

Sustainability Project Fund Applications

Applicant/Project Leader: McGill Food Systems Project

Contact Information: Sarah Archibald

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Project Title: McGill Food Systems Project/Local Food Plus Intern

Budget Requested: \$3024

Project Group –

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Abbreviations: *sorry to confuse you all!*

LFD – Local Food Days
LFP - Local Food Plus
MFDS – McGill Food and Dining Service
MFSP - McGill Food Systems Project

Project Overview

McGill Food Systems Project Description

Since 2009, The McGill Food Systems Project (MFSP) has been actively shaping food procurement at McGill and creating a more transparent, connected and sustainable food system.

is committed to creating local sustainable food systems that reduce reliance on fossil fuels, create meaningful jobs, and foster the preservation of farmland – and farmers. The LFP certification standards address issues of

farms must happen in the coming weeks and months. LFP will be dedicating accredited certifiers to the farms of most interest to McGill, UQAM and Aramark. However, certification is normally simplest during the off season for farmers. As this is busiest time of year for farmers, it is crucial that a **MFSP intern support the streamlining of the certification for high priority farms (approximately 15+ farms, through onsite visits) for McGill before the semester begins**. This will also support the MFSPs goal of building meaningful relationships with farmers, in order to encourage their participation in the on-campus events surrounding local food days.

2. On June 13th the Quebec Minister of Sustainable Development will be visiting McGill. The purpose of this meeting is to both showcase the current initiatives and propose future partnerships with the province. McGill and LFP are looking to propose a financial partnership with the government to promote the province wide launch of LFP, with McGill as a focal point. Identified as a priority for certification, the intern will ensure the **Macdonald Horticultural Center produce be certified and showcased** at this meeting, which will provide a tangible and symbolic statement of McGill's role as a food sustainability leader.
3. To date, the largest challenge that the MFSP has yet to overcome is finding and engaging first year students in such a way that they feel Local Food Days (LFDs) are their own to explore and share with their peers. To address this challenge, the intern will host a number of staff (certifiers and senior leadership positions) from LFP to give education and leadership workshops on the issue of local and sustainable food for (up to 30) first year students living in residence. With minimal coordination the LFP workshop would provide a high value experience for these students based on the organization's well-founded educational resources. This workshop will take place in the early fall of 2011 with the expectation that the MFSP members can work with **these students to take ownership of organizing LFD Events which will ideally result in a sense of personal investment and pride in LFDs**. The MFSP will follow up with these students on a monthly basis to ensure their successful integration with the planning of LFDs.
4. In October 2011, McGill will host the official launching of the LFP official partnerships in the province in Quebec. **The intern will ensure that this event will engage the larger student body, through targeted outreach to student societies and relevant student groups**. This event will provide the opportunity for the student community become aware of the significance of LFP, its relevance for food and sustainability in Quebec and the successful collaboration between students and the administration that made these partnerships possible.

Qualifications of Intern

LFP and the MFSP have decided after discussion that the intern for this integration period should be Sarah Archibald. Sarah is a McGill student in the faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, majoring in International Agriculture. Her work with the MFSP over the past 18

months has given her a thorough understanding of the McGill Food System, and strong relationships with senior leadership at McGill Food and Dining Services. Through her studies and extracurricular interests, Sarah has developed both hands-on agricultural skills and a great understanding of sustainability issues in agriculture more broadly. She has a strong personal relationship with the Horticultural Center at Mac, many McGill and Quebec based agricultural groups, and was recognized by a Catalyst Award in 2011 for her collaboration with the administration. Sarah's commitment to sustainable agriculture, environmental awareness on campus and larger goal for institutional change lead her t

integration of the program into McGill cafeterias. The benefits of LFP will be transmitted to the