



**McMaster Sustainability Advisory Committee  
Monday, January 16, 2023 | 11am - 12pm**

Chair: Kate Whalen

Attendees: Kate Whalen, Angelo Diletera, John McGowan, Dee Henne, Wayne Terryberry, Lalita Goray, Megan Bieksa, Tracie Felton, Lynne Serviss, Donna Shapiro, Liana Bontempo, Carlos Figueira, Simranjeet Singh

Regrets: Sean Beaudette, Debbie Martin

Advisory Members: Steven Moore, Kevin Beatty, Sean Van Koughnett, Angelo Diletera, Dee Henne

Minutes: Amie Ventresca

Item	Notes
1. Sustainability Policy Update (Kate to facilitate)	Current policy is from 2011. Kate asked the committee if we should update to reflect accurate information, such as Committee name, titles, etc. before the Director starts? Saher would need to be heavily involved and might decide not to update these things at this point. May need to wait for Campus Master Plan to be finalized as well. Should this policy be reviewed regularly? Will wait for Saher for direction.  ACTION: Lalita to consult Debbie for insight and to obtain guidance from Saher.

2. Sustainability Strategy Update, Discussion, & Brainstorming (Kate to facilitate)

**Leadership and Vision**

McMaster's leaders have prioritized sustainability. Their vision, support, and partnership are a key element to this strategy's success. As part of this McMaster will:

- Create pan-university strategic alignment and develop clear action plans.
- Implement the strategy and recognize achievements.
- Be engaged in acting as sustainability stewards.
- Align sustainability efforts with the Indigenous Strategic Direction Plan.
- Encourage dialogue and action around sustainability, accessibility and inclusion.
- Empower its community, including teams and individuals, to advance sustainability efforts across the university.
- Provide the Office of Sustainability resources to facilitate this work.
- Establish and share qualitative metrics that align with this Sustainability Strategy.

**Strategic Driver 1 – Culture Focused on Sustainability (with 4 Themes)**

Strategic Drivers 3-4 have operationally responsible ownership across campus, and much work has been done. Driver 1 is uniquely appropriate for MSAC to lead, collectively or in smaller working groups. This brainstorming session intends to generate ideas for initiatives that would satisfy the objectives related to the themes of Driver 1 and be completed by June 2023.

*Leadership & Vision* – ideas include:

- Create a University Award for sustainability, modeled after the President's Award.
- Hamilton's Environmentalist award has years of history, but currently not been operational since pre-COVID. It is open to students, community members, etc. McMaster could help update and run it in collaboration with a community partner.
- MSU could make sustainability award for students and student groups as part of their existing recognition awards ceremony in March.

## Communications

McMaster's community identified that awareness impacts individual participation in sustainability efforts on campus. McMaster will increase awareness, promotion, and celebration of sustainability efforts by:

- Developing sustainability literacy and better defining what sustainability means to McMaster.
- Creating active communication networks focused on sustainability across the university.
- Sharing sustainability-related policies and standards across the university.
- Continuing to produce an annual sustainability report sharing this strategy's progress.



- There are various pockets of funding available for sustainability projects that we could communicate about (ie. Student Life Enhancement Fund and the McMaster Okanagan Special Projects Fund)
- MSU is going to referendum to renew bus pass (a sustainable initiative). Feedback can be shared with the broader community.

*Communications* – ideas include:

- Q&A with experts, like Engineering professor to explain complicated energy initiative and speak to sustainability
- Share sustainability-related policies
- Showcase initiatives like Earth Day (April). SDG Week (March) and Sustainability Day (October) events. Could launch Report on Earth Day in an interactive and engaging way again
- Host a sustainability fair, look for students' opinions, educate as well as receive feedback. This time of year would be a good time to poll students, 1<sup>st</sup> years have found their footing, no exams or assignments,

## Strategic Partnership and Continued Engagement

To create a living laboratory for sustainability, the university's community members will need to collaborate in new and ongoing ways. As part of this, McMaster will:

- Expand and leverage partnerships in the community and across the university.
- Explore various models to engage our community and partners in our sustainability initiatives.
- Partner with students and include the student voice.
- Recognize Indigenous knowledge and the importance of Indigenous perspectives on sustainability efforts on campus.
- Continue to engage diverse communities in sustainability decision making.

or just after Reading Week, after midterms

### *Strategic Partnerships & Continued Engagement* – ideas include:

- Connection to community awards, like the Environmentalist of the Year Award (above), and others.
- Connect with City Councillors, Linda Lucasik who is now director for City of Hamilton's Climate Office, and other City staff engaged in sustainability initiatives.
- Partner with students and engage the student voice through the SDG Week using a pitch competition – Engineering and International Affairs have experience, and have agreed to support the creation of a pitch competition, committee can present our sustainability strategy goals and have students pitch their ideas and receive recognition, collaborate. Committee members to also join SDG Week to host more events, tables, initiatives.
- Host a career fair geared directly to sustainability. Have had them in the past, with success, and can bring them back

## Learning and Development

To create a culture of sustainability at the university, McMaster's community has asked for opportunities to learn more about adopting sustainability-minded practices.

To provide this, McMaster will:

- Provide sustainability-focused professional development opportunities to staff and faculty members.
- Further develop McMaster Continuing Education offerings related to sustainability.
- Foster behavioural changes across the university that encourage a sustainability-minded lifestyle.



- Hospitality Services is struggling to get green containers back from the students for cleaning, working with Residence to determine a solution -- maybe an ambassador program to receive micro credential, volunteer certificate, or part-time employment to help run and improve the program

*Learning & Development* – ideas include:

- Investigate sustainability-related micro credentials, co-curricular record (to recognize non-academic experiences to be a part of their transcript), can create cross-campus collaborations and ownership of logistics
- Expand the Composting Champions program to other areas, like ACCESS Tech or Bring Your Own Bottle/Mug, for individuals to champions sustainable behaviors and actions in their respective areas. Give them resources, supports, agency for feedback and program enhancement, and recognition