

POLICY NAME	McGill University Sustainability Policy
Approving Body	Senate Board of Governors
Initial Approval Date	May 25, 2010 – Board of Governors
Date of last review	Senate – December 6, 2023 Board of Governors – December 14, 2023
Related Documents	Vision2020 Sustainability Strategy (approved 2014) McGill Climate and Sustainability Action Plan (approved 2017) McGill Climate & Sustainability Strategy (approved 2020)

PART I – PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 PURPOSE

1.1.1. As institutions committed to the advancement of knowledge and solutions-based inquiry, universities have a unique role to play in the face of complex environmental, social and economic issues. Through research, education, daily operations and interactions with the broader community, universities can be effective contributors to policy and attitudinal change needed to create a sustainable future.

McGill University is committed to achieve the highest possible standards of sustainability. We strive to be a leader in research and education, creating and communicating the knowledge required for humans to live sustainably at the local, regional and global scales. In our operations, we will meet or exceed governmental standards of sustainability for educational institutions and the norms of sustainability achieved by our comparator universities. Our goal is to become an institutional model of sustainability for society as we pursue our academic mission. In order to achieve this, the University will leverage the talent and ingenuity of its students, faculty and staff to transition towards a more sustainable, low carbon future.

1.2.

- a) Undertake the activities and operations of the University, including through University advancement, in a manner that strikes an appropriate balance between the needs and aspirations of current and future generations of the McGill and broader communities;
- b) Foster inquiry into sustainability through teaching, learning, research and the university experience, with the expectation that students will graduate with an understanding of sustainability and the ability to address sustainability challenges in a global context;
- c) Share knowledge to stimulate innovation, raise awareness and ensure effective participation of the McGill community in the implementation of sustainable practices;
- d) Encourage economic efficiencies in the University's operations that are consistent with social equity and respect for the environment;
- e) Promote a healthy, safe and productive work and learning environment for the McGill community;
- f) Advance individual and collective efforts and accountabilities throughout the McGill community to make sustainability a priority in the life of the University;
- g) Identify and conserve the cultural and natural heritage of McGill University, including properties, buildings, landscapes, traditions and knowledge, taking their intrinsic rarity and fragility into account;
- h) Minimize the use and consumption of energy, water and material resources in recognition of the finite capacity of the planet to support life.

