods.
- Executives will meet with the Sustainability Commissioners at the beginning of their term and throughout the year to develop a tailored plan to incorporate sustainability into their portfolios.

5.1.1 Reporting

Staff and committee report successful innovations to executives, and briefly to Council according to the relevant reporting schedules;

5.1.2 Role Modelling

The SSMU Executive and staff shall role model sustainability during daily practices by only using reusable or compostable containers in the distribution of food or beverage in meetings and in the SSMU Office.

In addition, SSMU staff and committees carry out the day-to-day decisions and actions of the SSMU. As such:

- Staff and committees are responsible for upholding and integrating this policy into their decisions and actions, possibly by creating decision-making frameworks;
- Staff and committees should be reporting successful innovations to executives, and briefly to Council according to the relevant reporting schedules;
- The Sustainability Coordinator is mandated to provide support, track progress, and meet with employees and committees regarding strategy throughout the year. This includes collaborating with interested students and student staff to coordinate projects and responsibilities.

As outlined in this policy, sustainability is complex, both in theory and in practice. In order for this policy to be truly effective, its goals must be integrated across all portfolios of the SSMU. While each year's elected representatives and student staff will have their particular skill sets and interests, it is expected that all staff and decision-makers within the SSMU will act in good faith towards



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achieving the goals of this policy.

5.2. Building

The SSMU will seek to make the University Centre Building and all other associated SSMU spaces operate as sustainably as possible through its operations and the responsibilities of the Building Manager, Sustainability Commissioners and the SSMU Executives whose mandate includes operations if such a role exists.

5.2.1 Infrastructure

The SSMU will seek to maintain the infrastructure of the building in a fashion that:

- keeps energy usage as low as possible while providing reasonable payback period if renovations are necessary to do so. The focus here may tend towards energy efficiency and undertaking efforts to inform students/staff/tenants of best practices of behaviour.
- is accessible to students of all abilities by individuals involved with building design and construction undergo
 - training on equity, ableism, universal design;
 - provides infrastructure to assist sustainable lifestyle choices;
 - ensures safety, above and beyond fire code and alcohol regulations.

5.2.2 Use of space

The SSMU will seek to ensure that the spaces under its purview are used in a way that:

- Facilitates a safer space for all students in accordance with SSMU's Equity Policy⁷
- Aims to reduce the amount of waste (e.g. disposable cups and other materials) the space or events held in the space generate;
- Materials enter the right waste streams;
- Prioritizes student interests and services for students.
- Ensures accessible operations, including affordable food options, in the University Centre

5.2.3 Purchasing

- The SSMU will adhere to the Ethical Investment Policy and Purchasing Policy.
- Material purchases should be carefully evaluated to avoid financial and material waste. Exit reports from events shall include recommendations regarding how to cut down on excess

⁷ Article 3.2



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materials. The Events Administrator(s) will undergo tailored sustainability training, whereby the Sustainability Commissioners will work with them to identify key areas of consumption and how to mitigate the waste produced.

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- In the event that surplus materials are purchased, every effort should be made to either repurpose them or donate them to a worthy, sustainable student or community organization. Suggestions of such organizations can be requested from the Sustainability Commissioners, Equity Commissioners, and/or Sustainable Events Team.
- The SSMU will work with applied student research and McGill Food & Dining Services (MFDS) to continually improve the sustainability standards of all food providers, as well as to increase sustainable access to food, on McGill campus. In addition, the SSMU will prioritize waste reduction, then waste management. Relevant people for these practices include the President, General Manager, tenants in the building, and Executive Chef of SHHS, or otherwise the individual in charge of operations and sustainability within McGill Food and Dining Services.
- The SSMU will encourage all vendors that sell food and beverages to stop the sale of bottled water in the University Center. Failure for a vendor to comply with this policy will be asked to attend a review meeting carried out by the Sustainability Commissioners, supervising SSMU Executive and General Manager.
 - Further, the SSMU will include sustainability as a factor when negotiating new vendor agreements and corporate sponsorships.

5.3. Human Resource Practices

In its efforts to act as a socially sustainable and responsible organization, the SSMU shall strive to uphold best practices regarding Human Resources. As outlined in the Human Resources Policy, this includes providing meaningful work for both students and full-time staff, nurturing a sense of empowerment for all staff members, and striving to provide a productive and pleasant work environment. The SSMU will support staff to exhibit leadership in fulfilling the goals of this policy, the SSMU shall provide training tailored as much as possible to specific jobs regarding issues of social, environmental, and economic.

6. Events

All SSMU-operated events must be planned in light of the values laid out in this policy. This includes financial accountability and responsibility, ensuring that events are inclusive and equitable (refer to the Equity Policy), and minimizing the environmental impact.

The SSMU will actively encourage events held within the University Centre to use only reusable materials, mandating that events within the University Center use only compostable materials if disposable materials are used at all.

The SSMU will eliminate the distribution of bottled water and non-compostable disposable materials during all internal events affiliated with the SSMU, such as but not limited to, Orientation (Frosh) and 4Floors.



7. Clubs and Services

Clubs and Services must attend a minimum of 1 Sustainable Event Planning workshop per year, facilitated by the Vice-President (Student Life) and Sustainability Commissioners to further support the implementation of sustainability in the club or service's operations. The Sustainable Event Planning workshop includes training on all aspects of sustainability, with particular emphasis on environmental and social sustainability. Failure to attend will factor into club status. Clubs and Services who are found to be in repeated violation (1 or more) of this policy will attend an obligatory meeting with the Sustainable Events Planning Team or Sustainability Commissioners. If violations continue, Clubs and Services in question will be subject to a review by the Clubs Committee and Services Review Committee, respectively.

8. Implementation

8.1 Leadership

While all of the SSMU decision-makers are responsible for implementing this policy, the SSMU Executives, the Sustainability Commissioners, student staff within the Sustainability and Equity portfolios, and the Equity and Environment Committees must champion leadership and support, in line with the guidelines found in Appendix A.

8.2 Communication and Collaboration within the SSMU

As outlined in this policy, sustainability is complex, both in theory and in practice. In order for this policy to be truly effective, its goals must be integrated across all portfolios of the SSMU. While each year's elected representatives and student staff will have their particular skills sets and interests, it is expected that all staff and decision-makers within the SSMU will act in good faith towards achieving the goals of this policy.



9. Reporting and Accountability

9.1 Accountability within the SSMU Executive

The SSMU Executive shall report on all progress achieved within the purview of this policy to Council once in the Fall Semester and twice in the Winter semester with support from the Sustainability Commissioners and leadership from the president.

9.1.1 Final Report of the Academic Year

The final report of the academic year shall constitute an annual report compiled by the President, Sustainability Commissioners and Environment committee, and shall include:

- Recommendations approved by the previous years' Council
- Work achieved that academic year and up-to -date campus initiatives
- SSMU's current organizational capacity in relation to this policy
- Updated implementation plan and benchmarking rubrics
- Recommended goals of the following academic year

The President, with support from the Sustainability Coordinator and student staff, shall oversee an annual review of sustainability goals and benchmarks in order to adapt the SSMU's efforts in light of changes in organizational capacity and campus and societal shifts. The Sustainability Coordinator will lead a process of developing detailed implementation plans and benchmarking rubrics to ensure measurable, effective change; this shall not be allowed to detract from the pursuit of qualitative or difficult-to-measure efforts.

9.1.2 Collaboration with the Sustainability Commissioners

The Sustainability Commissioners will be available to consult on all sustainability related motions, policies and events that the SSMU executives may plan. They will also be available for collaboration to ensure projects and events remain sustainable.



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⁸ This shall not be allowed to detract from pursuit of qualitative or difficult-to-measure efforts

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APPENDIX A

Responsibilities of Specific Positions and Committees within the SSMU

Role of the SSMU Executives

Description: Executives work (more than) full-time to make SSMU work, and they carry much of the knowledge about the activities of SSMU. To be successful, the implementation of this policy must be acted on in good faith by every Executive Officer. Weekly Executive meetings are a place of many political decisions that set the behaviour of the SSMU. It is important for those responsible for this policy to be aware of what decisions are being made at executive meetings and how they affect this policy. Decision-making frameworks should be developed shortly after the Sustainability training in May to ensure make sure sustainability is not a forgotten consideration at exec meetings.

Roles: Many roles of execs are identified in the text of this policy and are detailed further below just as much for the executives as for students who are working on sustainability efforts. (Exec positions listed in alphabetical order, not order of importance!)

President

- The President is responsible for ensuring environmental leadership.
- The President, along with the VP University Affairs, share responsibilities for advocating for stronger adherence to sustainability policies and pursuit of relevant actions to the McGill Administration. In the event of the creation of new committees pertaining specifically to sustainability, such as those involving administration, the President should advocate for the most qualified student to serve as the representative. Oftentimes, this will be the Sustainability Commissioner.
- The President is the official link to faculty-specific undergrad associations and to the First Year Council and Inter-Residence Council.
- The President oversees the work of the two (2) Sustainability Commissioners.

VP Student Life

- The Vice-President (Student Life) should foster the integration of student groups' initiatives & input
- They collaborate with staff to implement sustainable operations and infrastructure within the University Centre)
- They should distribute information to all Clubs, Services, and students on issues pertaining to sustainable operations including bottled water and the promotion of sustainable alternatives, and readily available services related to waste reduction such as The Plate Club.



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VP External

- The Vice-President (External) is critical to connecting in two-way communication with community organizations such as the Milton-Parc Citizens Committee and Eco-Quartiers, as well as student mobilization towards sustainability, and municipal, provincial, and federal governments in the pursuit of this policy's goal.

VP Finance

- The Vice-President (Finance) has the responsibility of ensuring the implementation of the Ethical Investment Plan and Purchasing Policy;
- Overseeing the long-term financial viability of SSMU;
- and providing leadership in the integration of the values laid out in this policy within the SSMU's Operations (Gerts and MiniCourses)
- The VP Finance & Operations oversees the work of the FERC Commissioner, Funding Coordinator, Gerts Manager, and Mini Courses Manager.

VP Internal

- The Vice-President (Internal) has a lead role to play in minimizing the impact of the Society's events and in promoting awareness within the student body. Encouraging the student body to use less, and use things that will be useful through events and communications will be a key contribution of the VP Internal.
- The VP Internal will create and maintain a "Sustainability Corner", similar to the "Dean's Corner" on the SSMU Listserv, wherein one upcoming event or project in which students can become involved related to sustainability is featured.
- The VP Internal oversees several Frosh Coordinators over the summer, and a Sponsorships Coordinator when needed throughout the year.
- The VP shall ensure that the Sustainability Policy is followed in Frosh and refrain from the distribution or sale of any bottled water and non-compostable plastic. Further, the VP Internal should aim to work with sustainable manufacturers in the purchase of Frosh merchandise, a list of which can be obtained through the Sustainability Commissioners and/or the exit report from Frosh 2017.

VP University Affairs

- The VP University Affairs is responsible for SSMU's commitment to Equity and representing SSMU on issues of equity to McGill units / administration.
- Shares responsibilities with the President for advocating for stronger adherence to sustainability policies and pursuit of relevant actions to the McGill Administration.
- The VP University Affairs oversees the work of the Equity Commissioners and often works with the Sustainability Commissioners.



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Role of Council and Councillors

Description: SSMU Council, the highest decision-making body of SSMU (in practice but not in law), meets every two weeks and consists of approximately twenty-five (25) McGill undergrad representatives. Council is, ideally, a place where substantive decisions are made and where information travels back and forth between SSMU and the rest of campus through faculty undergrad associations. Sometimes this information transfer is not perfect. Councillors have to review large volumes of information before each meeting in addition to doing their full-time school work and any other responsibilities they take on.

Role: Early in the academic year, councillors should be engaged by those responsible for pursuing the Sustainability Policy (SSMU Executives and Sustainability Commissioners) in order to inform them of past progress, future direction, and to involve them in the process. A council meeting early in the academic year is an optimal time to engage councillors and discuss the contents of the SSMU Sustainability Policy and how it may be of mutual benefit to councillors' constituents. Many student associations have sustainability groups and committees and are often searching for guidance early in the year, which could be provided by this policy and its connection to Vision 2020. Councillors should be encouraged to sit on committees, such as Environment Committee and the Financial Ethics Review Committee, and shown how their roles tie directly into the direction this policy sets. This policy should be presented regularly to council, ideally once in early fall to build involvement, then again in January for the same reason and finally in March/April to present the progress through the year(s).

Role of Senators and Senate Caucus

Description: SSMU Senators represent SSMU at McGill's Senate which is the highest academic decision-making group at McGill. Senate consists of over one hundred (100) people. There are about a dozen SSMU senators from all over campus. Any one of them may ask a question or make a proposition at Senate. The SSMU senators meet with regularity at what is called "Senate Caucus" and they discuss what is on the Senate agenda and what they will do/propose/say.

Role: SSMU's Senate caucus may benefit from having some understanding of SSMU's Sustainability Policy and SSMU's progress in adhering to it. Since it may be difficult to get enthusiastic support from all senators for one initiative, those responsible for the Sustainability Policy may want to meet one-on-one with senators to discuss what they are excited about and how they can work together to advance the Sustainability Policy and the direction set by Vision 2020 (McGill's sustainability strategy). The Sustainability Commissioners can also attend SSMU Senate Caucus meetings, once a semester, and present their ongoing projects for potential collaborations with senators.



Role of Environment Committee and the Sustainability Commissioners

The Environment Committee (EC) is chaired by the Sustainability Commissioners. The Sustainability Commissioners are responsible for ensuring that campaigns of the EC are facilitated properly to raise awareness and affect the change desired by the EC. The Commissioners ensure that EC acts as:

- A gathering area and a clearing house of ideas
- An incubator for student groups whose leaders have since left the McGill community
- A facilitator of capacity building activities and resources that help move students along the learning curve of how to achieve environmentally beneficial changes in the community
- Support for environmental organizations and associations on campus

The EC's outreach and communications strategy shall focus on building connections with six (6) main groups in order to share information about each others' campaigns, services offered, events, and activities:

- Faculty associations
- Green Groups
- SSMU Equity Committee
- Downtown student body
- Involved students and student groups at the Macdonald Campus
- McGill administrative units including the Office of Sustainability (the Office of Sustainability is becoming a highly valuable resource for connecting students with the appropriate staff on campus to pursue projects, as well as for helping students develop applied student research projects)

Efforts to communicate with students shall include:

- More centralized and accessible information
- Online resources as well as physical spaces like the green corner
- Creating strong sense of community (building inter-personal relationships)

Role of Equity Committee and Equity Commissioners

Note: The roles of the Equity Committee and Equity Commissioners have been laid out in the Equity Policy, passed on March 1, 2012, and subsequently updated in April 2018. What follows here is a short addition connecting the Equity Committee and Equity Commissioners to the work of the Environment Committee and Sustainability Commissioners. This is not an exhaustive detailing of the



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Role of Equity Committee and Equity Commissioners.

The Equity Committee and Equity Commissioners provide a valuable resource to SSMU and the entire student body in grappling with equity issues broadly in the community and dealing specifically with equity complaints as they come forward.

- It will be the role of the Environment Committee to periodically connect with the Equity Committee, report back to Environment Committee and arrange collaborations.
- It will be the responsibility of the Sustainability Coordinator to ensure that communication between the typical environmental and social spheres within SSMU's internal operations is open (e.g. goings on in Building Committee, events being planned by Students' Society Programming Network, etc.). This will be an essential connection as Equity Committee is mainly concerned with social sustainability as described in this document and Environment Committee is mostly concerned with environmental sustainability.

APPROVED