



Sustainability Projects Fund
Office of Sustainability
1010 Sherbrooke St West, Suite 1200
Montréal, Québec H3A 2R7



Fonds des projets durables
Bureau de développement durable
1010, rue Sherbrooke Ouest, Suite 1200
Montréal (Québec) H3A 2R7

December 20, 2010

To whom it may concern:

McGill University's Sustainability Project Fund (SPF) is a best-practice model for a funding mechanism to catalyze sustainability on campus. The process began by evaluating existing funds and designing the SPF to address their lessons learned and to suit McGill's context. Champion efforts over several years led to students and members of the administration joining forces to promote student referenda campaigns to vote 'yes' for a student fee and to bring the Provost on board to commit matching funds. The students pay \$0.50 per credit, to a maximum of \$15 a year and the central administration matches dollar for dollar. The mandate of the approximately \$800,000 a year is to *build a culture of sustainability among the McGill campus community*.

The mandate of culture building is an essential advance on the recent 'greening' effort of many higher education campuses. Though physical modifications are important work in reducing the impact of campus operations, the less tangible but more powerful leverage point is that of culture change. The goal of the SPF is to engage the campus community in a meaningful way that will encourage them to think critically and shift how they are in the world. The lasting impact this has is immeasurable, especially when they leave our campus to spread their influence in other parts of the world.

The conception, design, development, and management of the SPF are characterized by partnership. The Working Group who governs the SPF by consensus is composed of four students and four staff members (two academic and two administrative). The process intends to encourage all applicants and redirect their energies forward in a more effective way, even those who receive regrets on their applications. As administrator of the SPF, my guiding intention is that the lived-experience of all who interact with the SPF aligns with our mandate; that the influence of the SPF promotes our aspirational vision. This manifests as building community and a culture of trust, reciprocity, and collaboration. This leads to a community equipped to together discover a sustainable direction forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lilith Wyatt".

Lilith Wyatt | Sustainability Projects Fund Administrator / Administratrice du fonds des projets durables |
Université McGill University | The Office of Sustainability / Bureau du développement durable |
1010 Sherbrooke St Ouest, suite 1200 (via rue Metcalfe) | Montréal (Québec) H3A 2R7 | **T: 514.398.8826** |
lilith.wyatt@mcgill.ca | www.mcgill.ca/sustainability