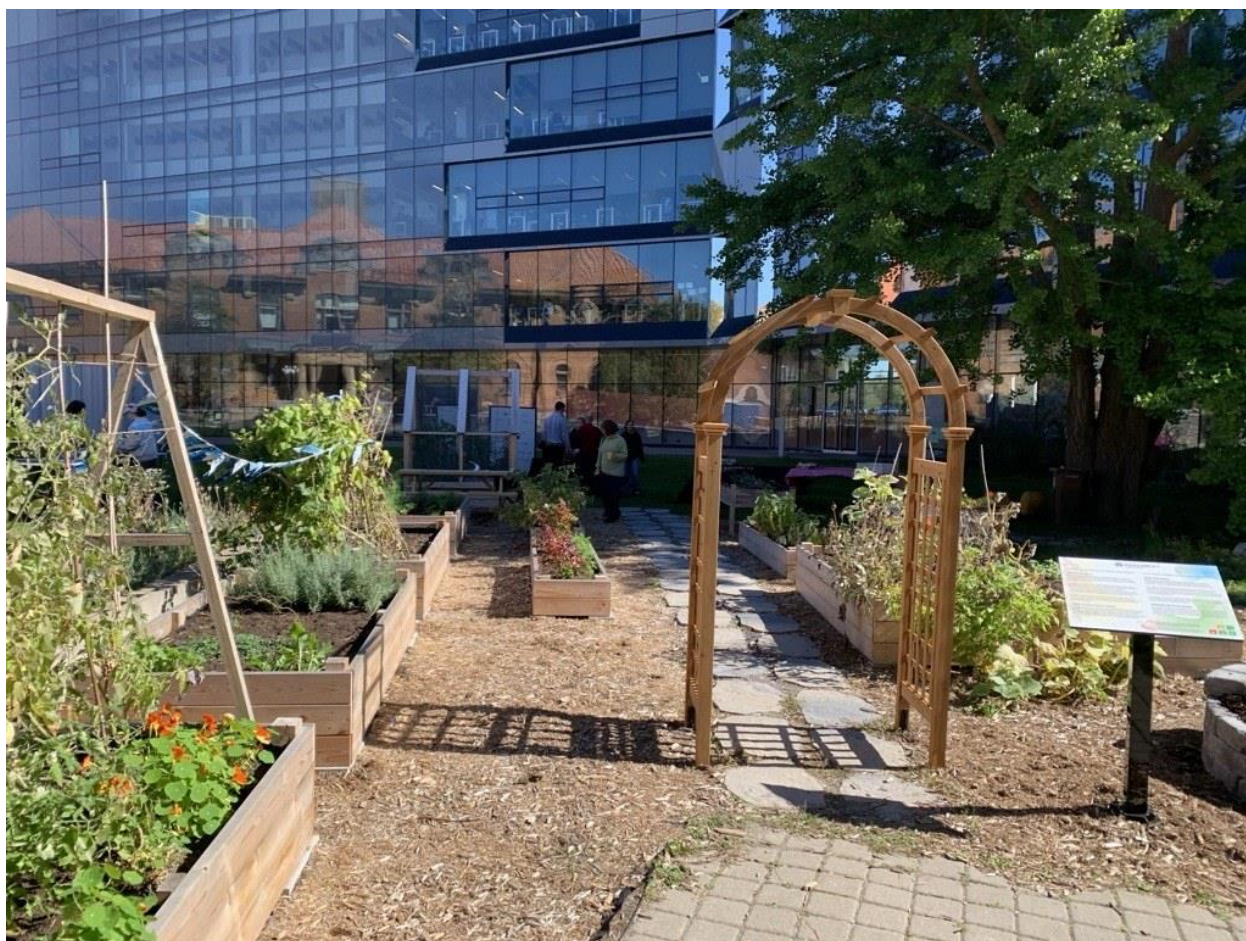




## JAC Sustainability Newsletter | Fall 2025

Happy autumn to all students and staff! Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this semester's sustainability-related activities a success. There is still more to come, but this edition is an early round-up of some of the initiatives that have taken place already, such as Pollinator Week, the 17-Rooms event, planting/gardening activities and the Eco JAC club's activities, to name a few!

As always, this newsletter is only a highlight of the many sustainability projects that take place on campus, organized by the Sustainability Office or other members of the JAC community. If you have an initiative to share with us, please send an email to [sustainability@johnabbott.qc.ca](mailto:sustainability@johnabbott.qc.ca).

If you would like to receive this newsletter directly in your inbox next time, please add your name to the mailing list by [clicking here](#).

Wishing you all a wonderful rest of the semester!

- The Sustainability Office

## In This Issue

- Pollinator Week
- 17 Rooms Event
- Vegetable Garden & Harvest Festival
- Wild Area
- Student Eco-Activities
- Coming Up: JAC Centre for Creative Reuse
- Contact Us

## Pollinator Week

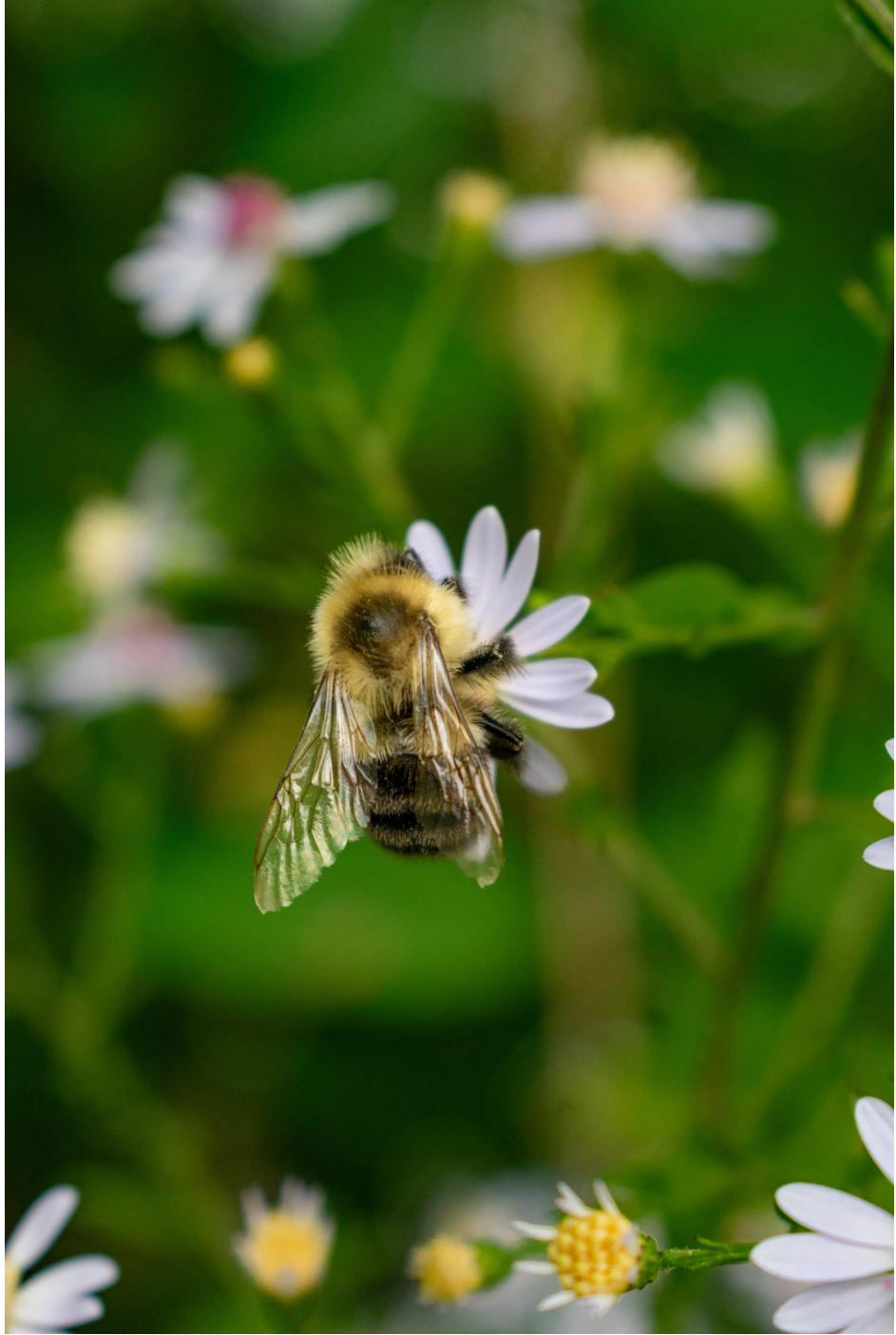
Did you know that JAC is a Bee Campus? Certified by Bee City Canada, a Bee Campus is a college, university or institution for higher education that is committed to helping pollinators.

As part of our commitment to being a pollinator friendly campus, the Sustainability Office hosted "Pollinator Week" from September 22-26. A display case in Herzberg featured the winners of a Pollinator Student Photography contest, as well as the locations of various biodiversity sites on campus. [Click here to see the map of these sites.](#)

From first to last, the top three student photos were taken by David Xu, Stephanie Vounasis and Mikaela Himal. We also hosted Dr. Gail McInnis for a presentation on Wild Bees, the "other" bees who have been living in the shadow of the honey bee for far too long!



1 - David Xu





## 17 Rooms Event (Second Edition)



The 17 Rooms event was held on October 6 and 8, 2025. It brought together over 50 students, faculty and staff in the Agora to discuss the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Notably, the participants included the Political Science class *Parlons politique*. The objective of the event was to bring together members of our community to discuss how our college can address (or improve how we address) sustainability from an environmental, social, and economic perspective. Each table was assigned an SDG and tasked with identifying at least one concrete action that could be taken within the next year.

Following the event, the aim is for collective actions to be completed over the next 12-18 months. It is up to the JAC community to take the lead! [Click here to read the full report.](#) If you would like to spearhead or participate in an initiative, please contact the Sustainability Office.

---

### *What are the Sustainable Development Goals?*

*The Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere.*

*The Goals were adopted by all United Nations Member States in September 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which sets out a 15-year plan to achieve the Goals and their related targets.*

*In April 2024, JAC signed the SDG Accord, which is a commitment for institutions of higher education to inspire, celebrate and advance the SDGs.*

---

## Vegetable Garden & Harvest Festival





This was our first year with the new Learning Garden! Thanks to the expanded space, the Green Team was outside every week from August until October, maintaining the beds and harvesting vegetables for the JAC Pantry. This fall, we put the finishing touches on the garden with a permanent sign, an herb spiral (thank you to Anthony Berkers's "Introduction to Outdoor Activities" class), an archway and a storage shed (thank you to Evgeni Kiriya's Engineering Tech class)! We also made a point to grow plants that would thrive into the fall, so that students could benefit from harvesting and eating the produce. For example, carrots, turnips, climbing

beans and garlic. This fall we cut and dried herbs for the holiday baskets, which go out to students in need. Finally, seeds were harvested off the dried plants to use in future years.

On October 1, the Sustainability Office, along with the Greening the Campus working group hosted a Harvest Party to welcome both students and employees into the new space. They had apple crumble and apple juice from the Mac Market and home brewed iced mint tea. Colleen Leonard (Media Arts) hosted a cyanotype (sun printing) workshop using materials from the garden, a great example of how the space could be used for pedagogical purposes!

The Learning Garden is open for all to use and enjoy, whether for pedagogical use, extra-curricular use or just to sit and enjoy. Contact [sustainability@johnabbott.qc.ca](mailto:sustainability@johnabbott.qc.ca) for more information.

## Wild Area





This Fall, Visual Arts enriched the existing “Wild Area” between Penfield and Casgrain with native perennials that were grown from seed. They also designed and put up a new sign. This area is a beautiful way to showcase the natural beauty of untouched spaces. Tucked away in an unassuming spot, it may have escaped your notice, but take a look next time you pass by!

## Student Eco-Activities

### Environnement Jeunesse Colloque



2 - Photo: Adeze Chukwu

This year, seven JAC students attended Environment Jeunesse's *Colloque en Environnement* on October 17-19 in Chertsey, Quebec.

"The theme for this year's event was "Slowing Down." Many of the sessions and workshops focused on youth engagement, sustainability, and how young people can contribute to environmental awareness and decision-making in their communities." - Maurene O'Farrell (Eco-JAC co-leader)

"I thoroughly enjoyed my weekend at ENvironnement JEUnesse's Colloque en Environnement. The workshops they offered introduced me to new perspectives on serious issues by teaching us about things like social economies, the food system, and ecopsychology, encouraging us to be introspective and think critically throughout. The location on Lake Hersey was beautiful, allowing us to appreciate nature and express our more playful sides as well. It was deep,

engaging, fascinating, and most of all reassuring to be surrounded by other young people seeking to make a change." - Adeze Chukwu (Eco-JAC co-leader)

### Eco-JAC Activities



Eco JAC has had an exciting and productive semester promoting sustainability across campus! Highlights include our Zero Waste Candy Workshop and Halloween info booth on waste reduction, as well as winning Best Booth at Club Day while using sustainable materials and offering zero-waste treats. We also helped organize and took part in the Eco Fair, where we hosted a fun Eco Trivia contest, and we're now starting up the AME hydroponics to grow fresh produce sustainably on campus. It's been an inspiring few months, and we're excited to keep the momentum going!

- Eco-JAC club

## Coming Up: JAC Creative Reuse Depot



As a Visual Arts Department initiative, the JAC Creative Reuse Depot will open early next year in Casgrain-156. With a reuse depot, we hope to encourage CEE pedagogy and awareness by giving used materials a new life through upcycling and repurposing, aligning with the college's environmental values and the department's shift toward sustainable art practices. The Depot collects 'waste' materials, prevents them from going to landfills, and provides on-campus space to make them available for academic and extracurricular projects. The Depot's volunteers will sort, weigh, and catalogue these materials while tracking their impact as the JAC community uses them. Look for a call for student volunteers in the new year. We hope that the Depot will encourage collaboration among departments, programs, committees, and groups. If you have an idea that could involve the Depot, please let us know: [jamie.goodyear@johnabbott.qc.ca](mailto:jamie.goodyear@johnabbott.qc.ca)

## Contact

For more information about sustainability activities taking place at John Abbott college, contact: [sustainability@johnabbott.qc.ca](mailto:sustainability@johnabbott.qc.ca) or follow **@sustainableJAC** on Instagram