ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2026

(May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026)

Report prepared by the
McGill Office of Sustainability



Sustainability Projects Fund

SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS FUND (SPF)

The Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) builds 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 nearly $15 million in funding and has approved **443 projects**,.

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



SP0303 Sustainable Commuting Program



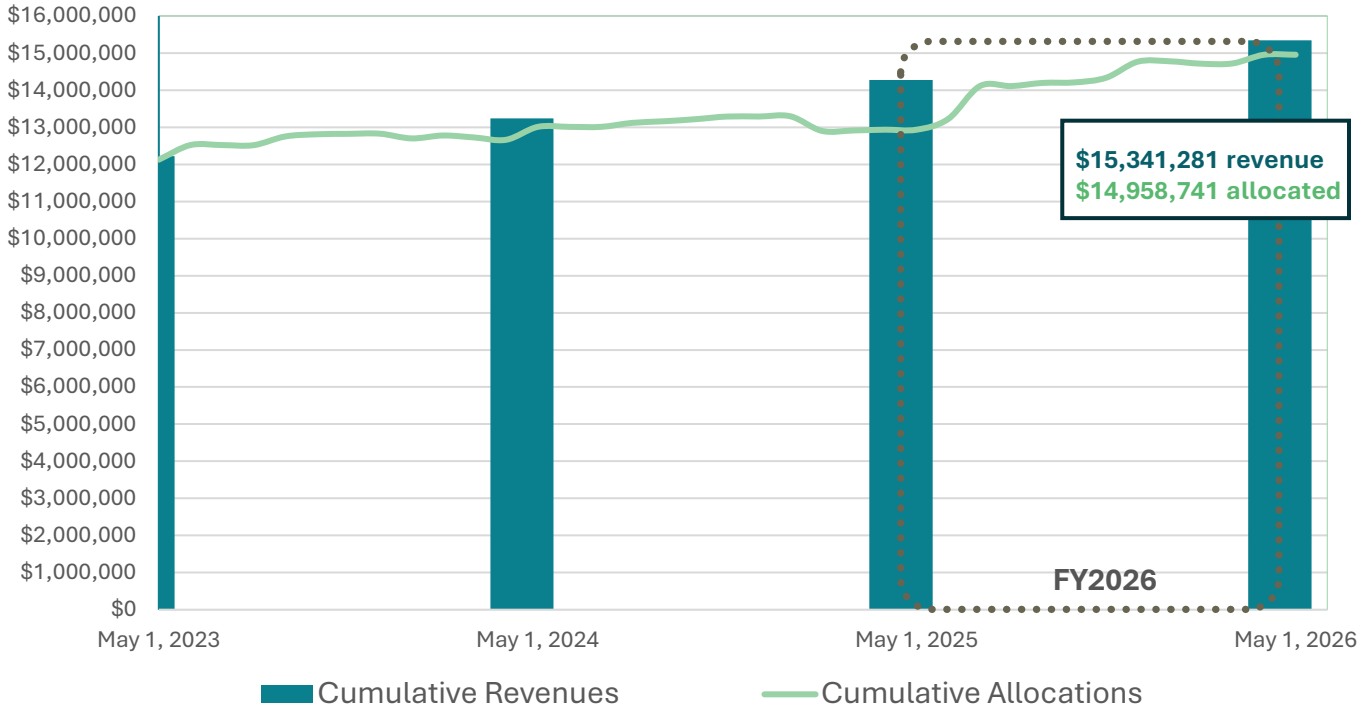
FY2026 FINANCIAL AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

FY2026 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In Fiscal Year 2026, the SPF was funded through a student fee of $0.55 per credit, which is matched equally by McGill University.

All allocations are approved by the Governance Council and any unallocated funding is carried forward to the next year.

Cumulative Financials (FY2023-FY2026)



Note: Allocations include approved project budgets, budget amendments awarded to teams, and SPF overhead expenses. The chart has been adjusted to reflect the release of unused budget allocations over the past few years. If the allocations amount decreases, 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 the funding received to be spent.

FY2026 APPROVAL SUMMARY

Over the lifetime of the Fund, 785 applications have been received, 56% of which were approved.

All project applications are assessed based on the eligibility and evaluation criteria. Eligible initiatives must be at McGill, sustainability-focused, in need of seed funding, and action-oriented. Approved applications demonstrate adequate analysis, impact, feasibility, collaboration, support, and capacity-building.

50
Applications received this year

35
Projects awarded funding in FY26

443
Projects awarded funding overall by SPF

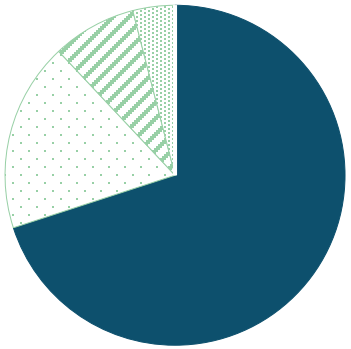
56%
of applications approved since 2010



SPF Staff and Governance Council members at Mac Horticulture Centre

FY2026 APPROVAL SUMMARY

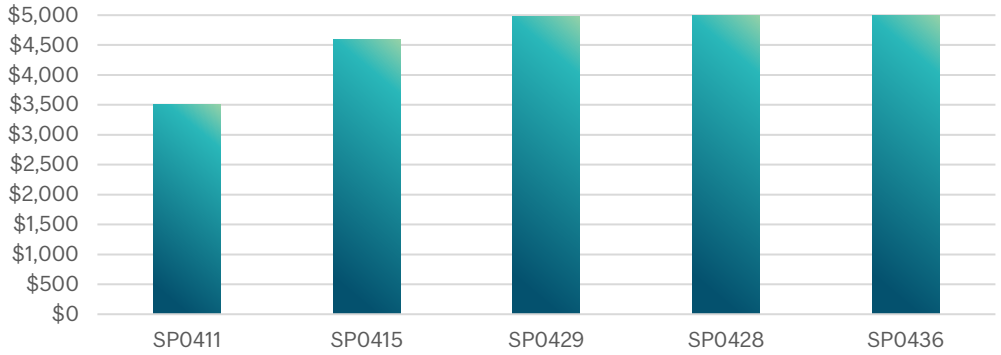
FY2026 Applications Status



70%
Approved

- Still In-Process
- Withdrawn/Ineligible
- Rejected

Under $5,000 Stream Approved Projects

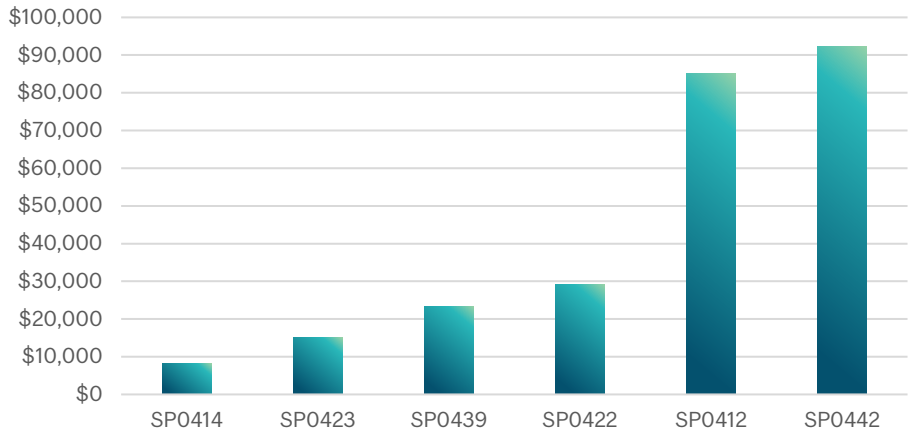


≤$500 Tiny Stream

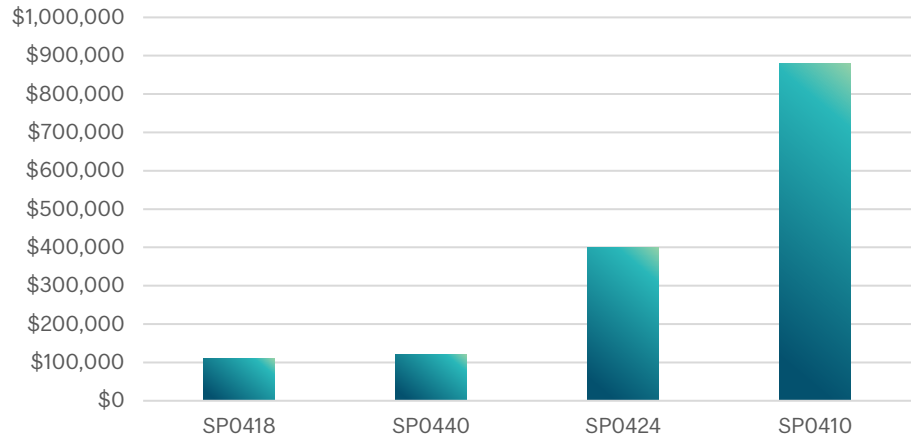
20
Approved

receiving on average
$336

Over $5,000 Stream Approved Projects



Big Wave (+$100,000) Approved Projects





SP0442 Climate Resilience and Flood Mitigation for McGill's Natural History Collections

APPROVED PROJECTS

≤$500 (TINY STREAM)



SP0419: BRIDGE Sustainability Case Competition



SP0433: Medicine Wheel Garden for McGill

≤$500 (TINY STREAM)



SP0420: Pollution is Colonialism Reading Group



SP0431: McGill Energy Journal & Research Sustainability Network Trivia Night

UNDER $5,000



SP0415: Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment (CINE) student symposium



SP0428: McGill Youth Summit on Sustainable Business

OVER $5,000

Sustainability Projects Fund



SP0412: Project Bird-Safe McGill evolved from a classroom assignment into a volunteer-run initiative that collects data on bird mortality and works with McGill Facilities to install bird-safe window decals.



SP0423: SPF funding expanded Plate Club's inventory with new shelves and dishes.



SP0418: Upper Residence Geothermal project assessed whether geothermal energy is possible for Gardener Hall and nearby student residences.

BIG WAVES
>$100,000

When a large-scale initiative requires additional information or planning before a full application can be submitted, applicants can request funding for a Planning Phase. Once the applicants complete the feasibility or pilot required, they may apply for funding to implement their project.

ZEROING IN ON ZERO WASTE (SP0410)



16 Zero-Waste Ambassadors reached over **3,000** students from September 2025 to April 2026.



6 waste audits conducted from November 2025 to March 2026 showed that **~ 50%** of items in the landfill are compostable.



121 multi-stream bins installed across Athletics, Student Housing & Hospitality, and Gault Nature Reserve. **620+** bin upgrades leveraged by provincial funding.

IMPLEMENTATION OF MCGILL'S SUSTAINABLE GREENSPACE PLAN (SP0424)



8 new biodiversity zones created with over **40** native species planted across downtown and Mac campuses.



3 new student-managed pollinator habitats installed.



Over **60** participants were involved in community planting events.

SPF GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

FY2026 Governance Council Membership

STUDENTS



Annelies Koch-Schulte
SSMU



Emma Zgonena
SSMU



Elea Demetriou
MCSS



Shiqing Gong
PGSS

STAFF



Stephanie Posthumus
Academic



Christie Lovat
Academic



Jonathan Rousham
Administrative



Sarah Heiberg
Administrative

In the spirit of staff-student collaboration, which drives the SPF, the Governance Council consists of eight voting members who provide decisions and feedback on project applications by consensus:

- four students (two SSMU, one MCSS, and one PGSS representative),
- two academic staff,
- two administrative staff


Fonds des projets durables
Sustainability Projects Fund
LESS IS MORE.
MOINS, C'EST PLUS.
Student Housing
Dining Services

ENGAGEMENT

SPF AMBASSADORS

This group of volunteer student leaders champion the SPF to increase visibility and student engagement. This year, the Ambassadors collectively interacted with over 1,200 students through class presentations and tabling.

Thank you to this year's Ambassadors:

- Alyssa Upton
- Aster Gamarnik
- Caitlyn Moore
- Léonie Christelle Lado Nguedam
- Elizabeth Roberts
- Pavani Miglani



NEED FUNDING? CONNECT WITH THE SPF

@sustainmcgill

mcgill.ca/sustainability/spf

spf.sustainability@mcgill.ca

