

Sustainable Development



A sustainable tourism initiative (SDG 11)



Over the past year, the Museum embarked on a certification process with GreenStep, an organization that helps tourism organizations assess and improve their sustainability practices. The Museum achieved Level 4 (out of 5), a result that speaks to its strong performance. Carried out with the support of Tourisme Montréal, the process involves several steps that provide a framework for impact analysis and identify concrete avenues for improvement.

[McCord Stewart Museum's 2030 Commitment](#)



Energy transition and emissions reduction (SDG 7)



In keeping with its energy transition efforts, the Museum continues to optimize its mechanical systems. In summer 2025, the heating system—which had reached the end of its useful life—was replaced with a remotely monitored dual-energy system as part of a conversion project in the Museum storeroom. Since it was brought online in September 2025, a total of 47 m³ of natural gas has been used for heating purposes, representing a 99.6% reduction compared to the yearly average for the previous three years.

This transformation is part of the Museum's overall goal to reduce its carbon footprint since gas heating is one of the main sources of emissions in Montreal*. It also advances the objectives of the City of Montreal's 2020–2030 Climate Plan.

*City of Montreal (2019). *Inventaire des émissions de gaz à effet de serre de la collectivité montréalaise 2015*, produced by the Bureau de la transition écologique et de la résilience. Retrieved from ville.montreal.qc.ca/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/ENVIRO_FR/MEDIA/DOCUMENTS/INVENTAIRECOLLECTIVITEGES_2015.PDF and cited in <https://montreal.ca/articles/plan-climat-montreal-objectif-carboneutralite-dici-2050-7613>.

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Rethinking practices for a more efficient use of resources (SDG12)



Optimizing materials and transportation

Following a review of our packaging and transportation processes, concrete steps were taken to make better use of existing resources. The Collections Management Department drew up an inventory of reusable packaging materials and custom-made boxes. The crate inventory was also updated in the Collections database, which now includes images and detailed information on objects and associated loans. This documentation helps avoid the need for new packaging, facilitates operations planning, reduces unnecessary purchases and contributes to more efficient resource management.

An eco-friendly publication

In connection with the production of *Pounding the Pavement: Montreal Street Photography*, the Museum took several steps to reduce its environmental footprint. Designed and printed in Montreal, the book was printed on FSC-certified paper using vegetable-based inks and distributed without plastic packaging. Controlling costs and a deliberately limited print run also helped reduce waste, especially with the entire run selling out. By prioritizing sustainable choices at every stage of the process, the team scored an environmental win in its publishing practices.

Collaborations that foster knowledge (SDG17)



The Museum's two managers in charge of sustainable development contributed to the book *Musée et écologie : missions, engagements et pratiques*. This collective work brings together authors from France and Quebec and made good on the Museum's commitment to share knowledge and promote dialogue between institutions and within the cultural and scientific communities. This initiative illustrates the importance of partnerships in enhancing practices and fostering a collective transition toward more sustainable models.

