



APATHY IS  
BORING

# QUEBEC NET- ZERO REPORT

20

23

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## TERMS

**GHG** - Greenhouse Gas

**CCAP** - Climate Change Action Plan

**CAT** - Cap and Trade system

**PETMAF** - Programme en efficacité du transport maritime, aérien et ferroviaire

**MADI** - mesure d'aide pour la décarbonisation du secteur industriel

**RNG** - renewable natural gas

**RSPEDÉ** - règlement concernant le système de plafonnement d'échange de droits d'émission de gaz à effet de serre

# INTRODUCTION

Coming in to Apathy is Boring (AiB), I was intrigued by the approach they took towards youth involvement in politics in Canada, and excited to delve into Quebec-based climate change and net zero initiatives. My journey with climate change started very young, signing up to be an Earth Ranger in elementary school and accompanying my biologist-parents on trips to conservation areas to study wildlife. Thus, I was looking forward to uncovering what resources may be available in Quebec and Montreal to continue this legacy and involve young people in this issue by which they are so intimately affected.

Throughout my research, I found several important things. Quebec has no shortage of policies, plans, and programs, that aim to contribute to the net-zero goal by providing financial assistance to small and large businesses and homeowners to adapt their practices to be more environmentally friendly. Efforts are primarily confined to the transportation and industry sectors, which are expected to make of 48 and 35 per cent of projected 2030 emissions reductions.

Despite this, there is a notable lack of opportunities for Quebecois youth to get involved in government-funded climate action initiatives. The focus on financial assistance for corporations neglects a large portion of the population who are willing and able to make important contributions. Moreover, although there are a couple mentions of Indigenous partnerships throughout government and organisational documents, there is also a lack of adequate integration of Indigenous peoples and knowledge into climate change and net zero initiatives.

I hope this report sheds some light on current practices and policies as well as knowledge gaps that can be improved upon in the future.

Liliana Mason

# QUEBEC'S PLAN FOR A GREEN ECONOMY: 2022-2027 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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The Quebec government has committed to regularly updating GHG emission projects

The implementation plan is a step towards the 2050 neutrality objective

## CAT System Implementation

- economic tool based on the principle of a market where GHG emission allowances are traded
- number of allowances controlled by the government
- mainly targetting fuel distributors and large industrial businesses

## Transportation

- 48% of projected reductions for 2030
- increase in target for electric vehicles to 1.6 million by 2030
- minimum renewable fuel content set to 15% for gasoline and 10% for diesel by 2030

## Industry

- 35% of projected reductions for 2030
- continued action in industrial sector
- increasing share of RNG in natural gas consumption

**2030 Emissions  
Reduction Target  
= 35.7%**

## Other Sectors

- ~20% of projected reductions for 2030
- measures to support conversion from natural gas to electricity and dual energy
- aim to ban use of oil for residential heating
- gradual electrification of government buildings
- waste reduction strategies
- agricultural reduction policies

# PROVINCIAL PROJECTS: IN DETAIL I

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## **Eco-Cammionage**

- supports the technological modernisation of sectors (e.g. freight transport) to reduce GHGs
- aims to increase use of renewable energy and efficiency in freight transport
- several changes implemented:
  - low-speed vehicles, electric cargo bikes, light vehicles for commercial use are now eligible
  - maximum financial assistance increased from \$75,000-\$125,000

## **EcoPerformance**

- funds projects related to energy consumption and production/process improvements to reduce company energy consumption and GHG emissions
- financial assistance may cover up to 50% of eligible expenses
  - up to \$100,000 per site for small-medium consumers
  - up to \$300,000 per site for large consumers

## **Bioenergies**

- funds energy conversion projects to bioenergy
- targets companies, institutions, and municipalities
- covers a range of expenses including consultant fees, equipment, work carried out by staff, and work carried out by external parties

## **Défis GES**

- supports the realization of structuring industrial projects that can contribute to significantly reducing short/long term GHG emissions
- \$110 million budget
- targets large industrial emitters
- both companies and projects are eligible



# PROVINCIAL PROJECTS: IN DETAIL II

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## **MADI**

- provides financial support to 54 companies subject to the RSPEDE to establish GHG emission reduction projects
- \$48 million budget distributed among companies in manufacturing and mining sectors
- supports companies in research and development
- 3 types of projects eligible:
  - study of PTE for reducing GHGs; GHG emission reduction projects; technological innovations

## **Green Hydrogen and Bioenergy Strategy**

- aims to create coherent framework and favourable environment to accelerate production, distribution, and use of green hydrogen and bioenergy
- 5 guiding principles:
  - contribute to decarbonizing Quebec
  - develop natural resources and residual material sustainably
  - foster collaboration and participation of regional, local, and Indigenous communities
  - attract investment and export Quebecois knowledge
  - contribute to Quebec's energy

## **Chauffez Vert**

- provides financial assistance for homeowners who want to replace their oil or propane heating system with an electricity-powered system or another renewable source

## **Waste Heat Recovery**

- \$162 million fund to valorize thermal discharges from large industrial facilities
- QScale and Énergir in particular have collaborated to recover and optimize heat generated by computing centres

# PROVINCIAL PROJECTS: IN DETAIL III

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## **Sustainable Agriculture Plan**

- proposes interventions adapted to regional particularities, different contexts, and production models
- aims to reduce use of pesticides and associated risks, improve soil health and conservation, improve management of fertiliser materials, optimize water management, and improve biodiversity

## **Methane Reduction**

- \$3.6 million afforded to dairy farmers by the Quebec Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food
- aims to reduce methane emissions by 14-16% per kilo of milk produced over 5 years
- supports 3 components:
  - design of a tool to monitor methane emissions from cows using samples of milk collected from Quebec farms
  - analysis and identification of best practices for reducing emissions
  - awareness raising and training of agricultural advisors and dairy producers

## **Residual Materials Management Policy**

- aims to ensure that the only residual materials disposed of in Quebec are ultimate waste
  - ultimate waste contains no more reclaimable materials
- current 5 year plan from 2019-2024
  - >\$100 million investment budget
  - 23 proposed actions



# MONTREAL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2020-2030

- 10 year strategic plan for a more resilient, greener, more inclusive city
- aims to enhance Montreal's economic, social, and ecological resilience to improve the quality of life of all Montrealers and collectively provide the means to meet the challenges of now and the future
- 46 actions grouped into 5 sectors



## 01 — Mobilization of the Montreal Community

- key actions focus on access to information and support measures/incentives
- promote the adoption of eco-responsible practices
- stimulate and consolidate a circular economy
- launch a strategy to reduce food waste and facilitate textile donation and recycling in collaboration with provincial and federal governments



## 02 — Mobility, Urban Planning, and Urban Development

- integrate the Climate Plan's targets into Montreal's Urban Planning and Mobility Plan
- develop public and active transportation favouring car sharing, taxi use, and carpooling in all districts
- favour and increase the proportion of electric vehicles in downtown Montreal
- encourage densification by converting parking lots into open spaces
- plant, maintain, and protect 500,000 trees



## 03 — Buildings

- offer housing that is comfortable, resilient, fully powered by electricity, and energy efficient
- eliminate use of oil heating in buildings in favour of renewable sources
- adopt by-laws and programs to enhance energy efficiency and resiliency in all buildings
- design funding program for property owners to support environmentally friendly renovations
- improve energy performance of large buildings through system of rating and disclosure of energy consumption and GHG emissions



## 04 — Exemplarity of the City

- convert 100% of municipal real estate stock to net-zero carbon
  - starting with city hall
- decarbonize business travel of city staff and encourage use of sustainable transport modes for home-work commutes



## 05 — Governance

- revise governance rules to systematically consider the climate and environmental impact
- decision-making and budgeting processes must be consistent with ecological transition and resilience
- allot 10-15% of Ten-Year Capital Expenditures Program budget to adapting to climate change

# ORGANIZATIONAL WORK I

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## **Equiterre**

- working “For a sustainable world”
- focused on 4 sectors:
  - food and agriculture
  - climate and energy
  - production and consumption
  - transportation and mobility

## **Justice Climatique de Montreal**

- pursues environmental and climate justice through education, mobilisation, and collective action in solidarity with directly affected communities
- climate justice issues as inherently linked to capitalism and colonialism
- 3 principles:
  - solidarity approach
  - anti-oppression and decolonization
  - consensus
- work:
  - free public transit campaign
  - ‘Hoodwinked in the Hothouse’ educational zine
  - anti-Line 5 (pipeline) campaign

## **Société pour la Nature et les Parcs du Canada (SNAP) Quebec**

- campaigning to counter and adapt to climate change using nature-based solutions
- collaborating with provincial and municipal governments, citizen groups, university researchers, and other environmental organizations to raise awareness and acceptance and deploy nature-based solutions
- working to create a network of protected areas across Quebec that will ensure the protection of the boreal forest, Far North, St. Lawrence, and ecosystems that support threatened species

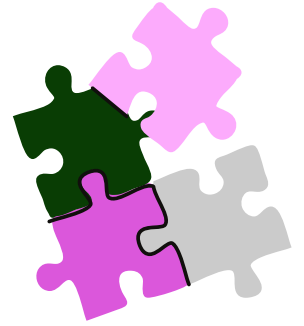


# ORGANIZATIONAL WORK II

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## **Sustainable Youth Canada (Montreal)**

- operates on high school, CÉGEP, university levels
- past projects:
  - Project Phoenix - cleaning up Angell Woods
    - ongoing
    - assessing environmental status of public green space
    - aims to clean woods while conducting environmental research
  - Canadian Wildlife Federation Youth Mentoring
    - summer 2021
    - collaboration with Canadian Wildlife Foundation
    - aimed to shed light on ecological value of Falaise St-Jacques and introduce youth to sustainable community-led projects
  - Montreal Recycling Review and Awareness Initiative
    - fall 2021
    - review of Montreal's recycling program
    - aimed to address public knowledge and pressure policymakers to adopt more sustainable practices
    - produced report and public awareness campaign
  - Montreal West City Council Biodiversity Initiative
    - spring 2021
    - consulted for Montreal West Green City Council
    - created preliminary plans for a project to increase natural biodiversity in the township
  - Environmental education in Notre-Dame-des-Victoires Summer camp
    - summer 2020-2021
    - taught young campers about waste management and recycling
    - cleaned local neighborhoods, recycled old t-shirts, planted grass and wildflower seeds
  - School Compost Initiative with Eco-quartier
    - implemented composting in primary school and provided education



# KNOWLEDGE GAPS

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## COMMITMENT TO REGULARLY UPDATES

As part of the 2022-2027 Implementation Plan, the Quebec government has committed to regularly updating GHG emissions based on the most recent information available

- unclear where and how this information will be provided
- unclear who is collecting the information
  - will it be done by the government itself?
  - will an independent third-party be involved?



## INDIGENOUS COLLABORATION

The Green Hydrogen and Bioenergy Strategy claims to hold fostering collaboration with Indigenous communities as a guiding principle

- lack of tangible steps on how this will be approached
- difficult to take at face value given the government's historical and ongoing treatment of Indigenous peoples

There is also a more general knowledge gap regarding Indigenous practices and expertise regarding sustainability



## YOUTH RESOURCES

Other than the Sustainable Youth Canada group in Montreal, there is a distinct lack of resources and opportunities for young people to get involved in climate change initiatives, at a political level

- young people show up to climate protests in record numbers, this is not being translated into political participation
- young people will most affected by climate change, they should be able to easily get involved

# SOURCES

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<https://www.equiterre.org/en/about-us>

<https://climatejusticemontreal.ca/about>

<https://snapquebec.org/en/our-work/climate-crisis/>

<https://www.sustainableyouthcanada.com/montreal-1>