

Environment Committee Report

MEMBERSHIP & GENERAL

The Environment Committee (EC) is composed of:

- Sustainability Commissioners: Maya Allavena and Salma Charrat
- Clubs Representatives: representatives of environmental clubs at McGill
- Members-at-Large: students who participate independently of a club

So far, we have **17 members-at-large** and **18 club representatives**. We are planning to engage more students and non-environmental clubs throughout the semester.

The main aims of the EC are to:

- Promote McGill environment & sustainability student groups, emphasizing clubs' ability to educate & support McGill students
- Unite these groups under one umbrella to facilitate the execution of the goal above.

Where We Are

As Sustainability Commissioners responsible for the environment portfolio at SSMU, we have been re-establishing our role and priorities. We have been in contact with the McGill Office of Sustainability to discuss possible collaborations on its zero waste mission and event certification. We have also connected with the Post-Graduate Student Society and the Sustainability Park. Through these relationships, we aim to create a space where students and clubs can interact with different stakeholders.

We held our first EC meeting on Monday, September 21st, where we voted on five Green Fund projects:

- 1) Plate Club: \$222 for sustainable snacks (annual)
- 2) Plate Club: \$535 for dishwashing volunteer compensation (annual)
- 3) Students 4 Good Jobs: \$100 for a discussion circle event (one time)
- 4) Apple-picking trip (organized by the EC): \$1,711 to book the bus and orchard (one time)
- 5) EC snacks: approximately \$250 for EC meeting snacks (per semester)

All five proposals received a majority of votes and were awarded funding, for a total of \$2,818.

Vice-présidence (affaires internes) de l'AÉUM **SSMU Vice-President (Internal)**

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Sustainability in Internal Events

We would like to ask the SSMU LC to reconsider the position of sustainability in its event planning and to engage us in these conversations. We believe that sustainability should be built into events from the start rather than added afterwards, and that involving the Environment Committee and Sustainability Commissioners early on would help SSMU align its events with these values many students expect from it. We have received student feedback and small complaints about garbage bags, free meal distribution, and activity night giveaways. We want to work closely with these events to ensure the basic sustainability measures are included.

We are also reconsidering SSMU mandatory workshops, specifically the sustainability workshop aimed for clubs, services, and athletic clubs. We would like to create and facilitate an in-person workshop, rather than keeping the video (if that is still part of the mandatory workshops), to further emphasize the importance of sustainability in event planning.

Continuity for Future Commissioners

We want to leave behind a system that works. We aim to create shared forms, templates, and documents that future commissioners and students can access and build on, rather than reinventing everything each year.

Our Main Ideas for this Fall 2026 Semesters

- **Bi-weekly Environmental Committees:** open to all students and interactive. We will discuss clubs' and SSMU's initiatives and vote on the Green Fund projects.
- **Partnership with the cKUT Radio:** monthly podcast sessions with SSMU club guests, each focused on an environmental topic related to the club and SSMU. Episodes will be shared on our instagram and website.
- **Website and Instagram reorganizing:** a refresh to the SSMU Environment pages
- **Monthly or bi-monthly community events:** events for members of environmental and food clubs and EC members-at-large, fostering inter-club relationship beyond the university setting.
 - Our first event is on October 3rd, in collaboration with Plate Club - apple picking.
- **Monthly sustainability newsletter:** featuring club and SSMU updates and sustainability anecdotes. We are looking for two comms volunteers to help create it. We are also planning on creating a sustainability calendar, which could possibly be featured on the SSMU website.
- **Slack/Discord channel:** for EC members and any students who want more informal and internal information. We will share ad hoc thoughts and surveys and create a forum for communication.
- **Stronger Green Fund support:** more help, resources, and information for clubs applying
 - We would like a presence at funded events, such as being tagged, so we can track them and build a database of the events the Green Fund has supported.

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We have also been debating re-creating a database of all environmental and SSMU-related environmental clubs, with contact information, to encourage collaboration and dialogue.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Since taking up our roles, we have been working to clarify our budget in order to plan our activities responsibly. We have been in dialogue with both the VP Finance and VP Internal, and look forward to resolving this together so we can honour the commitments we have already made to our members.

We are planning to meet with the Communication team to discuss the newsletter idea, and with Wallace to discuss other sustainability-related tasks for SSMU building.

More broadly, we would welcome guidance from LC on where sustainability support is most needed within SSMU this semester.