



MEMO

From the office of the...

Vice-president (Education)

TO: Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Amelia Montemarano
SUBJECT: Advocacy and Policy research Transition
DATE: April 26, 2023

Dear Student Representative Assembly,

It was an honour to represent the MSU in writing and renewing McMaster's sustainability policy paper. The main changes we made between the previous policy and the updated one was creating a better infrastructure for food-related waste reduction, updating audits and sustainability reports to reflect post-COVID-19 conditions, and calling upon McMaster Directors to create a transparent and actionable plan for their commitment to divestment.

Within the past 5 years, McMaster has shown considerable effort in reducing food-related waste on campus through the implementation of compost bins and compostable food containers. However, these bins are not widespread across campus and thus majority of food waste and compostable containers end up in the landfill. Our policy paper recommends an expansion and increased awareness of these programs to divert food waste from landfills.

Additionally, several reports and audits including the Energy Management plan, McMaster's waste audit, and sustainability reports use outdated data from 2020-2021, which reflects reduced energy and resource usage from a reduced capacity on campus during the pandemic. Updated audits are necessary to understand our energy consumption and waste-production habits to recommend and implement targeted solutions.

Lastly, the MSU believes that McMaster should fully divest from fossil fuels, and currently there is no clear plan set in place to achieve this goal. The MSU recommends the creation of a transparent divestment strategy that is made known to the public and includes policies for sustainable reinvestment. This will hold the university accountable to achieving this goal.

Let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Best,

Amelia Montemarano