

# OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

AUGUST 2023



CONCORDIA

## LOCATION & CONTACT INFORMATION

1250 Guy St., FB-801 Montreal, H3H 2T4, 514-848-2424, ext. 2964

Email: [sustainability@concordia.ca](mailto:sustainability@concordia.ca)

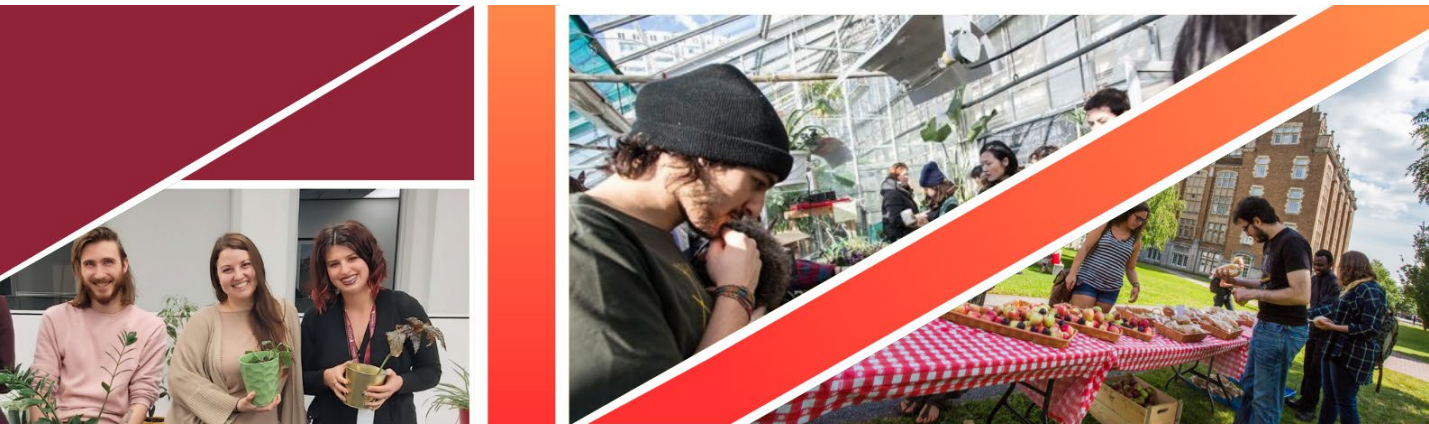
Instagram: [@cusustainabilityoffice](https://www.instagram.com/cusustainabilityoffice)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cusustainabilityoffice/>

LinkedIn: <https://ca.linkedin.com/company/office-of-sustainability-concordia-university>

## TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Office of Sustainability acknowledges that Concordia University is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters we now call Montreal. Tiohtiá:ke (Montreal) is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations. Today, it is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. We respect the continued connections with the past, present and future in our ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within the Montreal community.



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# A YEAR IN REVIEW



It is with great pride that we present the first annual report of the Office of Sustainability. Our journey to this juncture has been one filled with enthusiasm and passion, as we assist and support the university. Sustainability has evolved considerably from when I became Director of Environmental Health and Safety, the unit in which the Office of Sustainability is located. Although the university has had a Sustainability Coordinator since 2006, it was only in 2019 that we began to call ourselves the Office of Sustainability. The Office of Sustainability is only one group within the university working to advance sustainability, but it plays a critical role. This report is the first time that the work and accomplishments of the Office of Sustainability have been published in an independent annual report. Thank you to Cassandra for her leadership of the Office of Sustainability, to Meredith, Jessica, Christian and Sandra for the constant positive energy, and to all the interns and students who have been instrumental in helping us along the way.

Pietro Gasparrini



# OUR TEAM



## **Cassandra Lamontagne, Sustainability Manager**

Cassandra is responsible for supervising the sustainability team on their projects, for supporting institutional planning around sustainability at Concordia, and for incubating new sustainability projects, partnerships and programs.



## **Meredith Marty-Dugas, Sustainability Ambassador Program Coordinator**

Meredith is responsible for designing and facilitating educational opportunities for students, staff and faculty to engage in campus sustainable change.



## **Jessica Krejcik, Sustainability Analyst**

Jessica oversees several of the university's sustainability assessments such as the STARS certification, Sustainability Cultural and Literacy Assessment, and the Greenhouse Gas Inventory. She also leads sustainable transportation projects and collaborates on projects such as the Sustainable Event Certification program.



## **Sandra Mouafo, Sustainability Living Labs Coordinator**

Sandra is responsible for overseeing, coordinating and further developing the Sustainability Living Lab Program which aims to support Concordia's sustainability targets and goals through funding, partnerships, and comprehensive support for new collaborative sustainability projects.

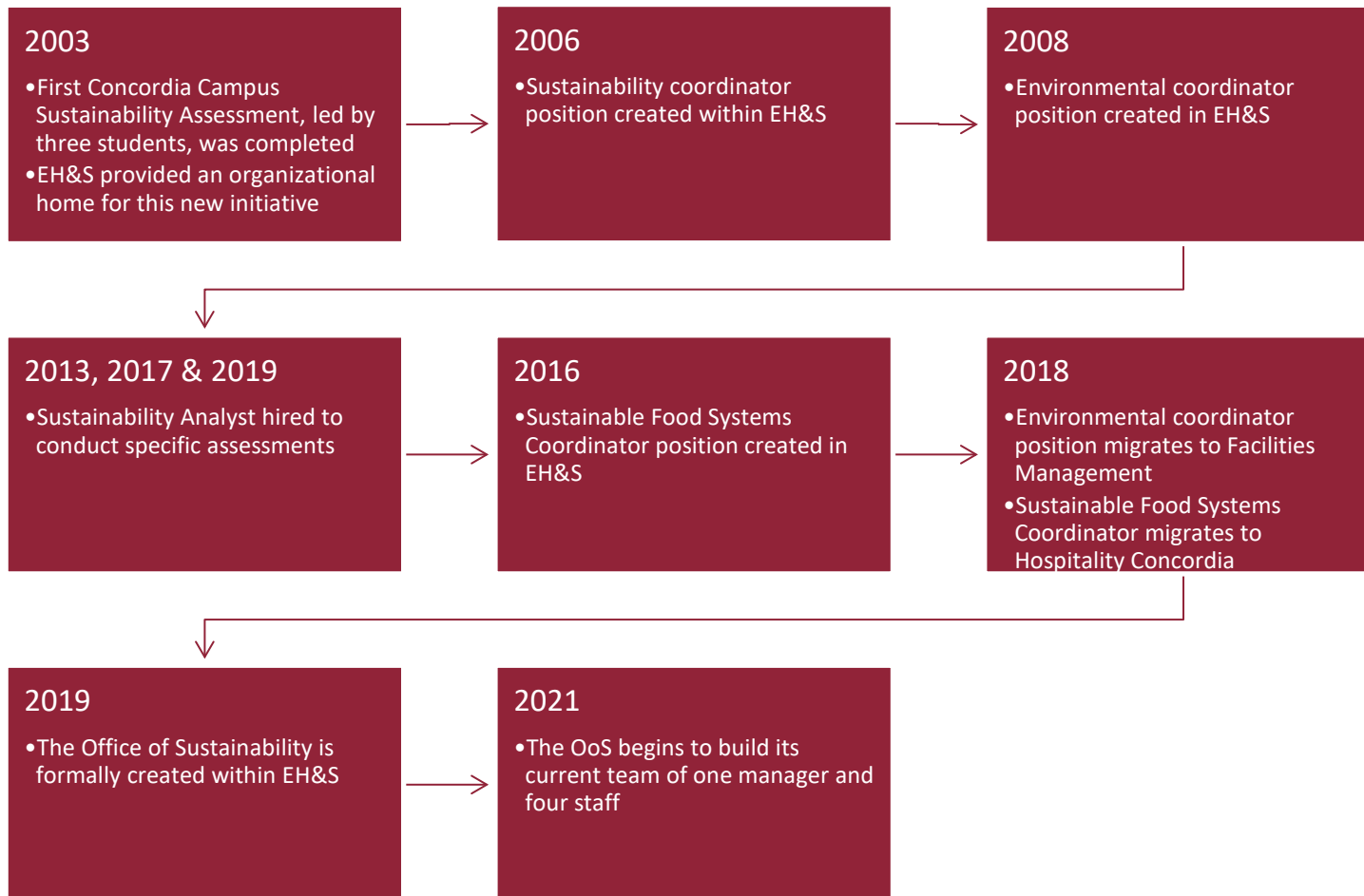


**Christian Favreau, Sustainability Engagement Assistant**

Christian is responsible for building community partnerships and promoting sustainability-related projects, events and programs. Christian also acts as the link between the university and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Canada in their Living Planet @ Campus program.



# HISTORY OF THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY



# OOS PROGRAMS



The Office of Sustainability is the university's central sustainability unit, complemented by a network of positions focused on sustainability, maintained within other university units and departments.

The Office of Sustainability upholds the University's [Sustainability Policy](#) and promotes best practices in ecological, economic, and social sustainability. In close collaboration with members from all levels of the University, the Office of Sustainability is responsible for developing, coordinating, maintaining, and enhancing sustainability-related initiatives, strategies, and programs.

Our primary programs include coordination of the following programs and initiatives.

## Student Sustainability Ambassadors Program

The Student Sustainability Ambassadors Program provides students with leadership experience, engagement opportunities, skills, and competencies that support a culture of sustainability on campus. Students connect with a nexus of changemakers to design and implement projects that inspire peers to take sustainable action. The 20-30 selected candidates must commit to an 8-month engagement period from September to April.

### Highlights

The 2022-23 Student Sustainability Ambassadors Program cohort included 18 students from various departments and levels of study. New this year, students implemented projects in groups of four to six people. The group project structure was successful overall and will continue in future years. The projects that were created this year included an educational campaign on local pollinator species, a campus-wide waste audit, educating students living in residences about food waste and a Concordia sustainability leader newsletter. The student ambassadors volunteered a total of approximately 2,400 hours.

### **Winner of the 2023 ISCN Excellence Award**

Each year, the International Sustainable Campus Network (of which Concordia became a member in August 2022) awards the ISCN Excellence Award to four universities who excel in a specific category. This year, a jury of five international representatives selected our Student



Sustainability Ambassadors Program (SSAP) for recognition in the “Cultural Change for Sustainability” category.

The following text is included on the ISCN [web page](#):

*Given the complexity of the climate crisis, the need for youth leadership and a shift towards a community approach to overcome sustainability challenges has become increasingly evident. [Concordia University in Canada](#) has demonstrated a notable commitment to sustainability through its Sustainability Ambassadors Program (SAP) that promotes sustainability and drives positive change on campus through student engagement and leadership.*

Since the announcement, we have received queries from other member universities interested in learning about the model that we developed.

### Employee Sustainability Ambassadors Program

The Employee Sustainability Ambassadors Program (ESAP) is an applied volunteer program offered through the Office of Sustainability. Employee Sustainability Ambassadors have support in increasing the sustainability of their department during work hours. The goals and objectives of programs are to

1. Increase sustainability awareness and knowledge among colleagues,
2. Engage colleagues in activities that advance sustainability at Concordia,
3. Identify and encourage adoption of actions that departments can undertake to become more sustainable.

Employee Sustainability Ambassadors spend 3-4 hours per month on program activities including training sessions, volunteering, departmental audits and implementation.

The Office of Sustainability also offers an “[Introduction to sustainability at Concordia for employees](#)” open to all. The two-hour online session is offered several times a year, and is the first step to taking part in the ESAP.

## Highlights

There were eleven employee sustainability ambassadors in the 2022-23 cohort. The ambassadors were from different departments across the university. New this year is the length of the program, now running from January until December 2023. These employees will complete their baseline office certification by the end of the year, effectively launching the new Sustainable Office Certification program at Concordia. Applications for the 2023-24 cohort will begin in Fall 2023 and the Office of Sustainability will be accepting more people.

In 2022-23, we hosted three *Introduction to Sustainability at Concordia for Employees* sessions. The sessions were well attended; 43 employees participated.

## Sustainable Event Certification Program

The Sustainable Event Certification Program is meant to help all Concordians host more socially and environmentally sustainable events. It was developed in 2021-22 by the Office of Sustainability and Hospitality Concordia in collaboration with the Access Centre for Students with Disabilities, the Black Perspectives Office, the Office of Community Engagement, the Equity Office, the Office of Indigenous Directions, and Zero Waste Concordia in Facilities Management. The Sustainable Event Certification is a voluntary and free service available to all members of Concordia who wish to take measurable action in making their events more sustainable. Event organizers get support in selecting and implementing positive actions. Once certified, they can communicate their achievements to raise awareness and gain recognition for their efforts.

## Highlights

The Sustainable Event Certification Program was launched in Fall 2022. Since the launch, 15 events have been certified through the program. The events range from large scale events like the Student Success Centre's Orientation for new students and the Sustainability Across Disciplines conferences, to smaller more intimate events like the Harvest Party hosted by the Loyola Garden groups in October 2022.

We have promoted the program through internal and external presentations, including presentations at Concordia's 2023 Digital Skillshare Conference and at the Global Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education in October 2022. A NOW article was also written to help raise awareness about the program and highlight what makes it unique. Training was also provided to Concordia's Hospitality team so that they could encourage event organizers to participate.

## Sustainability Living Lab Funding Program

The Sustainability Living Lab Funding Program is a five-year partnership between the Sustainability Action Fund (SAF) and Concordia University. Teams led by students alongside faculty and/or staff can apply for funding to develop and implement projects that demonstrate progress towards the goals and targets of the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP). Each year, up to \$80,000 is available for these projects.

### Highlights

The Sustainability Living Lab Funding Program (SLLFP) proudly disbursed \$63,137 in funding for the 2022-23 academic year. The project focuses included:

- Knowledge mobilization and best practices for critical digital research, linked to SAP goal to “Promote and enhance our sustainability research to enrich local, national and international communities”
- Urban agriculture education programming, corresponding to SAP “Recognize and reinforce the role of urban agriculture and its beneficial social impacts”;
- Incorporation of recycled and reused materials in our ceramics studios, coinciding with SAP goal “Support and expand reuse initiatives as well as create procurement policies and procedures that favour waste reduction”.

Furthermore, the SLLFP supported over half a dozen events and more than a dozen experiential learning opportunities. We are excited to expand our reach and visibility in the year to come.

## Sustainability Volunteer Program

The [Sustainability Volunteer Program](#) is run through the Office of Sustainability as a complement to the Sustainability Ambassadors Program. It connects student and staff to sustainability volunteering opportunities and support groups/departments on campus by providing them with access to and training on a volunteer software program. The benefits for volunteers participating in the program are numerous and include:

- A targeted quick tutorial to support them in identifying their best fit for volunteering
- Recognition on co-curricular record for their volunteer hours
- Virtual certificate recognizing time spent volunteering (for 25+ hours)
- Volunteer appreciation events
- Exclusive and early-bird offers to sustainability events and opportunities

## Highlights

The Sustainability Volunteering Program was launched in Fall 2022. Ten Concordia community groups such as CEED Concordia and the Concordia Pollinators Initiative availed themselves of the volunteer software to organize and manage their volunteers. A total of 156 people volunteered through the program completing a total of approximately 2,200 volunteer hours.

## Support for Sustainable Transportation

The Office of Sustainability supports sustainable transportation at Concordia by providing programming, awareness campaigns, and incentives to community members. It also keeps the [sustainable transportation webpage](#) up to date and regularly conducts assessments to measure progress towards our transportation goals.

## Highlights

In December 2022, the Office of Sustainability in collaboration with the Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis disseminated a commuter habits survey. The survey was completed by approximately 2,700 community members. Conducted routinely, the survey provides information on our community's commuter habits and preferences among Concordia staff, faculty and students on their commute. The data is used to calculate carbon emissions associated with the Concordia community's commute to their primary campus and to guide future strategies to encourage and accelerate the shift towards more sustainable forms of transportation.

The Office collaborated with Facilities Management to install free bicycle repair stations at each campus for Concordians who need the tools to conduct small repairs and fill the air in their tires.

## Campus Sustainability Month

The month of October at Concordia is [Campus Sustainability Month](#). Community members are invited to a series of events, challenges and activities related to sustainability. They can also participate by organizing an event or activity during Campus Sustainability Month. The month is organized by themes that change from year to year.

## Highlights

Concordia's Office of Sustainability coordinated a Campus Sustainability Month in October 2022, which included over 40 events ranging from clothing swaps to film screenings and composting workshops. Events were organized by members across the community, including the Office of Sustainability, Sustainable Concordia, Sustainability Action Fund, Food Services, The Loyola Sustainability Research Centre, and Facilities. Each themed week - Wellness in the Climate Crisis, Zero Waste, Agriculture and Biodiversity, and Sustainable Solidarity—was full of exciting events, talks, and giveaways. To see the full list of events organized by the office during Campus Sustainability Month, consult [Office of Sustainability Events 2022-23](#).

## Sustainability Champion Awards

The [Sustainability Champion Awards](#) recognize and encourage students, faculty and staff who are making contributions towards the social, ecological and economic well-being of the university. The Awards are given each spring to outstanding Concordians at the annual Engagement Awards Gala. The Office is responsible for collecting submissions and for creating a selection committee that collectively decides on the award recipients. The Office of Sustainability co-organizes the gala with the Dean of Students Office and the LIVE Centre.

### Highlights

The five recipients of the Sustainability Champion Awards were selected based on their hard work and dedication to advance sustainability as well as their enthusiasm and ability to inspire change. This year's recipients were Amy Tran, Caleb Woolcott, Karine Balé, Nick Bonneau and Satoshi Ikeda. Satoshi is the first recipient of the Lifetime Sustainability Champion Award, in recognition of his many years of sustainability-focused service to the Concordia community in the context of his retirement. New this year, the Engagement Awards Gala was Gold certified sustainable

## WWF Living Planet @ Campus Program

The Office of Sustainability entered into partnership with the World Wildlife Fund on 2019 to offer the Living Planet @ Campus program. [World Wildlife Fund Living Planet @ Campus program](#) is designed to deliver inclusive, skill-building and impactful sustainability engagement opportunities. The "Living Planet Leader" certification is a self-guided designation that requires a student to participate in the following sustainability activities during their time at Concordia:

1. Participate in volunteering
2. Take on new personal and lifestyle sustainability challenges
3. Integrate sustainability in their coursework and projects
4. Implement leadership and teamwork skills.

On fulfilling these criteria, they will be awarded a certificate and will be able to include the designation on their CV. Those progressing through their submission to the Living Planet Leader program can get credit on their co-curricular record.

### Highlights

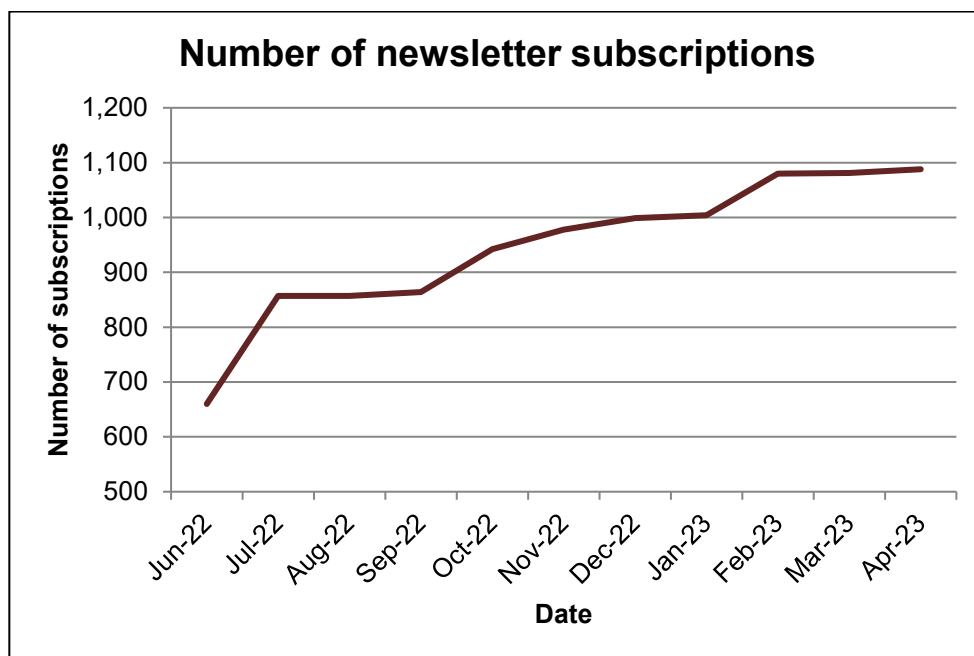
Three students graduated from the program in 2022-23, which is a unique achievement given the challenging criteria required for the designation. Two informational sessions were also given on the program.

# OOS OUTREACH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



## OoS Newsletter

The Office of Sustainability sends out a [monthly newsletter](#) with updates on sustainability news, opportunities, and events. The number of newsletter subscriptions nearly doubled in 2022-23 with an increase of 428 subscriptions. This increase is thanks to the Sustainability Engagement Assistant who put in place a strategy and target to increase our number of subscriptions.



## Office of Sustainability Events 2022-23

The Office of Sustainability hosted or co-hosted over 20 events in 2022-23, engaging an estimated 1,100 members of our community of students, faculty and staff. Events included orientation activities, sustainability workshops, panels, film screenings, community challenges, and more.

FALL SEMESTER			
Month	Event	Collaborator(s)	# of people engaged
<b>September</b>	WWF- Living Planet @ Campus info session		4
	Kiosks and tabling	4 <sup>th</sup> SPACE; DOS; SSC; Welcome Centre; CSU; ASFA; FOFA	500+
	Urban Bike Tour	Concordia Student Union (CSU)	20
	Ecopoetry workshop	FOFA; Community solidarity co-op bookstore	6
	CO-COGITATE: GROUP PROVOCATIONS ON SUSTAINABILITY	FOFA	25
	Shuffle for Climate Justice		45
	<b>October (Campus Sustainability Month)</b>	Drop-in hours at OoS	
Host institution for AASHE conference			35
Global Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education presentation on Sustainable Event Certification program		McGill University, University of Winnipeg	30
Clothing swap / Fall Look Clothing Exchange		Le Frigo Vert	40
Climate GEOparody		Climate Emergency Committee (CEC)	10
Campus clean-up		Zero Waste	40
Film screening and discussion: BLOOD QUANTUM		Cinema Politica; CEC	75
WWF- Living Planet @ Campus info session			5
Sustainability Hub mixer / Halloween		Le Frigo Vert, Sustainable Concordia	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>825</b>

Of special note in September is the Shuffle for Climate Justice 2022 team, led by the OoS, which included 45 faculty and staff and collectively raised over \$6,000 for the Shuffle Award in Leadership in Sustainability.

WINTER SEMESTER			
Month	Event(s)	Collaborator(s)	# of people engaged
January	Kiosks and tabling	Student Success Centre	80-100
February	Digital Skillshare Conference presentation on Sustainable Event Certification Program		12
	CSU anti-consumerism week: GREENWASHING WORKSHOP	Concordia Student Union	10
	Film screening and discussion: BEYOND EXTINCTION: A SINIXT RESURGENCE	Cinema Politica	100+
April – Earth Day Week	Guided Nature Walk on Mount Royal	Les amis de la Montagne	15
	Book launch for The End of This World: Climate Justice in So-Called Canada	Climate Justice Montreal	50
	Bike awareness tabling event	Velo Quebec	50
May	Film screening of Wochiigii Lo: End of the Peace	Planet in Focus	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>350</b>

Of special note in winter is our partnership Cinema Politica to screen BEYOND EXTINCTION: A SINIXT RESURGENCE. The film attracted over 100 participants and was a great way for the Office of Sustainability to promote our programs and newsletter to a new audience.

## Social Media

In 2022-23, the Office of Sustainability created a LinkedIn and Discord account to increase community engagement. The LinkedIn account was created to share job postings and articles related to sustainability. An Office of Sustainability Discord account was made so that students could have an informal online space to talk and learn about sustainability at the university. We produced on average three Instagram posts per week on various sustainability topics and events. Our number of Instagram followers increased by 25% in 2022-23.

Social media	Number of followers	Annual percent change
Instagram	1,549	25%
Facebook	208	Not tracking
LinkedIn	152	NEW
Discord	96	NEW





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