

EXTRA CREDIT

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School: McGill University

Extra Credit due on October 25 @ 6am PT.

Up to 200 points awarded for outstanding work.

Challenge

While Turning Green was on the Conscious College Road Tour this past spring, a resonant theme we heard from students was that they wanted to divest from the use of plastic straws on their campus. With that in mind, we want to prompt you to make that happen on your campus or in your community. Over the next few weeks we task you with building and implementing a campaign to eliminate plastic straws. The goal is to persuade one eatery on campus or in your community, a convenience store, etc. to pledge to get rid of straws. It's worth 200 bonus points!

- **Get inspired! Straws can become a catalyst for change in an entire city. Seattle just recently banned the use of straws in all major venues. <http://www.seattlemag.com/eat-and-drink/anti-straw-crusade-sweeping-seattle>**
- **Step 1: Create a campaign and share your process with us. Gather a team, to work with and make a work plan and timeline. You must reach your goal by October 25 to earn up to 200 bonus points.**
 - Team and Partners in the campaign: the Environmental Residence Council (ERC), Students Society of McGill University Environment (SSMU Environment), the Plate Club.
 - Timeline: I had initially expected this campaign to take about 10 days, but it only ended up being 6!
 1. Identify assignment and research McGill's current plastic straw situation.
 2. Research other successful on-campus anti-straw initiatives in North America to find similar case studies.
 3. Set up rough proposal to pass along to team support members and gauge their ideas.
 4. Discuss action plan with teammates and delegate tasks to ensure efficient campaign execution (ie – one person in charge of contacting dining hall managers, other person in charge of graphics, signage, and flyers, etc).

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5. Put forward a well thought-out proposal to the people in charge of the Food and Dining Services and get it approved.
 6. Once the plan has been approved and set in motion, begin outreach and advocacy work to wean students off of plastic straws and to educate them on why the change had been absolutely necessary.
- **Step 2: Enlist a campus dining hall or local business to make a pledge by speaking to the manager or owner.**
 - Royal Victoria College Cafeteria and Dining Hall
 - **Step 3: After they agree to participate, formalize their commitment by asking them to fill out a pledge form (make your own or use the one on page 27 of [The Last Straw Community Toolkit](#)) and create them a certificate to hang in their window (make your own or use the one on page 35 of [The Last Straw Community Toolkit](#)). That way they can spread the word and be honored for being a changemaker!**

The Last Straw Community Toolkit | 2015

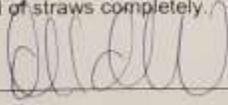
Appendix 7: Example Printed Business Pledge Form:



As the owner or manager of Royal Victoria College Dining Hall
(name of business), I am officially participating in the **The Last Straw** campaign as part
of an effort to keep my community litter free and reduce plastic pollution.

As a participating business I commit to: (please check all that apply)

- Only provide straws upon customer's request.
- Train my staff to only provide straws upon request
- Print on menu "**Straws Available Upon Request**"
- Offer a paper or reusable option to plastic straws.
- Discontinue the use and purchase of plastic straws.
- OR get rid of straws completely.

Signed, 

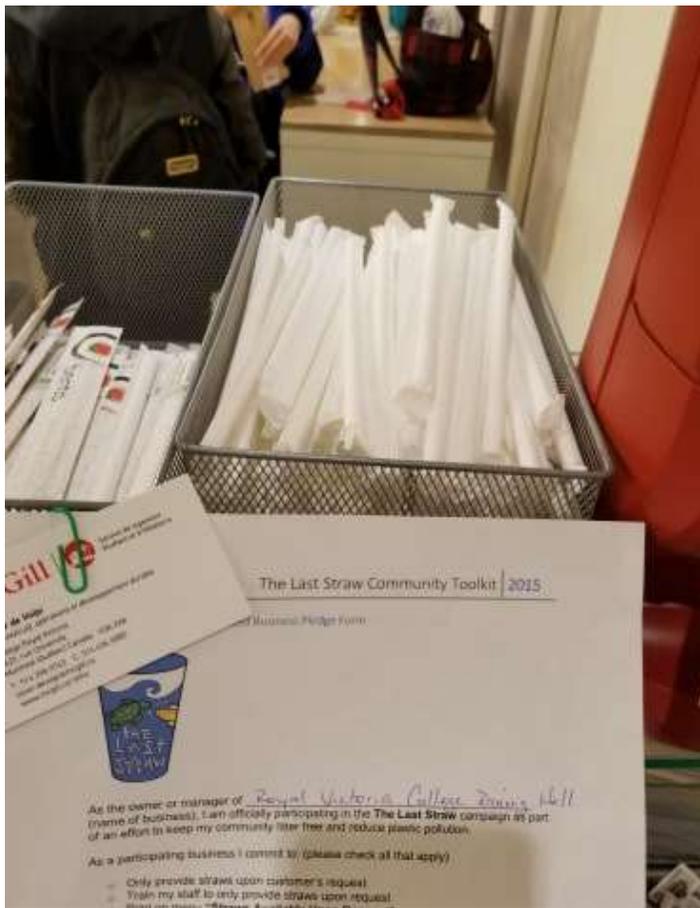
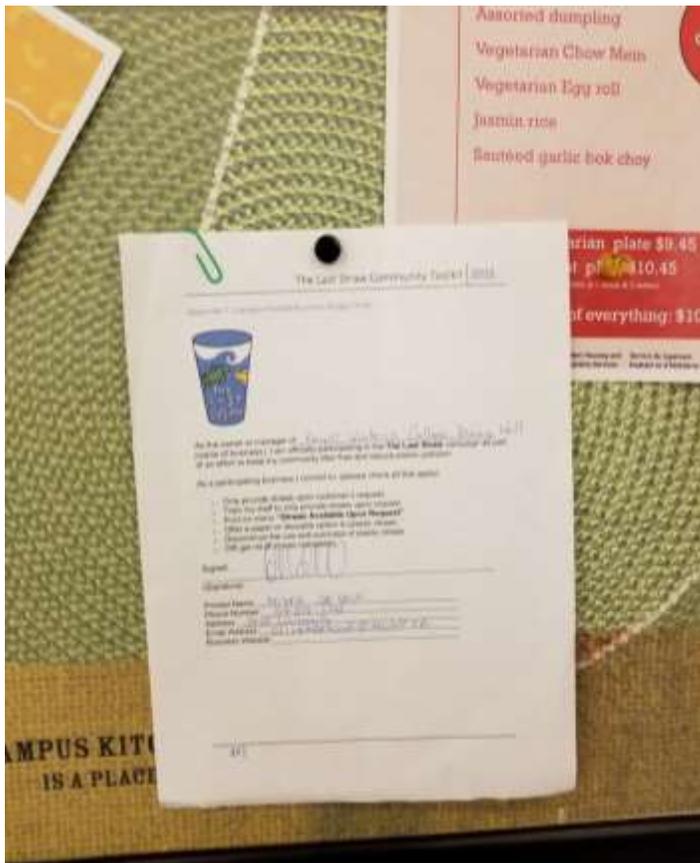
(Signature)

Printed Name: OLIVER DEVOLPI
Phone Number: 514 398-5743
Address: 3425 University
Email Address: OLIVERDEVOLPI@MCGILL.CA
Business Website: _____

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- **Step 4: Show us your campaign materials, which should include: photos, flyer, pledge form and certificate, video, or a recap of a conversation you have had with a business manager or school staff who is willing to make the change – anything that demonstrates the progress you have made with your campaign.**
 - Recap of conversation with Susanna and Chef Oliver: I first approached Susanna, the head of the RVC Dining Hall to engage in an informal conversation and discussion surrounding the use and provision of plastic straws in McGill cafeterias. She was incredibly supportive and admiring of both the PGC and the Last Straw initiative, and I stood in her office discussing our current plastic straw problem and my proposed action plan for alternatives. She ended up giving me a full in-depth tour of the cafeteria's facilities – behind the counters of where the food is served! – so I could see the behind-the-scenes action and gauge their perspective in resolving this issue. We spoke the whole time on some of my ideas for how to re-jig the way we serve beverages and making to-go beverages sustainable, convenient, *and* accessible. After realising how involved I was with sustainability on-campus, Susanna asked me “So tell me, what do you want to see in our cafeterias?” I was so happy that she was interested to hear students' voices and opinions that I told her all the different initiatives I wanted to pursue, and mainly spoke about the need to reduce our dependence on and consumption of single-use disposable plastic straws (which are non-recyclable here in Montreal). I was ultimately referred to speak one-on-one with Chef Oliver, the head chef of McGill Food Services, who welcomed my suggestions, and shared with me his own thoughts on the problem. Following a very productive meeting, he gladly signed off on the Last Straw pledge for businesses, and promised that there would be significant changes in McGill cafeterias by the end of this 2018 term.





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- Step 5: Photograph throughout your process and post about it on a social media platform of your choice (Instagram & Twitter preferred) Tag @lonelywhale and @turninggreenorg, and hashtag #StopSucking and #PGC2018.

SUBMITTED AT: 2:30 am ET 25 October 2018

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Let 2018 be the year this changes.





On behalf of Turning Green, Lonely Whale, and The Last Straw Campaign, McGill University pledges to reduce its plastic straw consumption and to commit to actively phasing out single-use plastic straws in their on-campus facilities.

Signer

Witness

24 October, 2018

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