

PRESS RELEASE

University members and community groups commit to protecting the environment

Ecological Fair at Saint Paul University

Ottawa, March 26, 2025. – The Saint Paul University Student Association, the Centre Oblat, the Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology, three schools of Saint Paul University—School of Leadership, Ecology and Equity, School of Social Innovation, and School of Social Communication—, as well as the Faculty of Theology jointly organize the Ecological Fair, with the participation of ten community groups working on ecological issues.

Ecological justice has been already an integral part of education of Saint Paul University, and the university's students and professors are determined to pursue their ecological commitment not only by coordinating with the entire university community, but also by collaborating with local organizations in the National Capital Region. To this end, the Ecological Fair is conceived to raise public awareness, share ideas and experiences, and pursue collective reflection, with interactive booths, a film screening and panel discussions. This first edition will mark the beginning of a university-community collaboration for ecological justice that will continue in the coming years.

Quotes

"The ecological justice is one of the primary foci of education across the whole of our Saint Paul community. Through this Ecological Fair, we hope to cross the university boundary and reach the community groups in the field." **Salvador David Hernandez, assistant professor adjoint, School of Leadership, Ecology and Equity, Saint Paul University**

"This Ecological Fair highlights therefore the efforts of everyone, students, professors and local organizations, on sustainability, whereas the climate change and the depletion of natural resources constitute a major problem that continues to affect our ecosystem, our world." **Roliane Kayiba Kalala, M.A. student, School of Leadership, Ecology and Equity**

"In 2024, Saint Paul University became a Blue Community to safeguard water 'for nature and future generations' and committed to divesting from fossil fuels. Committed also to 'integral ecology,' the Centre Oblat aims to facilitate the deepening of discussion around environmental issues, by analyzing structural patterns of exploitation. We cannot continue to separate the

social and the ecological, the human and the planetary; they are one in the same.” **Tara Hurford, Executive Director, Centre Oblat**

“The Saint Paul University Student Association is proud to bring together our community in the pursuit of sustainability. This day is an opportunity to spark meaningful conversations, inspire action, and showcase community eco-friendly initiatives. Together, we can make a difference for a greener, more sustainable future.” **Jimena Ramos Yengle, Social Activities and Policies director, Saint Paul University Student Association**

About

In addition to the above-mentioned organizers, the following organizations participate in this event:

- 1) Circular Innovation Council
- 2) Development and Peace–Caritas Canada
- 3) Ecology Ottawa
- 4) Faith & the Common Good
- 5) Green space network
- 6) Jeunesse Verte
- 7) Ottawa wildflower seed library
- 8) Peace & Environment Resource Centre
- 9) SmartNet Coalition
- 10) Sustainable Eastern Ontario

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