

McGill University, Zoom Online Meeting
May 3, 2021 (1:00 PM – 2:30 PM)

: F. Miller, Y. Beauchamp, C. Manfredi, D. Mondou

- Resources should be put where we can achieve the biggest impact. Additionally, resources should be budgeted for ongoing operation expenses to maintain the infrastructure and programs.
- One of the best ways to start is by encouraging exemplary practices from stakeholders throughout the institution: from administration to janitors to building directors. Lead by doing before expanding out to include others.
- An impactful addition could be setting a target to reduce the absolute amount of waste.
- One tactic could be to remove waste-producing infrastructure, such as vending machines.
- The best way to create buy-in from students is to reach them in their first year at McGill. Reach out early and often, sharing that no waste is the best option and that this is a collective effort.
- Ensure that we are being transparent in reporting: in other organizations there is sometimes a distortion in figures by setting different boundaries or by having a continuous claim of achievement from a baseline instead of a year-over-year improvement.
- Ensure our reduction approaches do not just shift institutional waste production to the individual.

N. Kuhlmann and T. Degenhard shared information about the student-led Green Labs Initiative @ McGill. This initiative, which recently received a Catalyst Award, started in 2018 at the Neuro and has since expanded to multiple facilities and departments. The presentation included an overview of University's research impact and the Green Labs Initiative @ McGill. This was followed by information on three key target areas: awareness, waste reduction, and carbon footprint. Current approaches and potential future tactics were discussed, as well as facilitators and barriers to progress.

Members Suggested/Asked:

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