



PART 1: PROJECT OVERVIEW

Instructions: *Please answer the questions below as clearly and concisely as possible. You will be able to detail your project further in Part 2 of the Over \$5,000 application process, the Project Plan, as well as submit relevant appendices. Once you have completed this Project Overview, save it and submit it online. SPF Staff will respond with feedback on your application within two weeks and send you Part 2. Once all sections are complete, the combined application will be provided to the SPF Governance Council for their review and decision. As a reminder, all SPF applications are assessed using the [SPF Eligibility & Evaluation Criteria](#):*

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA		EVALUATION CRITERIA		
AT MCGILL	SUSTAINABILITY FOCUSED	ANALYSIS	IMPACT	FEASIBILITY
SEED FUNDING	ACTION ORIENTED	COLLABORATION	SUPPORT	CAPACITY BUILDING

Before starting, you may find it helpful to consult the [SPF Sustainability Brief](#) and the [Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025](#).

CONTEXT

Criteria assessed in this section: SUSTAINABILITY FOCUSED, ANALYSIS

1. What specific sustainability-related need/issue have you identified at McGill and aim to address through your project? In your response, please describe clearly how the need/issue is related to sustainability. *Note: Please wait to detail your project idea in response to Question 5. Limit ~100 words*

This project aims to address the need for waste reduction and diversion in McGill's residence dining halls. The four residence dining halls generate approximately 20% of the overall waste produced on McGill's campus. Costs associated with food waste and packaging, such as disposal, over-purchasing, labor, and energy are a drain on university resources. The average waste diversion rate of the four dining halls is 42.3%. This means that 57.7% of waste in the dining halls is being sent to landfill.

We have recognized that opportunities exist to address this need by eliminating excess packaging, incentivizing waste reduction, and increasing waste education to encourage food waste reduction and proper sorting.

2. How do you know this is a need/issue? What research have you done on this need/issue (e.g. consultation, observation, survey)? *Limit ~100 words*

In 2013, SHHS completed the first "Greenhouse Gas Audit" of McGill's dining halls. This report provided data on total waste tonnage generated in dining halls and the percentage of waste diversion.

In a survey administered to a sample of residents by the Environment Residence Council in Fall 2021, 73% of respondents said the University is not doing a satisfactory job of integrating environmentally sustainable practices into its residences. 87% of respondents said they would be interested in participating in more opportunities to get invol

Since 2013, there have been four-stream waste sorting stations installed and collection of pre-consumer and post-consumer organic waste in residence dining halls. The Zero-Waste Ambassadors program, established in 2022, trains student volunteers to provide helpful waste sorting advice to their peers during peak dining periods in the four main dining halls.

The ERC raised concerns about inconsistent waste sorting station signage, gaps in waste education, and reducing single-use food packaging at the URC in November 2022.

Best practices suggest that in addition to providing appropriate waste sorting infrastructure, making eco-friendly choices obvious, clear, and accessible is necessary for changing behaviour.

4. What expertise or qualifications does your team have regarding this need/issue

CARS 00 APPLICATION FORM

OVER \$5,000 APPLICATION FORM

OVER \$5,000 APPLICATION FORM

OVER 65,000 APPLICATION FORM

APPENDIX

Relevant Support Documents

List any appendix documents in order in the table