



PLANETAIR QUÉBEC-NATURE PORTFOLIO



Location: Quebec and multiple countries

Portfolio Type: Mixed Portfolio - Gold Standard Credits and projects in Quebec

The Planetair Quebec-Nature Portfolio has two components. The first component of the portfolio allows you to offset all your greenhouse gases through certified Gold Standard credits. In this way, you are assured that your offsetting is real, quantified and verified.

Through the second component of the portfolio, you support projects in Quebec that benefit the climate. Our partner *Nature Conservancy of Canada-Quebec Region* (NCC) protects more than 48 000 hectares in the province. NCC projects promote the



protection of the habitat of more than 200 species of fauna and flora in precarious situations. Moreover, many of these natural environments are accessible to the public to promote the discovery and knowledge of nature.

COMPONENT 1 - GOLD STANDARD-CERTIFIED PROJECTS

Each tonne of greenhouse gases you wish to offset is compensated through a certified Gold Standard credit included in the Planetair Global Portfolio. This portfolio is made up of Gold Standard-certified projects, ensuring that your GHG emissions are compensated in a real, additional, transparent, and verified manner. Gold Standard carbon credits are the best credits available on the market for voluntary offsetting of GHG emissions.

The credits come from various types of projects (wind, solar, energy recovery, etc.). The climate benefits of these projects are immediate, unlike those of trees, which can take up to 70 years to capture a ton of carbon. With the climate crisis accelerating, we do not have the luxury of waiting all these years to offset the greenhouse gases we emit today.

To be certified, the projects must be audited by independent evaluators against the stringent Gold Standard requirements. The Gold Standard requires projects to contribute to at least three UN Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 13, which pertains to the fight against climate change.





A table showing various Gold Standard projects to which Planetair has recently contributed can be consulted at the end of this brochure.

COMPONENT 2 - PROJECTS IN QUEBEC

The second component of the portfolio funds nature protection projects in Quebec. Your contribution thus helps support projects for the conservation and restoration of sensitive natural habitats across the province.



St. Lawrence River



Chaudière-Appalaches



Eastern Township



Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine



Laurentians



Mauricie



Montreal's Greenbelt



Montréal



Outaouais



Quebec



Southeastern Quebec



Ecological corridors

We donate 25% of your contribution to our partner *Nature Conservancy of Canada-Quebec Region* (NCC), whose activities promote CO2 capture and mitigate the impact of climate change on wildlife and plant species. NCC has been working to protect our most precious natural environments and the species they shelter since 1962.

As an example, here are some of the territories protected by NCC in Quebec:

MONTREAL AREA

NCC protects 1,700 hectares (4,200 acres) of natural areas in the Montreal metropolitan community. These protected lands can be found on the islands surrounding Montreal, at the foot of the Monteregian Hills, in the peat bogs of the upper St. Lawrence River



and in some agricultural lands. Despite its mostly urban character, the metropolitan region is home to many natural environments: forests, lakes, islands, riparian areas and wetlands. This territory, which is about 17 per cent covered by forests, contains exceptional ecosystems. It also encompasses many sites of high ecological value in the St. Lawrence lowlands – a testament to the richness of its flora and fauna.

Due to its location and favourable climate, the greenbelt is home to more than half of the province’s vulnerable animal and plant species, including map turtle and lake sturgeon.

By establishing and protecting a large greenbelt in Greater Montreal, we will be able to collectively conserve natural areas and ecosystems for our children and grandchildren. NCC aims to increase the area of protected land in the Montreal greenbelt and continues to support the conservation actions of its partners in the area.

THE LAURENTIANS

At Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts and Ivry-sur-le-Lac, NCC protects a network of natural environments totalling 350 hectares (864 acres). They include the William R.-J. Oliver Reserve and the Ivry Wildlife Crossing property.

Preserving the William R.-J. Oliver and Ivry Wildlife Crossing properties contributes to the maintenance of ecological corridors. These link four major forest massifs: the Jackrabbit ecological reserve, located in the municipality of Montcalm, the Ouareau Forest regional park, the Val-David-Val-Morin regional park and the Mont-Tremblant national park.

These properties are part of a larger-scale ecological corridor project that NCC, working with many partners, aims to protect and expand across the province. An ecological corridor is a natural land or water passage linking natural areas together, allowing wildlife to move around and flora to disperse. Species with large home ranges, such as black bear, Canada lynx and white-tailed deer, require large areas to feed and reproduce.

THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS

The Eastern Townships boast large lakes, picturesque villages and green mountaintops. In the heart of this cottage country is NCC’s Green Mountains Nature Reserve. It is the largest privately held conservation area in Quebec.

This reserve is not only one of the last natural areas to remain intact in southern Quebec, it is also one of the most important connectivity zones in the Appalachian range. The Appalachian range extends from the state of Georgia through Quebec to



Newfoundland. Home to an abundance of habitats and species, this area is a priceless natural treasure. Today, the nature reserve sprawls over approximately 8,000 hectares (19,800 acres).

The protected area is big enough to conserve the ecosystem's diversity while also providing adequate habitat for several large mammals, such as black bear, bobcat, and moose. It also shelters more than 20 species of at-risk plants, including two-leaved toothwort, large-flowered bellwort, and maidenhair fern. The reserve is home to several birds of prey. Barred owl, peregrine falcon and broad-winged hawk are found here, as well as 80 species of breeding birds. Birch, beech, ash, and maple dominate the deciduous forest. At its highest altitude, the mixed-wood forest features mainly fir, spruce, and birch.

QUEBEC CITY AREA

Argentenay Point (Pointe Argentenay), a magnificent piece of land covering 40 hectares (99 acres), is located on the east end of the île d'Orléans. The 14-hectare riverside property, protected by NCC, affords one of the nicest views of the Saint Lawrence River.

The whole of Argentenay Point is covered by an exceptionally rare forest ecosystem, home to old red oaks and American beech, among other species. Several species at risk can also be found there, including butternut, an endangered species in Canada, as well as two at-risk plant in Quebec species, namely two-leaved toothwort and large toothwort. Moreover, the site is an important stop for migrating birds and is visited by snow geese, black ducks and several other species of waterfowl.

The area's rocky and grassy shores provide grounds for breeding, feeding and shelter for a wide variety of species. The shorelines represent essential habitat for Victorin's gentian, a plant that is threatened in Quebec and whose range is limited to the Saint Lawrence estuary. North of the point is a belvedere, from which one can take in the point itself, the Saint Lawrence, the neighbouring islands, Cap Tourmente and the Laurentian mountains on the horizon.

GASPESIE

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) has conserved 412 hectares (1,020 acres) along the banks and in the watershed of the Malbaie River, between the towns of Gaspé and Percé. Due to its close proximity to the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, this area boasts a rich biodiversity of species on its land and in its waters.

The riverfront conservation lands protect important habitat for Atlantic salmon – a species of special concern. The property is blanketed with stands of mixed forest in which many species of mammals and birds live.



These protected lands help maintain ecologically important aquatic and riparian habitats on the Malbaie River and its tributaries. The rocky bottoms and cool waters of this network of rivers provide vital habitats for several aquatic species, including Atlantic salmon, American eel and brook trout. By protecting the riverbank areas of the Malbaie River, NCC is helping conserve many important salmon pools.

Several species of duck, such as the Barrow's goldeneye, wood duck and common merganser, and birds of prey, such as bald eagle and northern harrier, also benefit from this quality natural environment.

ALL REGIONS OF QUEBEC

More information on the various Quebec projects supported by NCC is available on NCC's website.

ABOUT PLANETAIR

Planetair is a climate protection programme set up by the Unisfera International Centre, a non-profit organization created in 2002. Our mission is to promote sustainable development and contribute to the fight against climate change. Our funding comes from the advisory services we provide as well as from grants and carbon contributions.



Planetair's compliance with the commitments we make to you are audited every year by chartered professional accountants (CPA). Their most recent audit report can be downloaded from our home page: planetair.ca.



Moreover, Planetair is the only carbon credit supplier recommended by *Protégez-Vous* (*Protect Yourself*), the consumer protection magazine. A link to their report is posted on our home page as well (available in French only).

ProtégezVous.

Question? Comment? Write to us at info@planetair.ca

Thank you for your support!

Some of the Gold Standard projects to which Planetair has contributed

Project/technology/country	Climate solution
<p data-bbox="354 383 709 412">Efficient Cooking Ovens Project</p> <p data-bbox="415 420 648 449">Home energy efficiency</p> <p data-bbox="478 457 585 487">Nepal/Asia</p> 	<p data-bbox="884 383 1885 488">Problem: Nepal is a mountainous country with difficult topographical and socio-economic conditions. A quarter of its population lives below the poverty line. Besides economic poverty, this population lacks modern energy services for cooking and depends on inefficient and unhealthy open fire stoves.</p> <p data-bbox="884 534 1885 678">Solution: This project distributes modern and improved stoves to socially marginalized groups in southeastern Nepal in the districts of Rautahat, Sarlahi and Mahottari. The stoves provide a clean cooking solution for households in these communities, improving health, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving local forests, and promoting gender equality.</p> <p data-bbox="884 724 1885 906">Thus, in addition to reducing emissions, the stoves allow complete combustion of the fuel, minimizing air pollution, for healthier cooking that protects the health of the inhabitants. More efficient, the stoves also require up to 50% less wood fuel, alleviating deforestation pressures on nearby ecosystems and reducing the time needed to collect wood. The project also creates jobs for local men and women, who are trained by the project promoter in the installation and construction of the stoves.</p>

Efficient Cookstoves Project

Uganda/Africa



Problem: Eighty-five percent of Ugandans rely on wood and charcoal for cooking. These fuels are burned using inefficient technologies, causing environmental challenges (deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions), health-related challenges (air quality in homes) and economic challenges (cost of firewood and / or time for collecting wood).

Solution: To address these issues, the project is supporting the manufacture and distribution of more efficient cooking stoves. These were not available in Uganda before the start of the project. The use of efficient stoves reduces consumption of firewood, which in turn limits deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions and fumes harmful to the health of the occupants.

Efficient Cookstoves and Drinking Water Project

Kenya/Africa



Problem: In Kenya's rural areas, more than 65% of the population does not have access to drinking water and households frequently use wood and charcoal to cook their food and purify their water thereby causing environmental challenges (deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions), sanitary challenges (air quality in homes) and economic challenges (cost of firewood and/or time for collecting wood).

Solution: To address these issues, the project subsidizes the production, and distribution to low-income families, of efficient stoves. The use of efficient stoves reduces the consumption of firewood by about 50%. The project also supports the installation of water treatment systems at communal water sources, which saves families the trouble of boiling water to purify their drinking water.

Efficient Cookstoves and Drinking Water Project

Rwanda/Africa



Problem: In Rwanda, households frequently use wood and charcoal to cook their food and purify their water, thus causing environmental challenges (deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions), health challenges (air quality in homes) and economic challenges (cost of firewood and/or time for wood collection).

Solution: To address these problems, the project is supporting the rehabilitation of water wells to provide safe drinking water to Rwandan communities, thus removing the need to harvest and burn wood to boil and purify water. The project also subsidizes the production and distribution of efficient stoves for low-income families. Efficient stoves reduce the consumption of firewood by about 50%.

Solar Energy Project

Thailand/Asia



Problem: Thailand is one of the largest consumers of energy in Southeast Asia and the second largest importer of oil in the region. Fossil fuels represent around 80% of the country's total energy demand.

Solution: To address this problem, the project is supporting Thailand's energy transition. The project finances 10 solar photovoltaic plants in the provinces of Kanchanaburi and Suphanburi; the agricultural center of Thailand. This project reduces GHG emissions, reduces Thailand's dependence on imported fossil fuels, and stimulates economic growth in the country and the region. In addition to meeting the energy demand of people in central Thailand, the project improves local infrastructure and provides employment for skilled and unskilled workers from adjacent communities for the manufacture, installation, operation, and maintenance of equipment.

Wind Energy Project

New Caledonia/Oceania



Problem: The Pacific Islands face increasing environmental and socio-economic pressures, heightened by climate change. The UN recognizes small island states as being particularly vulnerable to climate change. Hard hit by natural climate variability and extreme tropical weather events, they are significantly vulnerable to future regional climate changes as well as sea level rise.

Solution: Beyond replacing the use of fossil fuels with renewable energies, the project helps strengthen civil society and Kanak indigenous rights, by supporting local and regional initiatives focusing on employment, young people, and community. As New Caledonia is in a region prone to hurricanes, the entire wind farm can be folded up in a short time in the event of an extreme weather warning. The project serves as a demonstration project in the South Pacific and is an example of environmentally friendly development made in collaboration with local tribes.

Wind Energy Project

Taiwan/Asia



Problem: Despite its privileged coastal and windy location, Taiwan still depends substantially on its coal resources to fuel its economy.

Solution: The project consists in the deployment of wind turbines on the West coast of the island. In addition to its positive impact on the climate, the project creates local jobs. The project also contributes to the development of sustainable tourism through guided tours on sustainable energy development.

Landfill Gas to Energy Project

Turkey



Problem: Organic matter (i.e. food, paper, etc.) in landfills decompose and release methane gas (a very potent greenhouse gas) into the atmosphere contributing to climate change.

Solution: The project aims at avoiding greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from an existing landfill by collecting biogas to generate electricity. In addition to the direct avoidance of GHG emissions, further indirect emission reductions are achieved through the CO₂-neutral replacement of fossil fuels used for power generation. The activity includes the installation of a landfill gas extraction system, an enclosed flare as well as a biogas driven genset for electricity production. The biogas power project is built near the Molu village of Koca in the province of Kayseri in Turkey.

Wastewater Treatment Project

Thailand/Asia



Problem: The wastewater treatment facility uses fossil fuels to operate. The former operation of the plant also led to unpleasant smells, impacting people in the surrounding communities.

Solution: Thanks to the project, methane generated by the process is now captured, preventing it from contributing to climate change. In addition, it is used to generate energy and thus limits the need to resort to additional fossil fuels. Moreover, the project generates jobs for the local population, and it supports social and educational activities in the community.