



BACKGROUNDER:

A Project Where Sustainable Design Starts From the Ground Up

As patients are at the heart of everything we do, the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) has made reducing its ecological footprint a top priority. By transforming an industrial site into a world-class academic health centre, the MUHC is demonstrating it means to act on its commitment.

A healthy site for a world-class campus

In fall 2006, the MUHC completed the environmental remediation of a former brownfield site in preparation of giving it a new community vocation as the Glen Campus. The remediation was a complete success, coming in on time and under budget.

Thanks to a range of environmental measures used during the remediation process, the MUHC received the maximum number of credits towards its LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environment Design) accreditation. As an example, the site was regularly irrigated with surface water that had been recovered and treated on site in order to minimize soil erosion, sediment accumulation in the sewer system and ambient dust. This initiative saved 3,672 million litres of potable water from being used. Similarly, 95 per cent of construction and demolition debris was diverted from landfill for reuse and/or recycling.

Caring for our patients and for the environment

Already a leader in environmental building management and holder of a number of environmental certifications, the MUHC has committed to building and operating its new facilities to LEED® Silver standards: an international reference for sustainable development.

In addition to reducing its consumption of water, the MUHC will pay particular attention to energy efficiency and to improving ambient air quality. Other priorities include ensuring the ecological development of the site, efficient use of materials and resources, and the protection of the environment.

When it comes to access, the focus will be on public and active transport, with pedestrian pathways and a bike path on and near the site, ample bike racks and carpooling programmes. As well, a pedestrian passage will link the Glen Campus to the adjacent Vendôme intermodal station, where the metro's orange line, 11 bus routes and 3 commuter rail lines meet.

The New MUHC will be a national leader in sustainable development, creating a campus that promotes healing, benefits patients and staff and cares for the environment. As a public institution and a member of our community, the MUHC is committed to ensuring that excellence in patient care and respect for the environment go hand in hand.

The MUHC : An Environmental Leader

- Signatory of the City of Montreal's Sustainable Development Charter
- The only academic health centre serving on the Ministry of Health and Social Services' National Committee for Sustainable Development
- Member of the World Health Organization's Health Promoting Hospitals network
- Member of the Green Building Council of Canada