

The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals

# **Climate Literacy Project**



#### **SDG focus**

### What did you do?

**The Climate Literacy Project.** As part of our Climate Action Plan, John Abbott College has spearheaded a college-wide initiative to give students knowledge of the four basic aspects of the climate and ecological emergency (CEE) by the time they graduate: causes, impacts, dynamics, and actions. We worked with programs to integrate the four CEE objectives into their curriculum, taking advantage of opportunities arising from program revisions and teachers' initiative. With Strategic Plan funds, the college earmarked substantial funds to hire climate experts in various disciplines to consult with faculty on this project. We now have commitments from programs covering about 95% of the students.

## What were the benefits and outcomes?

- 1. We now have commitments from programs teaching the climate and ecological emergency to about 95% of the students.
- 2. We have faculty and students who are more aware of the threat and who are therefore taking action. Some programs developed new courses in order to cover these learning objectives.

# What barriers or challenges did you encounter in embedding sustainability into your learning and teaching practice and how did you overcome them?

- 1. No requirement from the Ministry of Education requiring that our students learn about the climate and ecological emergency
- 2. No way to integrate this in a way that reaches 100% of the students.
- 3. Needing to work hard to get buy in from faculty, due to academic freedom.

# What are your conclusions and recommendations for others?

It can be done! Start by pushing to prioritize climate literacy in your strategic plan.

#### Web link to further information:

Short webpage blurb:

https://johnabbott.gc.ca/sustainabilities/curriculum

Sustainability report 2023-24:

https://johnabbott.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Annual-Sustainabality-Report-on-the-CAP\_2023-2024.pdf