

2022 REPORT
**SDG ACTIVITIES
AND 17 ROOMS EXERCISE**

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



ABOUT THIS REPORT

This is the second report on Concordia's activities related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The first report was published in the fall of 2020.

Produced by the Office of the Provost, this report documents the efforts of students and student groups, faculty and research centres, professional staff, service units, and other members of the Concordia community that are connected to and aligned with the SDGs.

A focal point of this report is the outcomes from Concordia's 17 Rooms exercise. This exercise brought together members of the Concordia community to brainstorm about how the university can have greater impact in relation to the seventeen SDGs. Each report section below contains an abbreviated summary of input received during the course of the exercise, along with a set of eight overall takeaways that were workshopped during an 18th Room event in early November 2022.



NOTES ON THE REPORT CONTENT

The number of SDG-related courses listed here are based on the 2021 Sustainable Curriculum Report conducted by Concordia's Office of Sustainability. A series of keyword searches were employed to identify courses with sustainability content, to differentiate these as "sustainability-focused" or "sustainability inclusive" and to assign one or more United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the resulting course list.

Publication numbers were derived from keyword-based Scopus queries compiled by Elsevier for the Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings for the 5-year period 2016-2020.

The 17 Rooms conversations for SDG 6 and SDG 14 were merged because of the close thematic linkage. Potential actions and ideas are repeated for these goals.



SDG SPECIAL EVENT

CONCORDIA LAUNCHED THE UNIVERSITY'S VOLUNTARY REVIEW ON NOVEMBER 29, 2021



PARTICIPANTS

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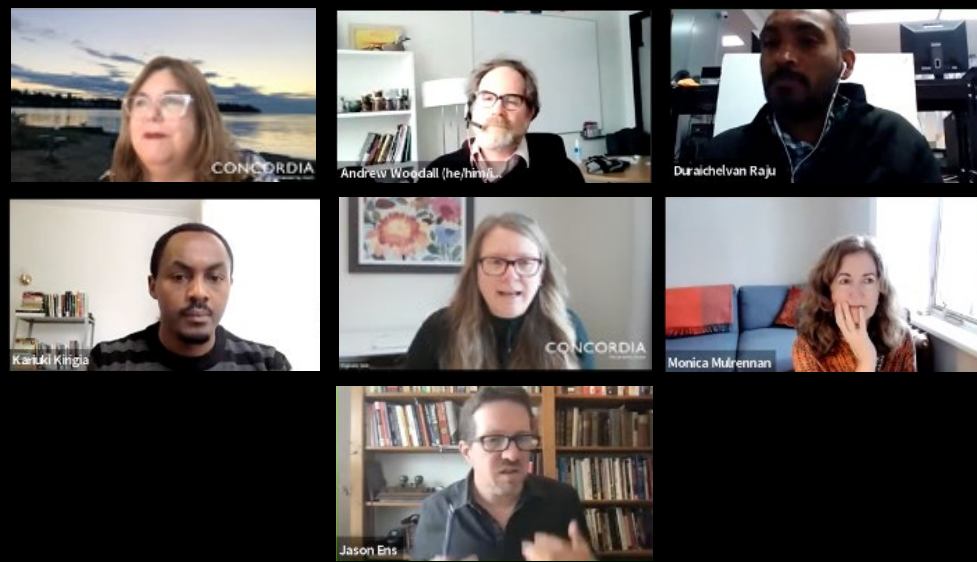
Topics Addressed:

- Why engage with the SDGs?
- What do the SDGs mean for Canada?
- What do the SDGs mean for universities and for Concordia specifically?
- What do the SDGs mean for Canada's Indigenous peoples?
- What is the nature of the challenges we face today around sustainable development?



17 ROOMS CONVERSATION

HOW CAN CONCORDIA BE MORE IMPACTFUL AROUND ISSUES RELATED TO POVERTY?



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Potential actions and ideas for SDG 1

- Assess the situation in our community, and for students in particular.
- Strengthen holistic needs-based support for low-income students.
- Co-develop neighborhood initiatives to understand and address challenges.
- Pledge that no member of our community live in poverty.
- Aim to double our poverty-related research and develop a policy advocacy initiative.

MOST RELEVANT TARGETS FOR CONCORDIA:

- I.A Mobilize resources to implement policies to end poverty
- I.B Create pro-poor and gender-sensitive policy frameworks
- I.3 Implement social protection systems
- I.4 Equal rights to ownership, basic services, technology and economic resources

CURRENT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SDG 1: NO POVERTY

- Targeted scholarships for international undergraduate students.
- Work-study program
- Affordable food and emergency funding for food
- The LIVE (Leadership, Initiative, Volunteer, Engagement) Centre, student volunteer opportunities at anti-poverty initiatives
- The Open Educational Resources project, works to reduce textbook costs for students.
- Affordable on-campus childcare
- CEED (Community, Empowerment, Education, Development) Internships, students work alongside Ugandan interns on community projects developed by CEED's Ugandan office

LONGITUDINAL RISK PROJECT

Led by professors Dale Stack and Lisa Serbin, the Concordia Longitudinal Risk Project is a 30-year longitudinal study on inner-city children from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Based at the Infant and Child Studies Laboratory, this study measures aggression and social withdrawal in high-risk children. Among other findings, the researchers have learned that being raised in impoverished urban neighbourhoods more than doubles the average person's chances of developing a psychosis-spectrum disorder by middle adulthood. This research is ongoing.

CENTRAIDE CAMPAIGN

Concordia holds an annual fundraising campaign in support of Centraide of Greater Montreal. In 2021, the university community contributed more than \$218,000 to the Concordia Centraide Campaign. Centraide helps over 500,000 Montrealers by distributing funds to more than 350 agencies around the city.



99

courses at Concordia address poverty



35

Publications related to SDG 1 by Concordia researchers in 2016-2020



17 ROOMS CONVERSATION

HOW CAN CONCORDIA BE MORE IMPACTFUL AROUND ISSUES RELATED TO HUNGER?



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Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Provost

Potential actions and ideas for SDG 2

- Set goals, objectives, and targets to address student hunger (using Hospitality Concordia's food security assessment as a reference).
- Help small-scale vendors supply Concordia.
- Acquire a set % of food from local and sustainable suppliers, including indigenous suppliers.
- Create a food studies research hub.
- Offer experiential learning in food studies with industry and community partnerships.
- More co-teaching opportunities, perhaps including a summer school.
- Secure land for Concordians to learn about food production, potentially as part of a food production program.

MOST RELEVANT TARGETS FOR CONCORDIA:

- 2.4 Sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices
- 2.1 Universal access to safe and nutritious food

CURRENT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER

- Concordia sustainable food systems plan
- Concordia Food Coalition
- Student food groups and sustainable food systems:
 - People's Potato
 - Le Frigo Vert
 - The Concordia Farmers' Market
 - The Hive Café Solidarity Cooperative
 - City Farm School
 - Campus Potager
- Affordable food initiatives such as Hive Loyola Free Lunch
- Food studies research group
- Student emergency and food fund
- Concordia Greenhouse
- Mind.Heart.Mouth project

CONCORDIA FOOD COALITION

The Concordia Food Coalition (CFC) is concerned about the economic, ecological and social implications of the food system at Concordia. The CFC brings together students, faculty and staff to promote and facilitate a transition to a more sustainable food system at the university. The CFC supports working groups focused on using unused space on Concordia's campuses for vegetable gardens, building affordable hydroponic systems, and making urban habitats friendlier to pollinators.

Did you know?

Five student-run initiatives on campus grow produce:

- Campus Potager
- City Farm School
- Concordia Greenhouse
- Mind.Hearth.Mouth
- HydroFlora

CITY FARM SCHOOL

The City Farm School is a Concordia Greenhouse initiative to develop partnerships and expertise in urban agriculture on the Island of Montreal. Its aim is to promote a cultural shift towards more resilient communities able to meet the challenges posed by climate change by focusing on local food autonomy.



83

courses at Concordia address hunger



73

Publications related to SDG 2 by Concordia researchers in 2016-2020



17 ROOMS CONVERSATION

HOW CAN CONCORDIA BE MORE IMPACTFUL AROUND ISSUES RELATED TO GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING?



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Potential actions and ideas for SDG 3

- Gather data to help set goals, objectives, and targets addressing health and well-being.
- Deliver on existing commitments.
- Develop campus-based action research projects integrating research, education, and services.
- Greater implementation of Universal Design for Learning.
- Strengthen our work on cities and health.
- Greater informal recreational facilities and programming for increased access to physical activities.

MOST RELEVANT TARGETS FOR CONCORDIA:

- 3.4 Reduce mortality from non-communicable disease and promote mental health
- 3.5 Prevent and treat substance abuse
- 3.B Achieve universal health coverage

CURRENT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- School of Health
- ACT (aging + communication + technology)
- engAGE Centre for Research on Aging
- PERFORM Centre
- Arts in Health Research Collective
- Life Sciences Entrepreneurship Development Program
- Community Health and Wellness supports such as Zen Dens
- Centre for the Arts in Human Development
- Centre for Structural & Functional Genomics
- Centre for Studies in Behavioural Neurobiology
- Centre for Research in Molecular Modeling
- Centre for Research in Human Development
- Centre for Nanoscience Research
- Centre for Microscopy and Cellular Imaging
- Centre for Biological Applications of Mass Spectrometry
- Centre for Clinical Research in Health
- Centre for Applied Synthetic Biology

HEALTH-RELATED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Applied Human Sciences
- Creative Arts Therapies
- Health, Kinesiology and Applied Physiology
- Health Research and Healthcare Management Program
- Psychology
- Biological and Biomedical Engineering
- Surgical Innovation Program
- School of Community and Public Affairs

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Concordia offers a variety of other mental health services for staff and students. Resources include:

- Empower Me
- Concordia Health Services
- Counselling and psychological services
- Employee Assistance Program
- Applied Psychology Centre
- Art Hives



68

courses at Concordia address good health and well-being



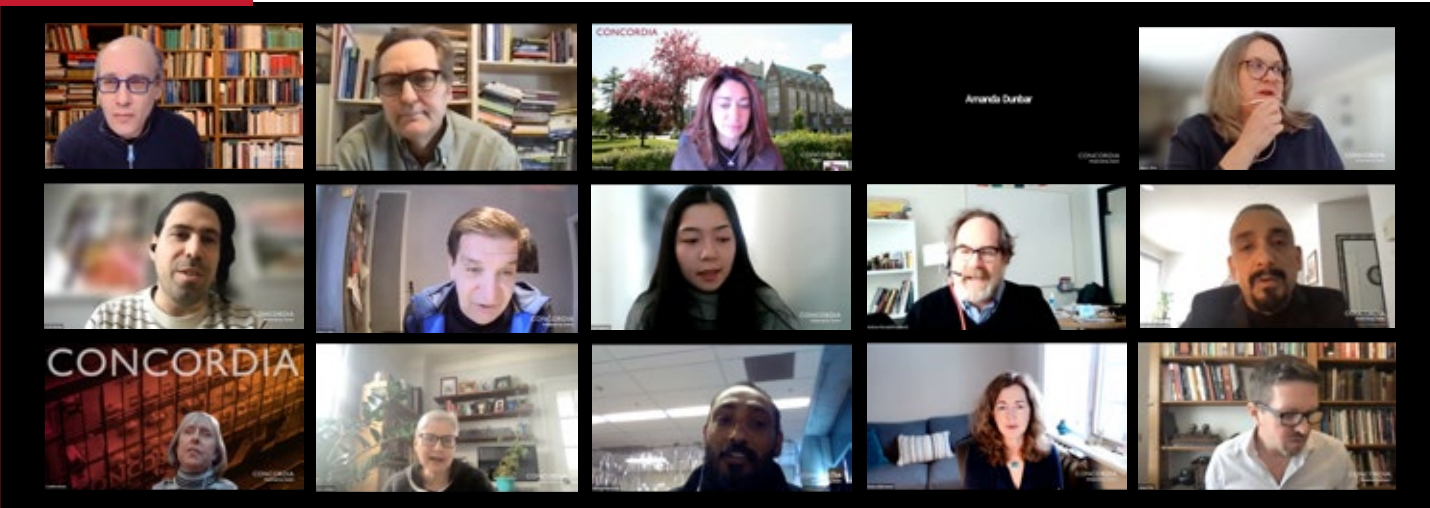
520

Publications related to SDG 3 by Concordia researchers in 2016-2020



17 ROOMS CONVERSATION

HOW CAN CONCORDIA BE MORE IMPACTFUL AROUND ISSUES RELATED TO QUALITY EDUCATION?



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Potential actions and ideas for SDG 4

- Implement Universal Design for Learning across Concordia programs.
- Further integrate sustainability, decolonization, and Black perspectives in curriculum.
- Recognize students' prior learning and make programs more accessible.
- Involve students in program development, assessment, and improvement.
- Be a "relationship-rich university" through mentorship and collaborative learning.
- Improve integration of lifelong learning opportunities (credit/non-credit pathways).
- Offer learning/development/growth opportunities for staff.
- Explore alternative ways for students to finance their education.

MOST RELEVANT TARGETS FOR CONCORDIA:

- 4.7 Education for sustainable development and global citizenship
- 4.3 Equal access to affordable technical, vocational, and higher education
- 4.5 Eliminate all discrimination in education

CURRENT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

- Education Makers
- Applied Linguistics Lab
- Relationships Across Development Lab
- Youth Educational Offerings:
 - Let's Talk Science
 - Youth Fusion
 - Summer Programs
 - STEAMPunks
- KnowledgeOne educational services company
- Concordia Continuing Education
- The Lab for Innovation in Teaching and Learning
- Student Success Centre
- Black Perspectives Office
- Otsenhákta Student Centre
- Access Centre for Students with Disabilities

CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF LEARNING & PERFORMANCE

Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance (CSLP) is a multi-institutional provincial research centre of excellence. The basic research question CSLP members are addressing is: How can we enhance the learning and performance of complex cognitive skills in learners of all ages? CSLP researchers have developed an array of tools and resources available to the educational community at no charge. These tools include:

- Learning Toolkit+
- Project SOMEONE
- SpaceTeam ESL
- Adaptech
- ABRACADABRA

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO QUALITY EDUCATION

- Bachelor's programs in Early Childhood and Elementary Education, Art Education, Child Studies and Teaching English as a Second Language
- Master's degrees in Educational Studies, Educational Technology and Art Education
- Graduate Diplomas in Adult Education, Instructional Technology and Play Therapy
- Graduate Certificate in Didactique et linguistique pour l'enseignement du français langue seconde (Teaching French as a Second Language)
- Graduate Certificate in University Teaching

Did you know?

There are over 10,000 International Students are enrolled at Concordia.



62

courses at Concordia address quality education



137

Publications related to SDG 4 by Concordia researchers in 2016-2020



17 ROOMS CONVERSATION

HOW CAN CONCORDIA BE MORE IMPACTFUL AROUND ISSUES RELATED TO GENDER EQUALITY?



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Potential actions and ideas for SDG 5

- Conduct an institutional equity audit.
- Develop proactive (not reactive) initiatives that spur progress on equity issues.
- Provide greater recognition for faculty service contributions.
- Support faculty development in community and public impact.
- Increase co-teaching opportunities.
- Support cross-faculty hiring.
- Develop transparent decision-making frameworks in leadership and governance.
- Communicate core institutional values to the community.

MOST RELEVANT TARGETS FOR CONCORDIA:

- 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation in leadership and decision making
- 5.8 Promote empowerment of women through technology
- 5.4 Value unpaid care and promote shared domestic responsibilities

CURRENT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY

- C-FAR (Critical Feminist Activism and Research)
- The Centre for Gender Advocacy
- Try Concordia, a free mentorship program for women interested in STEM studies
- The Concordia Alumni Women and Leadership program and Speed Mentoring receptions
- Women in Engineering student association
- The Women in Engineering – Career Launch Experience, a four-month internship program
- The Canadian Women Artists History Initiative
- The Sexual Assault Resource Centre

PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

The Standing Committee on Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Violence is a permanent university committee of students, faculty and staff convened to revise and implement Concordia's Policy on Sexual Violence and coordinate efforts to prevent and respond to university sexual violence and sexual misconduct.

SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR INSTITUTE

Established in 1978 as a site for action and the production of knowledge about women's lives, the Simone de Beauvoir Institute offers the oldest Women's Studies program in Canada and is recognized as one of the most innovative places in Quebec and Canada to study feminisms and develop initiatives that promote equality and social justice for all. The institute currently offers various undergraduate and graduate programs in Women's Studies for students.

Did you know?

Concordia's John Molson School of Business was the first business school to earn a Parity Certification from Women in Governance.



76

courses at Concordia address gender equality



95

Publications related to SDG 5 by Concordia researchers in 2016-2020



17 ROOMS CONVERSATION

HOW CAN CONCORDIA BE MORE IMPACTFUL AROUND ISSUES RELATED TO CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION?



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Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Provost



MOST RELEVANT TARGETS FOR CONCORDIA:

- 6.B Support local engagement in water and sanitation management
- 6.3 Improve water quality, wastewater treatment and safe reuse
- 6.4 Increase water-use efficiency and ensure freshwater supplies

Potential actions and ideas for SDG 6

- Use campuses as living labs, involve students in assessing water use efficiency, water quality, and other questions.
- Organize cross-disciplinary course offerings around the theme of water.
- Create degrees in areas of growth and opportunity for students.
- Foster researcher collaboration using funding opportunities like the Sustainable Transitions Team Research Initiative, building toward an innovation ecosystem.
- Extend and deepen collaborations with local communities to reduce water waste and protect and restore ecosystems.
- Build on current work with Indigenous communities.
- Support faculty who have opportunities to participate in and steer policy work.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

- Concordia Institute for Water, Energy and Sustainable Systems
- Water Security and Climate Change Lab
- Montreal Waterways Project
- For Love of Water (campus water-saving activity)
- Emerging Materials & Technologies for Water
- The Howarth Lab (Water Decontamination)
- Loyola Sustainability Research Centre
- Quantitative Fisheries Ecology Lab
- The Laboratory of Community and Quantitative Ecology
- Fraser Lab (Conservation Biology)
- River Management Lab
- Centre for Indigenous Conservation & Development Alternatives
- Facilities Management's Water Waste Efforts
- Loyola Sustainability Research Centre
- The Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

- Civil Engineering
 - Beng, Meng, Masc, Phd
- Environmental Engineering
 - Beng, Meng, Phd, Grad Certificate
- Biology
 - Ecology
 - Conservation Biology
- Geography, Planning & Environment
 - Human Environment
 - Geography, Urban & Environmental Studies
 - Environmental Assessment
- Environmental & Sustainability Science Bsc
- Sustainability Studies Minor & Elective Group

URBAN WATER CONSUMPTION RESEARCH

Planning 30 years ahead, Concordia researchers are looking into what urban water consumption would be like in 2050 in Montreal's suburbs. The researchers examined 21 different climate models and three possible emissions reduction scenarios. These calculations are especially important to cities that do not have ready access to large supplies of fresh water. The research team aims to increase awareness about water security among policymakers and politicians so they keep long-term trends in mind when making decisions related to water usage and water infrastructure.



Did you know?

Concordia vendors and vending machines do not sell any bottled water.



78

courses at Concordia address clean water and sanitation



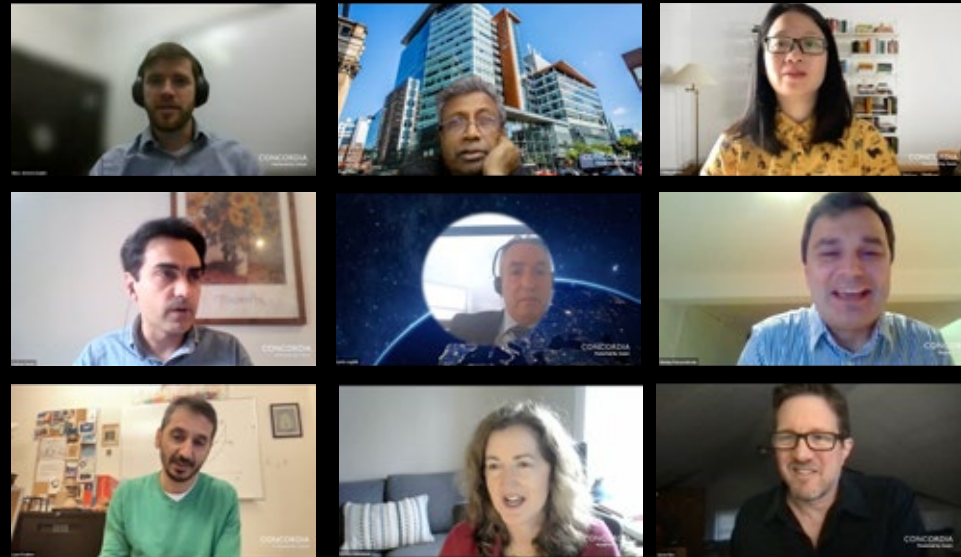
187

Publications related to SDG 6 by Concordia researchers in 2016-2020



17 ROOMS CONVERSATION

HOW CAN CONCORDIA BE MORE IMPACTFUL AROUND ISSUES RELATED TO AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY?



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Potential actions and ideas for SDG 7

- Cluster or connect research groups and centres working towards common objectives.
- Invest in support for “sustainable innovation” around energy, improving support for lab-to-market and lab-to-society.
- Explore the possibility of a district-level energy initiative focused on decarbonizing the energy supply of Concordia campuses and surrounding neighborhoods.

MOST RELEVANT TARGETS FOR CONCORDIA:

- 7.4 Promote access to research, technology and investments in clean energy
- 7.2 Increase global percentage of renewable energy
- 7.1 Universal access to modern energy

- Centre for Zero Energy Building Studies
- Sustainable Energy and Infrastructure Systems Engineering Lab
- District 3 Innovation Hub
- The Power Electronics and Energy Research Group
- Institute of Aerospace Design and Innovation
- Institute for Water, Energy and Sustainable Systems
- Centre for Urban and Renewable Energy
- Power Electronics and Energy Research Group
- Next-Generation Cities Institute

LEED BUILDINGS

Concordia, which is the most energy efficient of Quebec’s six major universities, has four LEED-certified buildings:

- John Molson Building (Silver)
- PERFORM Center (Gold)
- Center for Structural and Functional Genomics (Gold)
- Applied Science Hub (Gold)



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEMS ENGINEERING LAB

Concordia’s Sustainable Energy and Infrastructure Systems Engineering (SEISE) lab, led by Professor Fuzhan Nasiri, is focused on developing clean, sustainable energy for Northern communities. SEISE has partnered with an independent Quebec-based engineering consulting firm to spearhead projects in some of the country’s most remote territories. These projects evaluate the feasibility of deploying biomass and geothermal energy systems in northern Indigenous communities, and they include education and “social acceptance” facets.

Did you know?

Concordia was the first Canadian university to issue a sustainable bond, which was used help finance the new LEED-certified Applied Science Hub.



53

courses at Concordia address affordable and clean energy



689

Publications related to SDG 7 by Concordia researchers in 2016-2020



17 ROOMS CONVERSATION

HOW CAN CONCORDIA BE MORE IMPACTFUL AROUND ISSUES RELATED TO DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH?



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MOST RELEVANT TARGETS FOR CONCORDIA:

- 8.C Develop a youth employment strategy
- 8.5 Full employment and decent work with equal pay
- 8.6 Promote youth employment, education and training

Potential actions and ideas for SDG 8

- Set goals and objectives around decent work for graduates and student employment.
- Help students translate theories and ideas into practice and expose students to a range of employment opportunities.
- Develop more holistic ways to measure and assess success after graduation
- Explore job-sharing among faculty and staff.
- Proactively engage employers on EDI and equity in hiring.
- Create an observatory that analyzes the equity and sustainability impact of economic growth and mobilizes degrowth strategies.

- National Bank Initiative in Entrepreneurship and Family Business
- Centre Interuniversitaire de Recherche en Économie Quantitative (CIREQ)
- Montreal Workshop for Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
- Graduate Diploma in Community Economic Development
- Sustainable Investment Practicum
- Entrepreneurship training:
 - District 3 Innovation
 - Enactus Concordia
 - Solidarity Economy Incubation Zone (SEIZE)
- JMSB Community Service Initiative
- Sustainability Ecosystem, a program for sharing sustainable business practices
- John Molson Sustainable Enterprise Committee activities

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Graduate Diploma in Community Economic Development is for students who want to contribute to progressive change and civic engagement, at a time when complex, large-scale challenges are affecting societies around the world. Students explore the evolution of community economic development, community organizing and different theories of economic change. Today this includes the growing interest in social innovation and how it generates uncharted paths for community-based social and economic transformation.

STUDENT WORK PLACEMENTS & PROFESSIONALIZATION

- CO-OP
- Career Management Services
- Career and Planning Services
- GradProSkills
- FutureBound
- Art Volt
- Various internship programs



Did you know?

Concordia works with unions to undergo pay equity maintenance every five years in accordance with the Quebec Pay Equity Act.



51

courses at Concordia address decent work and economic growth



137

Publications related to SDG 8 by Concordia researchers in 2016-2020



17 ROOMS CONVERSATION

HOW CAN CONCORDIA BE MORE IMPACTFUL AROUND ISSUES RELATED TO INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE?



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Potential actions and ideas for SDG 9

- Forge an internal innovation ecosystem that better connects initiatives, teams, and offices, and facilitates researcher involvement.
- Offer faculty development in community and public impact and innovation.
- Use impact assessment to account for long-term impacts of research and initiatives.
- Consider more ambitious sustainability goals related to campus infrastructure, in particular with respect to space usage.
- Create a sustainable business and industry transformation cluster.
- Perform a situational analysis to make better structural and systemic interventions.

MOST RELEVANT TARGETS FOR CONCORDIA:

- 9.1 Develop sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructures
- 9.5 Enhance research and upgrade industrial technologies
- 9.4 Upgrade all industries and infrastructures for sustainability

- Centre for Zero Energy Building Studies
- Centre for Innovation in Construction and Infrastructure Engineering and Management
- Centre for Structural Safety & Resilience
- Centre for Advanced Manufacturing
- Sustainable Energy & Infrastructure Systems Engineering Lab
- Institute of Aerospace Design & Innovation Compleccity Lab
- Applied AI Institute
- Next-Generation Cities Institute
- District 3 & D3 Biohub
- Genome Foundry

SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION FOR BUSINESS LEADERS

The Sustainability Ecosystem in the John Molson Executive Centre aims to advance the adoption of sustainable business practices. The Sustainability Ecosystem capitalizes on collective intelligence by bringing industry experts, framework providers, task forces and practitioners together to share their content, increase transparency and advance education in the field of sustainable business. Investors, corporations, policy-making organizations, academia and other stakeholders all have an interest in being educated on sustainability in relation to operations, finance, marketing, accounting and more.

GENOME FOUNDRY

The Genome Foundry is a pioneering facility that employs cutting-edge robotic instrumentation to enable synthetic biologists to execute work at significantly greater scales and speeds. It eliminates bottlenecks in the research cycle and creates greater capacity for designing experiments and imagining possibilities. Foundry projects target high-value applications in human health, agriculture, chemicals and environmental technologies, and provide a broad range of unique training opportunities for professionals in this field.



Did you know?

District 3 has opened a state-of-the-art BioHub accelerator inside the Applied Science Hub.



84

courses at Concordia address industry, innovation, and infrastructure



415

Publications related to SDG 9 by Concordia researchers in 2016-2020



17 ROOMS CONVERSATION

HOW CAN CONCORDIA BE MORE IMPACTFUL AROUND ISSUES RELATED TO REDUCED INEQUALITIES?



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Potential actions and ideas for SDG 10

- Make reducing inequalities everyone's business
- Recognize service work and assess precarity.
- Cultivate international SDG research collaborations and partnerships.
- Explore the creation of an equity studies research cluster, program, or school.
- Organize living lab projects to prototype equity-related campus interventions.
- Help to address student income inequalities via access or bridging programs.
- Develop reciprocity with the home countries of international students and faculty (partnerships, experiential learning, recruitment and support)
- Make Concordia merchandise Fair Trade
- Support researcher-led policy development around equity issues.

MOST RELEVANT TARGETS FOR CONCORDIA:

- 10.3 Ensure equal opportunities and end discrimination
- 10.4 Adopt fiscal and social policies that promote equality
- 10.2 Promote universal social, economic and political inclusion

CURRENT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES

- Social Justice Centre
- Centre for the Study of Politics & Immigration
- Immigration and Diversity Investigation Lab
- Critical Disability Studies Working Group
- EngAGE Centre for Research on Aging
- Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy
- Montreal Institute for Genocide & Human Rights Studies
- Equity Office
- EDI Working Group
- EDI Action Plan for Canada Research Chairs
- EDI Lab
- Indigenous Directions Office and Action Plan
- Anti-Black Racism Task Force
- Black Perspectives Office
- Access Centre for Students with Disabilities
- SHIFT Centre for Social Transformation

ACCESSIBILITY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Access Centre for Students with Disabilities coordinates a variety of services and accommodations for students such as:

- Exam accommodations
- Sign language interpretation and transcription
- Providing accessible materials in alternate formats (braille, large print)
- Hygiene and/or mobility attendants
- Textbook/coursepack conversion services

SOCIAL INNOVATION AROUND DISABILITY

Enable Montreal was a non-competitive design challenge focused on innovative solutions to make Montreal more accessible and inclusive for people living with physical disabilities. Participant teams of engaged community members, students, researchers, activists, engineers and design professionals developed proposals, the most promising of which received continued support from the city's Maison de l'innovation sociale.

On the basis of learnings from the design challenge, Concordia's Office of Community Engagement created the Inclusive Innovation Guide, an event-planning resource to help Concordians and those in the innovation sector make their activities barrier free.



67

courses at Concordia address reduced inequalities



148

Publications related to SDG 10 by Concordia researchers in 2016-2020



17 ROOMS CONVERSATION

HOW CAN CONCORDIA BE MORE IMPACTFUL AROUND ISSUES RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES?



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Potential actions and ideas for SDG 11

- Create a 2030 Roadmap and Dashboard to guide and report on SDG-related actions.
- Deepen and expand the use of the 'campus living lab' model
- Offer more sustainability courses with immersive and experiential learning.
- New research clusters and/or curriculum offerings (sustainability/SDG skills).
- Engage with government, companies, and organizations around 'inclusive urbanization.'

MOST RELEVANT TARGETS FOR CONCORDIA:

- 11.6 Reduce the environmental impact of cities
- 11.7 Provide access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces
- 11.3 Inclusive and sustainable urbanization

- CERC in smart, sustainable, resilient communities & cities
- Next-Generation Cities Institute
- Loyola Sustainability Research Centre
- Centre for Zero Energy Building Studies
- Concordia Institute for Water, Energy and Sustainable Systems
- Centre for Structural Safety & Resilience
- Centre for Urban & Renewable Energy
- Transportation Research for Integrated Planning (TRIP) Lab
- Centre for Oral History & Digital Storytelling
- Centre for Real Estate
- Institute for Urban Futures
- Sustainability in the City and Beyond Conference
- Quartier Concordia
- Art Hives
- Office of Community Engagement
- SHIFT Centre for Social Transformation

SHIFT CENTRE FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

The SHIFT Centre for Social Transformation brings together community and university partners working to respond to community-identified challenges. The centre focuses particularly on problems of systemic injustice, inequity and unsustainability. SHIFT supports existing and emerging social transformation initiatives that unite the efforts of Concordians and their partners with the goal of creating a more just, inclusive and broadly prosperous Montreal.

Did you know?

14 university research centres and over 200 researchers come together at the Next-Generation Cities Institute

CITYSTUDIO MONTREAL

Concordia was a founding partner of CityStudio Montreal, which brings together municipal officials, community members, faculty and students to design interventions that make the city a better place to live, work and learn. CityStudio Montreal offers students and faculty a unique opportunity to gain insight into the way large cities work on a day-to-day basis and to take an active part in city-related projects.



110

courses at Concordia address sustainable cities and communities



321

Publications related to SDG 11 by Concordia researchers in 2016-2020

17 ROOMS CONVERSATION

HOW CAN CONCORDIA BE MORE IMPACTFUL AROUND ISSUES RELATED TO RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION?



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Potential actions and ideas for SDG 12

- Set additional, more ambitious institutional goals building on Sustainability Action Plan.
- Develop an institutional policy to reduce travel by faculty.
- Support for sustainable enterprises through procurement practices.
- Support for faculty and students in making policy interventions.
- Support for students organizing around cross-cutting research questions.
- Support for co-teaching opportunities.

MOST RELEVANT TARGETS FOR CONCORDIA:

- 12.5 Substantially reduce waste generation
- 12.8 Promote universal understanding of sustainable lifestyles
- 12.A Support developing countries' scientific and technological capacity for sustainable consumption and production
- 12.C Remove market distortions that encourage wasteful consumption

- Loyola Sustainability Research Centre
- Sustainability Cluster in Chemical & Materials Engineering
- Textiles & Materiality Cluster in Milieux
- CURC in Critical Practices in Materials & Materiality
- CURC in Operations & Sustainable Development
- Future Life of Objects Project
- Sustainability Action Plan
- Zero Waste Initiative
- Concordia Centre for Creative Reuse
- Waste Not, Want Not
- Dish Project

WASTE REDUCTION INITIATIVES

Zero Waste Concordia's mission is to divert landfill waste and instead reduce, reuse, recycle and rot. The program targets coffee cups, e-waste, paper, office furnishings and organic waste.

The Zero Waste Week and Challenge is a yearly, free event series and pledge dedicated to rethinking and innovating the way we approach waste. Students learn about upcycling, repurposing, composting and recycling, as well as the environmental and social implications of unsustainable waste management systems through workshops and activities.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY'S CENTRE FOR CREATIVE REUSE

Concordia University's Centre for Creative Reuse (CUCCR) is dedicated to diverting materials from inside the university's waste-stream and offering them to the general community free of cost. Its spaces feature a variety of material storage and displays that feature the diverse materials coming out of offices, departments, studios and labs on campus. A variety of wood, glass, metal, fibres, office supplies, plastics, paper, tools and equipment, and arts and crafts supplies fill the shelves. CUCCR has diverted over 18 tonnes of materials from Concordia's waste stream.



Did you know?

Concordia's Sustainability Action Plan established a 20-year vision to divert 90 per cent of material waste from landfill through compost, recycling and material reuse.



95

courses at Concordia address responsible consumption and production

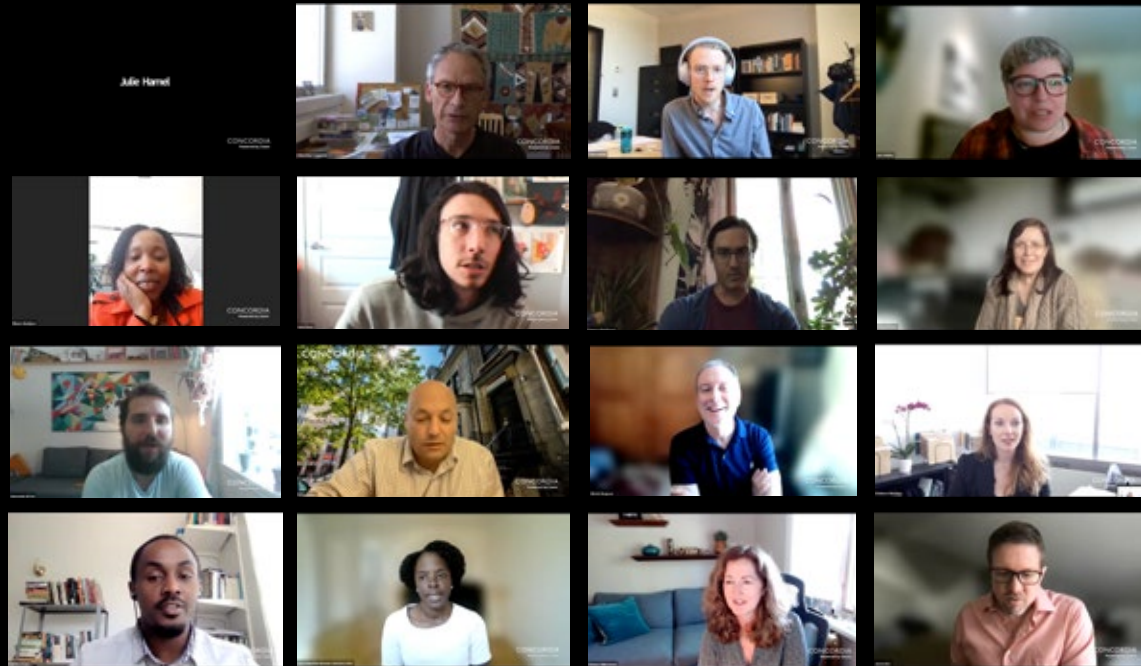
194

Publications related to SDG 12 by Concordia researchers in 2016-2020



17 ROOMS CONVERSATION

HOW CAN CONCORDIA BE MORE IMPACTFUL AROUND ISSUES RELATED TO CLIMATE ACTION?



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Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Provost |

Potential actions and ideas for SDG 13

- Develop institutional SDG goals and KPIs.
- Support climate action contributions from community members.
- Recognise and value the engagement and transdisciplinary work of faculty.
- Develop faculty and graduate student training for climate action skills and competencies.
- Develop a (co-taught) mandatory sustainability/climate education course.
- Increase climate action work in the community (advocacy and public education program).
- Forge strategic and institutional partnerships and collaborations to advance climate action.
- Create guides for reducing carbon footprints of research and academic activities.
- Introduce programs and supports for students around climate anxiety.

MOST RELEVANT TARGETS FOR CONCORDIA:

- 13.3 Build knowledge and capacity to meet climate change
- 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into policies and planning

CURRENT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

- Loyola Sustainability Research Centre
- Climate Scenarios, Impacts and Modelling Labs
- Centre for Zero Energy Building Studies
- Next-Generation Cities Institute
- Sustainable Energy & Infrastructure Systems Engineering Lab
- Concordia Institute for Water, Energy and Sustainable Systems
- Centre for Urban and Renewable Energy
- Sustainability Cluster in Chemical & Materials Engineering
- Office of Sustainability
- Sustainability Action Plan
- Facilities Management's Energy & Waste Initiatives
- Concordia Centre for Creative Reuse
- Waste Not, Want Not
- Sustainability in the Digital Age
- Flying Less Concordia Pledge
- Sustainable Concordia
- Sustainability Action Fund
- Engagement with Montreal Climate Partnership

CONCORDIA'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The Climate Action Plan articulates the following 20-year vision:

- Eliminate CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions from all direct sources, including building energy use and transportation
- Complete full electrification of all transportation infrastructure, including vehicle fleets and parking facilities
- Attain carbon neutrality across all remaining sources of emissions

Did you know?

By 2025 the Concordia University Foundation has committed to divesting from coal, oil and gas.

THE MATTHEWS CLIMATE LAB

The Matthews Climate Lab is led by Professor Damon Matthews. The lab aims to improve our understanding of the science of climate change, its impacts on human and environmental systems and how best to respond to the challenge of climate mitigation.



52

courses at Concordia address climate action



211

Publications related to SDG 13 by Concordia researchers in 2016-2020



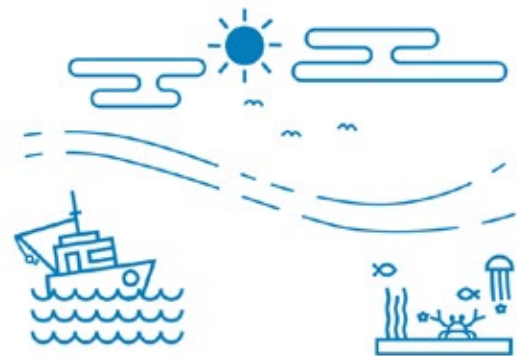
17 ROOMS CONVERSATION

HOW CAN CONCORDIA BE MORE IMPACTFUL AROUND ISSUES RELATED TO LIFE BELOW WATER?



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AVP Research, Professor, Geography, Planning and Environment
- Jason Ens**
Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Provost



Potential actions and ideas for SDG 14

- Using campuses as living labs, involve students in assessing water use efficiency, water quality, and other questions.
- Organize cross-disciplinary course offerings around the theme of water
- Create degrees in areas of growth and opportunity for students
- Foster researcher collaboration using funding opportunities like the Sustainable Transitions Team Research Initiative, building toward an innovation ecosystem.
- Extend and deepen collaborations with local communities to reduce water waste and protect and restore ecosystems.
- Build on current work with Indigenous communities.
- Support faculty who have opportunities to participate in and steer policy work

MOST RELEVANT TARGETS FOR CONCORDIA:

- 14.1 Reduce marine pollution
- 14.2 Protect and restore ecosystems

CURRENT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SDG 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

- Quantitative Fisheries Ecology Lab
- Concordia Institute for Water, Energy and Sustainable Systems
- Fraser Lab (conservation biology)
- The Laboratory of Community and Quantitative Ecology
- Certificate in Marine Transportation
- Water Security & Climate Change Lab
- The Howarth Lab (Water Decontamination)
- Loyola Sustainability Research Centre
- River Management Lab
- The Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science
- Centre for Indigenous Conservation & Development Alternatives
- Montreal Waterways Project
- For Love of Water (campus water-saving activity)
- Emerging Materials & Technologies for Water

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO LIFE BELOW WATER

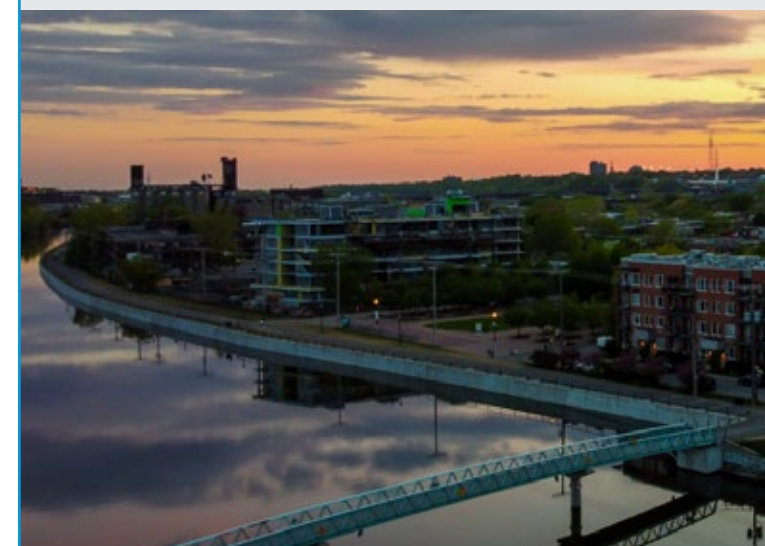
Students in the BSc in Environmental Science program study some of the most important issues we face today: climate change, natural resource management and sustainability. Students interested in issues such as river dynamics, hydrology, air and water pollution, watershed and coastal management can choose the hydrosphere stream of study.

Did you know?

Undergraduates in the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science created an aquatic drone prototype capable of detecting and collecting plastic on the surface of ocean water.

RESEARCH ON THE HEALTH OF AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS

Several research projects housed within the Concordia Institute for Water, Energy and Sustainable Systems (CIWESS) work to advance the health of aquatic environments. Under the leadership of its director, Professor Catherine Mulligan, CIWESS researchers study sunlight absorption trends in oceans, improvements to surface water quality from geotextile filtration systems, and the toxicity of engineered nanomaterials in aquatic environments.



78

courses at Concordia address life below water



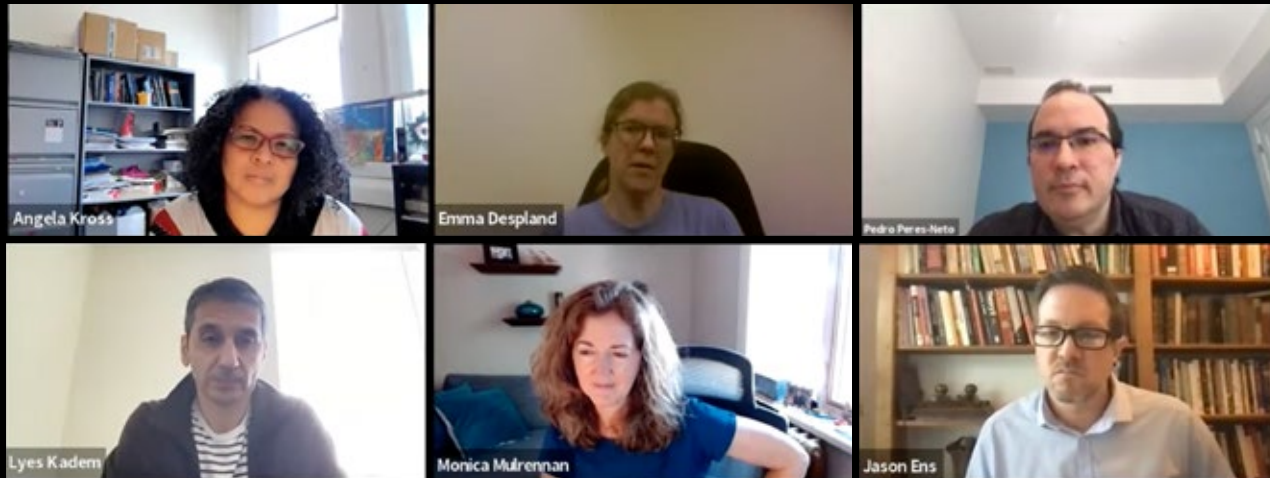
49

Publications related to SDG 14 by Concordia researchers in 2016-2020



17 ROOMS CONVERSATION

HOW CAN CONCORDIA BE MORE IMPACTFUL AROUND ISSUES RELATED TO LIFE ON LAND?



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- Lyes Kadem**
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- Monica Mulrennan**
AVP Research, Professor, Geography, Planning and Environment
- Jason Ens**
Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Provost

Potential actions and ideas for SDG 15

- Use Concordia campuses as biodiversity/green space living labs, and build educational offerings around this work.
- Build teams of researchers who can work together on SDG-related issues.
- Value and support impactful policy work.
- Pursue SDG integration in curriculum.
- Organize public events around biodiversity.
- Explore the idea of a school focused on sustainability studies.

MOST RELEVANT TARGETS FOR CONCORDIA:

- 15.2 End deforestation and restore degraded forests
- 15.9 Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity in government planning
- 15.A Increase financial resources to conserve and sustainably use ecosystem and biodiversity

CURRENT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND

- Loyola Sustainability Research Centre
- The Laboratory of Community and Quantitative Ecology
- Community Ecology and Biogeography Lab
- Fraser Lab (Conservation Biology)
- Centre for Indigenous Conservation and Development Alternatives
- Partners in Indigenous Conservation and Environment Futures
- Landscape Ecology Lab
- Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Studies
- Forest Study Centre
- Nature-based Carbon Removal & Ecosystem Services
- AI for Nature-based Climate Solutions
- Indigenous Climate & Sustainability Leadership
- Biodiversity and Bee Communities project
- Environmental Humanities
- Montreal Tree Inventory
- Concordia Campus Master Plan

BIODIVERSITY SCIENCE COLLABORATION

Thirteen Concordia researchers and 73 students are involved with the Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science (QCBS). Several Loyola Sustainability Research Centre (LSRC) faculty members are also members of the QCBS.

The research framework of the QCBS has four main axes:

- Discovering biodiversity
- Linking biodiversity to ecosystems
- Ecosystem goods and services and human well being
- Human dimensions of biodiversity

Did you know?

185 native species of trees were planted on Loyola Campus in 2019

PARTNERS IN INDIGENOUS CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT FUTURES

Partners in Indigenous Conservation and Environment Futures (PICEF) is a research group led by Professor Monica Mulrennan. PICEF includes graduate students and postdoctoral researchers working with Indigenous partners on a variety of projects that focus on ways to enhance and support the authority and stewardship of Indigenous peoples over their land and sea territories.



82

courses at Concordia address life on land



146

Publications related to SDG 15 by Concordia researchers in 2016-2020

17 ROOMS CONVERSATION

HOW CAN CONCORDIA BE MORE IMPACTFUL AROUND ISSUES RELATED TO PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS?



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- Jason Ens**
Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Provost



MOST RELEVANT TARGETS FOR CONCORDIA:

- 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions
- 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making
- 16.C Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies

Potential actions and ideas for SDG 16

- Perform an institutional assessment of internal governance participation.
- Document practices and expectations related to community participation in decision-making processes.
- Use the SDGs to articulate local, national, and international “impact agendas” that include public education offerings.
- Do advocacy as a form of knowledge mobilization through an advisory group.
- Foster organizational accountability in other organizations by contributing to EDI, sustainability, and justice efforts based on our own efforts and successful practices.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

- Social Justice Centre
- Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies
- Centre for the Study of Politics & Immigration
- Immigration & Diversity Investigation Lab
- UNESCO Chair in Prevention of “Radicalisation and Violent Extremism”
- Centre for Oral History & Digital Storytelling
- Institute for Governance of Private & Public Organizations
- Equity Office
- Office of Rights & Responsibilities
- Sexual Assault Resource Centre
- Project Someone
- Profile Toolkit

SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTRE

The Social Justice Centre aims to synergize Concordia’s extensive expertise on social justice to further stimulate research, create collaborations between faculty members and connect them with scholars from other institutions in Canada and abroad. The centre provides support for events, offers fellowships for postdoctoral researchers and graduate students and promotes dialogue and collaboration between researchers with different backgrounds and methodologies.

MONTREAL INSTITUTE FOR GENOCIDE AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

Led by executive director Kyle Matthews, the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS) coalesces multiple initiatives under its banner as Canada’s leading think tank working at the intersection of human rights, conflict and emerging technologies. MIGS serves as a leadership and ideas incubator that convenes stakeholders with the goal of developing better policies to protect human rights. Its initiatives include the Will to Intervene Project and the Digital Mass Atrocity Prevention Lab.

Did you know?

Six research centres at Concordia work in support of peace and social justice



55

courses at Concordia address peace, justice and strong institutions



181

Publications related to SDG 16 by Concordia researchers in 2016-2020



17 ROOMS CONVERSATION

HOW CAN CONCORDIA BE MORE IMPACTFUL AROUND ISSUES RELATED TO PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS?



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Executive Director, CEED Concordia
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Graduate Student
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Senior Director, Community Engagement & Social Impact
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AVP Research, Professor, Geography, Planning and Environment
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Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Provost

Potential actions and ideas for SDG 17

- Develop tools and IT systems that enable better communication among units on partnership activities.
- Encourage and facilitate participation and partnership in data-gathering related to the SDGs.
- Offer learning opportunities related to developing and managing partnerships.
- Increase staff support and funding for the development and administration of partnerships.
- Create cross-disciplinary SDG clusters with faculty and students.
- Partner with small organizations on local purchasing initiatives to supply Concordia.

MOST RELEVANT TARGETS FOR CONCORDIA:

- 17.6 Knowledge sharing and cooperation for access to science, technology and innovation
- 17.H Encourage effective partnerships
- 17.E Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

CURRENT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

- OOR Partnerships & Innovation Team
- OOR Knowledge Mobilization Team
- Concordia International
- Institute For Co-operative Education
- Experiential Learning Office
- Concordia International
- Office Of Community Engagement
- Shift Centre For Social Transformation
- Community Service Initiative
- CEED Concordia
- 4th Space

EMBEDDED PARTNERSHIP FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Concordia has joined forces with Bâtiment 7 for a new kind of community research partnership. Students and faculty are learning from — and with — the community through an innovative presence at the former CN train shop in Montreal's Pointe-Saint-Charles neighbourhood. Bâtiment 7 connects the university to community mobilization efforts and grassroots urban development.

The Living Labs initiative at Bâtiment 7, which is supported by the Sustainability Action Fund and the Office of Community Engagement, aims to support sustainability-oriented projects that provide students with opportunities for experiential learning while collaborating on meaningful projects that embrace sustainability and community action.



FUTURE EARTH COLLABORATIONS

Future Earth is a non-governmental organization that works towards a sustainable global future by developing a deeper understanding of complex Earth systems and human dynamics across disciplines. The effort to found one of the five global Future Earth hubs in Montreal was a collaboration between Montréal International, the Fonds de recherche du Québec and Montreal's academic institutions — Concordia, McGill University, Université de Montréal, UQAM, INRS, ÉTS and Polytechnique Montréal — and the Ouranos climate research consortium.

Did you know?

Concordia offers a total of 526 sustainability-related courses



95

courses at Concordia address partnerships for the goals



Key Takeaways

FROM THE 17 ROOMS EXERCISE

1

Build an institutional “impact agenda” that articulates clear goals, targets, and roadmaps to help define where and how we should focus our SDG-related efforts on our own campuses and communities.

2

Rigorously assess and track progress on institutional commitments to SDG-aligned efforts around decolonization, EDI, sustainability, “good governance” practices, etc. in order to have a clear sense of our strengths and weaknesses, and to hold ourselves to account with respect to our stated ideals.

3

Use the SDGs as a mechanism to foster inter-disciplinary research collaborations with a focus on enhanced social impact, finding effective ways to engage and align various researchers and research units around a common set of challenges and objectives.

4

Use the SDGs as a basis for creating co-teaching opportunities and cross-disciplinary course offerings, with a focus on providing students with immersive forms of experiential learning that builds skills in complex problem-solving and sustainable innovation.

5

Expand use of the ‘campus as a living lab’ model to facilitate SDG-inspired initiatives that integrate research, teaching, operations, services, and community engagement, testing and modeling new practices on our own campuses.

6

Provide training, support, and appropriate forms of recognition for faculty, staff, and students who want to influence public policy, do advocacy work, and pursue other forms of social impact.

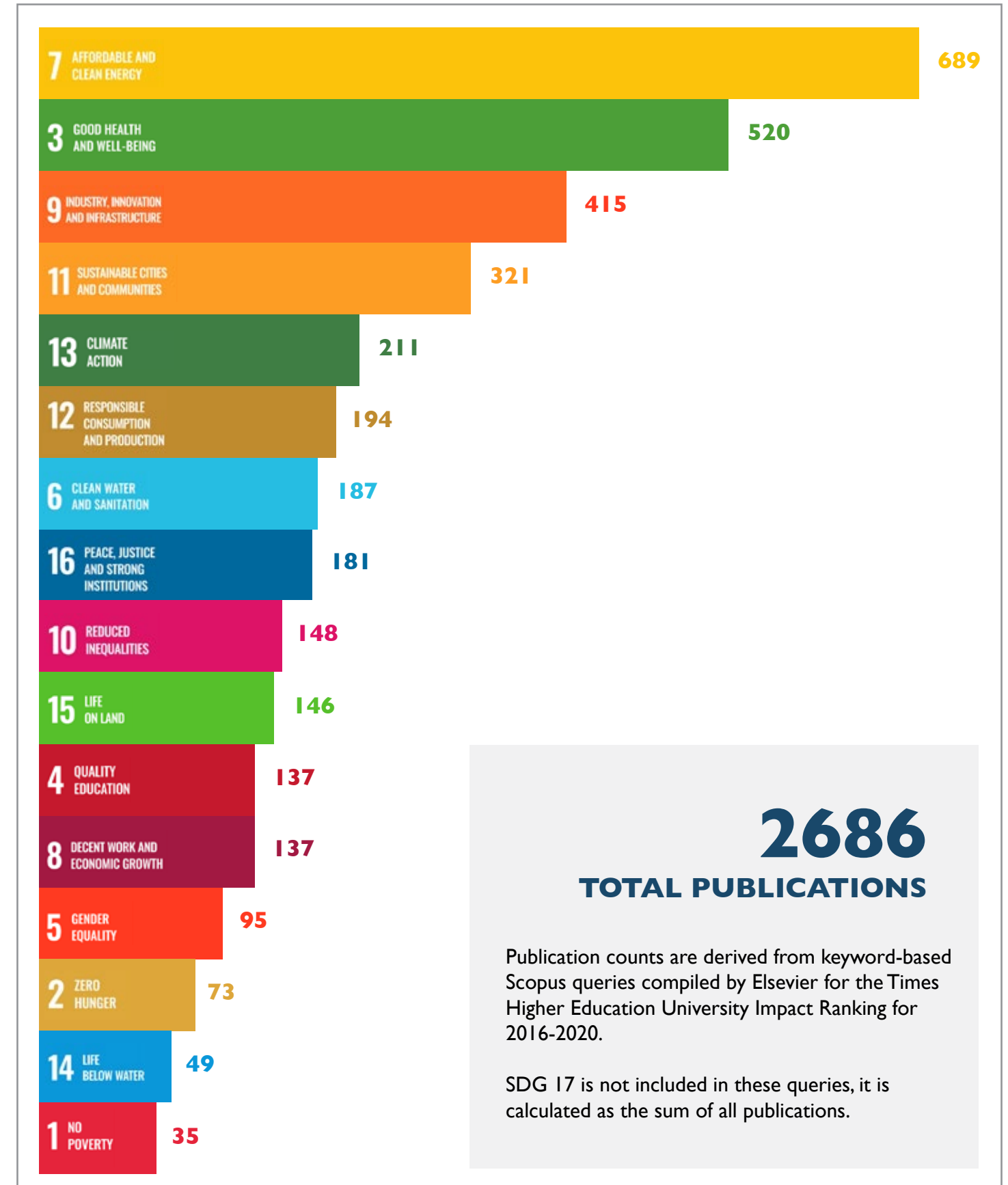
7

Develop or extend efforts providing leadership and guidance to businesses, government, and communities undertaking sustainability- and equity-related transitions, building on faculty expertise and student initiatives, as well as know-how developed through efforts on our own campuses.

8

Find additional ways to build and contribute to multi-stakeholder partnerships at all levels to maximize Concordia’s reach and impact in relation to the SDGs, and provide a range of learning opportunities and supports related to developing and managing partnerships.

PUBLICATIONS BY CONCORDIA RESEARCHERS 2016 - 2020



SPECIAL THANKS

The 17 Rooms Exercise would not have been possible without significant investments of time and creativity from:

Concordia Knowledge Brokers

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David Ward

4th Space Team members

Anna Waclawek

Doug Moffat

17 Rooms recordings are available online:
[SDGs and 17 Rooms YouTube Playlist from 4th SPACE Concordia University](#)

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Executive Director, Budget Planning and Business Development, Office of the Vice-President, Services and Sustainability

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Nadia Bhuiyan

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