

Advisory Council on Sustainability
McGill University, Zoom Online Meeting
September 28, 2020 (9:00 AM – 10:30 AM)

Present: F. Miller, Y. Beauchamp, C. Manfredi, J. Nicell, P. Cigana, H. Lauzon, A. Porlier, K. Cook, B. Lennox, S. Osiecki, A. Desousa, B. Harvey, D. Mondou, L. Rathmell, J. Earle., A. Moreau, S. Watt

Absent with regrets: D. Dutton, E. Bennett, N. Dworek

1. Welcome & roundtable

Prof. Manfredi welcomes the group to the meeting. He shares the sad news of Coralie Deny's passing. He thanks everyone for their virtual presence and continued efforts in advancing sustainability at McGill.

2. Approval of Minutes from the Last Meeting and Today's Agenda

Prof. Manfredi confirms that the minutes from the last meeting were approved and that there are no additions to today's agenda. The meeting will last 1 ½ hours and the main topics will be McGill's next Climate & Sustainability Strategy and the New Vic project.

3. Latest News Related to Sustainability

F. Miller presents recent sustainability news, including:

McGill's Climate & Sustainability Strategy Consultations were conducted online.

McGill won the 2020 Environmental Product and Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) Award for sustainable IT purchasing.

The McGill Office of Sustainability (MOOS) organized a virtual art expo in order to engage with the community during the first weeks of working remotely.

McGill has signed the Responsible Investment Charter along with 15 other universities.

With support from the Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF), engineering students are building an interactive waste bin to show real-time data in the Trottier building.

McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative (MSSI) has partnered with University Advancement to develop a four-part series on sustainability featuring researchers from the MSSI.

The Bicentennial Student Sustainability Challenge, impact200, has been launched to give students and recent alumni a hands-on opportunity to make a meaningful impact at McGill, Montreal, and the world.

4. Revision of the Advisory Council's Terms of Reference

Prof. Beauchamp proposes a revision of the Advisory Council's Terms of Reference. These modifications align with new internal structures that were recently implemented. The recently appointed Executive Director, Francois Miller, will act as Chair of the Advisory Council. Additionally, modifications will more accurately reflect the way that Council members provide advice on the impact and feasibility of sustainability initiatives that are presented to them. Prof. Beauchamp and Prof. Manfredi will remain on the Council as ex-officio members to strengthen the support by the University leadership.

5. Updated Version of McGill's Next Climate & Sustainability Strategy

F. Miller and A. Moreau present.

5.1 Context:

The upcoming Climate & Sustainability Strategy will be continuing the two long-term targets of carbon neutrality and STARS Platinum. A third long-term target to achieve Zero Waste by 2035 will be added.

Two new features of this Strategy have been added: a list of clear ways for McGillians to get involved in the plan, and concrete links to the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The consultation process achieved significant engagement by shifting online via social media, a web platform, and a virtual event.

5.2 Structure of the Strategy:

The Strategy highlights 3 long-term targets and 8 categories. Goals are broad climate and sustainability ambitions to strive towards by 2025. Action items support the completion of these goals. Each of the long-term targets have interim 2025 goals. The waste diversion rate and greenhouse gas emissions data will be tracked each year, while the STARS sustainability rating is measured every 3-4 years.

5.3 Metrics

One metric will be tracked for each of the 8 categories. Metrics were chosen based on feasibility of tracking, connection to long-term targets, and link to individual behaviour change.

Members Suggested:

Since F. Miller is not a member of the Board Committee for Sustainability, extra care should be taken to ensure that there is collaboration and alignment.

It would be helpful to report on the Strategy's commitments in comparison to the global figures for each metric. E.g. Percent of procurement contracts with specific sustainability criteria as a proportion of all procurement contracts.

It would be helpful to report on the sustainability metrics as a comparison of the global figure. E.g. Value of procurement contracts with specific sustainability criteria as a proportion of total contracts.

In order to ensure the Strategy is guiding in the appropriate direction, carefully choose metrics that reflect McGill's mission as an academic institution. Include metrics that relate to student learning and productivity, as well as corporate priorities - not simply individual behavior change.

6. New Vic Project

Dean Lennox presents the plans for the New Vic project. Several buildings will be either transformed, rebuilt, or removed. The 2016 Principal's Task Force selected two pillars for the project: Sustainability Systems and Public Policy. Several elements will ensure state of the art facilities and interdisciplinary

collaboration: Discovery Hubs; Institutes & Centres; and Learning, Teaching, & Library Facilities. The project incorporates 15 sustainability goals for 5 sustainability challenge areas. Targets include LEED Gold, WELL Gold, and reduced energy intensity.

Members Suggested:

We received the following feedback in advance from a member who could not attend: It is suggested that in order to be truly leading-edge, McGill should embrace a broad view of sustainability in this project by taking a more problem-oriented approach to research and action, with broad, flexible, and multi-disciplinary themes.

The site is quite physically ch