

Sustainability at Massey College

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One of the goals of Massey College is to be an institutional leader in developing and implementing environmentally-friendly and sustainability-oriented policies, while also providing a comfortable and modern space for its residents and other members of the community. Specifically, the College is seeking to increase its transparency around current policies regarding waste management, resource consumption, and other aspects regarding life at Massey.

Massey College has defined four goals for future renovations that will reshape the policies and space of the college: modernization, accessibility, sustainability and preserving the valuable heritage of the building. To materialize these objectives, the administration has started a process of assessment through the University of Toronto, that will lead to proposals for renovation alternatives and plans.

Initiatives

At Massey College, there is a Junior Fellow run Environment and Sustainability Committee (ESC) whose primary mandate is to work with the administration of the College across organizational levels. The ESC works to improve sustainability, increase transparency, decrease waste and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and provide educational platforms for these issues. Over the years, the ESC has worked hard to compile existing information on College practices and improve existing policies for residents and other members of the community. In the coming year, the ESC plans to continue collaboration with administration to reduce waste. As well, they hope to increase educational initiatives and academic efforts surrounding environmental sustainability at the college and in academic life.

Sustainable Living at Massey

There are various policies aimed at reducing GHG emissions, overall environmental impacts, and increasing the sustainability of life at the College. These span from energy use to kitchen policies. Below, you can find some examples of our current policies:

- Massey College follows the protocol provided by the University of Toronto for the management of organic waste, composting, and recycling. For additional information, visit: <https://www.fs.utoronto.ca/building-services-trades/recycling-services/>. There is an ongoing effort to identify the primary sources of trash from the residents' perspective to reduce the waste generated and improve waste separation practices throughout the community.
- Meals offered at the college are prepared to be mindful of in-season and locally available produce and ingredients.
- Massey College's fish supplier has been established for over 25 years and is committed to sustainability. They are members of the Marine Stewardship Council (<https://www.msc.org/en-us/>) and the Ocean Wise Conservation Program (<https://seafood.ocean.org/>).

- Massey College acquires and uses Canadian beef, as well as Ontario pork and chicken. Our suppliers are committed to safeguarding local water resources, preserving native grasslands, and supporting wildlife habitats, nutrient recycling, and biodiversity.
- Massey College is mindful of acquiring local food products. Currently, the college receives food supplies from local businesses in the province including an organic and fair-trade coffee roaster, local eggs, and milk suppliers, and vegetables supplied from Cookstown, Ontario.
- Resident Fellows may request food-to-go in reusable plastic containers. This decision has taken into account different alternatives for food storage (e.g., metal, ceramic, glass containers). However, the existing system appears to have the lowest GHG impact from a life-cycle analysis perspective. For more information, see: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11367-008-0052-6>, http://icpe.in/envis_march04/Page-1.pdf, [Life Cycle Impacts of Plastic Packaging Compared To Substitutes in the United States and Canada](#).
- The college is in the process of replacing incandescent light with LED bulbs as needed. However, some light fixtures in the college are not capable of handling certain light bulb technologies. As previously mentioned, there is an ongoing effort to identify the primary sources of energy consumption through a sustainability assessment of the College.
- Biodegradable and pH neutral cleaning products are used in the washroom (e.g., soap).
- At all College and catered events, we use ceramic, glass, and metal tableware. When disposable products are necessary, biodegradable and recyclable products (e.g., cutlery, paper plates) are used.

If you have any questions or comments about these policies, please send us an email.