Planetair Canada-Nature Portfolio

Location: Canada and various countries
Portfolio Type: Mixed Portfolio - Gold Standard projects and projects in Canada

Our Planetair Canada-Nature Portfolio is a two-pronged approach designed to bolster your climate commitment with robust integrity and credibility.

The first component of our portfolio allows you to offset all your greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through Gold Standard-certified climate projects. The Gold Standard is globally recognized for its stringent criteria and effectiveness in reducing GHG emissions, thereby ensuring the high quality of the projects. Each tonne of GHG offset by these projects is traceable through a unique certificate, proving an assurance of the integrity, reliability, efficiency, and credibility of the offset.

The second component of our portfolio provides you with an opportunity to also support Canadian projects that are beneficial for the climate. These projects are implemented by our partner, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), and notably contribute to protecting the habitat of over 200 threatened fauna and flora species.

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Many natural sites supported by these projects are open to the public, thereby promoting the discovery and appreciation of our natural environment.

Thus, your contribution enables Planetair to support both Gold Standard-certified projects and local conservation efforts in Canada.

In recognition of your commitment to combatting climate change, Planetair will send you a carbon offset certificate. The certificate will detail the number of tonnes of CO_2e that your contribution has helped to reduce.

The two components of the portfolio are further described below.

COMPONENT 1 – GOLD STANDARD-CERTIFIED PROJECTS

By contributing to the first component of our portfolio, you offset 100% of your GHG emissions by supporting Gold Standard certified climate projects. This internationally renowned certification guarantees real, measured, transparent, additional, and verified neutralization of GHG emissions. It stands as the benchmark in voluntary GHG offsetting.

We select innovative projects such as solar and wind energy generation, improved domestic stoves, and optimized waste management. These projects are highly effective carbon offsetting mechanisms, as they prevent GHG emissions at the source. For instance, harnessing solar or wind energy to generate electricity reduces our reliance on fossil fuels like coal and oil, important sources of GHG emissions. Furthermore, advanced waste management techniques, such as the recovery and reuse of organic waste to generate energy, contribute to the reduction of methane emissions, a notably potent greenhouse gas.

Unlike tree planting projects that require time to sequester carbon, the Gold Standard projects we select yield an immediate positive impact on the climate, making them a more appropriate response to the urgency of the climate crisis.

Furthermore, Gold Standard certification requires projects to contribute to at least three UN Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 13: Climate Action.

For an overview of recent Gold Standard projects supported by Planetair, please refer to the table located at the end of this brochure.

COMPONENT 2 – PROJECTS IN CANADA

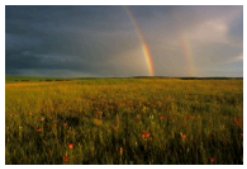
The second component of our portfolio is dedicated to financing nature protection projects in Canada. Your contribution thus actively supports the conservation and restoration of sensitive natural habitats across various regions of Canada.

We donate 25% of your contribution to our partner, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), whose initiatives foster CO_2 capture and mitigate the impact of climate change on wildlife and plant species. Since 1962, NCC has been committed to safeguarding our most valuable natural environments and the species they sustain.

To illustrate, here are some of the territories in Canada that the NCC has successfully protected (more information is available on CNC's website):


British Columbia


Alberta


Saskatchewan


Manitoba


Ontario


Quebec


New Brunswick


Prince Edward Island


Nova Scotia


Newfoundland and Labrador


The North

BRITISH COLUMBIA - Elk Valley Heritage Conservation Area

The Elk Valley Heritage Conservation Area encompasses 13,100 hectares (32,500 acres) along the Elk River near Fernie, British Columbia. These lands include low-lying wetlands, mixed grassland-forest and steep, forested uplands. These lands are high-value linkage corridors for large carnivores moving north-south through the valley. To effectively conserve wide-ranging carnivore populations in the Canadian Rocky Mountain Ecoregion, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) decided to prioritize the conservation of three very high-value linkage corridors in the Elk Valley.

The Elk Valley is a critically important wildlife corridor that accommodates the north-south movement of wide-ranging carnivores. Animals such as grizzly bear, wolf, wolverine and lynx pass through here. The area has undergone some development for resource extraction over the past 50 years (logging, linear corridor development and road building). However, it remains remarkably intact in terms of biological integrity. The existence of healthy populations of carnivores throughout the North American Rocky Mountains depends on the continued existence of populations in the Elk Valley.

The Elk Valley Heritage Conservation Area is connected to provincial lands by another NCC project within the Elk Valley, the Morrissey Meadows Conservation Area. This

connectivity offers significant conservation benefits to the surrounding environment, as it enhances habitat security for wide-ranging mammals in the area.

MANITOBA - Yellow Quill Prairie

NCC established the Yellow Quill Prairie Preserve, south of Brandon, Manitoba, in 1998. The property is giving the few remaining species at risk in this area a better chance for survival by maintaining the last intact remnants of their natural habitats. NCC's Yellow Quill Prairie Preserve is located 20 kilometres southeast of Brandon and two kilometres north of the junction of the Souris and Assiniboine rivers. A recent increase in cultivation and irrigation of native range in southwestern Manitoba has put new pressure on the few remnants of mixed grass prairie grasslands. At one time, these grasslands covered thousands of square kilometres. Today, less than 10 per cent remains intact. Rare plants like red three-awned grass and sand bluestem are also found here.

Wilderness enthusiasts enjoy spotting the species that roam here, including red-tailed hawk, moose, elk, deer and fox. The Yellow Quill Prairie is a preferred site for bird watchers wishing to see mountain bluebird and Sprague's pipit in their natural habitat. The latter is listed as a threatened species, as is mule deer. Endangered species such as northern prairie skink, discovered in the preserve just two years ago, also fight for survival here.

NEW BRUNSWICK - Meduxnekeag Watershed

NCC has partnered with the Meduxnekeag River Association. Together, the partners have worked to protect more than 167 hectares (400 acres) of forested land for endangered and rare species along the shores of the Meduxnekeag River. The river is located near Woodstock, New Brunswick.

The banks of the Meduxnekeag River are one of the most significant forest areas in the Maritimes. Close to 45 percent of the province’s remaining Appalachian hardwood forest sites are found here. The area also contains the highest concentration of rare Appalachian hardwood species in New Brunswick. The lands acquired by NCC and the Meduxnekeag River Association involve riverfront. They also include significant Appalachian hardwood forest – a rare type of forest that was once much more widespread. The properties provide habitat for endangered butternut trees. Several provincially rare plants such as Canada violet and showy orchis are also found here.

The watershed features 30 provincially rare plant species, including lopseed, nodding fescue, spikenard, Goldie’s fern, and Seneca snakeroot and 27 species of fish have been identified in the Meduxnekeag system, including brook trout, brown trout, and Atlantic salmon.

ONTARIO - Frontenac Arch

If you look at a night image of northeastern North America from space, you see the lights of cities, towns and highways spreading like a constellation across the landscape. Yet just north of Kingston and northeast of the St. Lawrence River is an archipelago of countryside and wilderness under dark skies and bright stars. This is the Frontenac Arch – over 171,000 hectares (423,000 acres) of forests, wetlands and lakes, home to thousands of species. Connecting the northern forests of Algonquin with the Adirondacks in New York State, the Arch forms a critical habitat linkage between the northern hardwood and mixed forests of Ontario and the Appalachian Mountain chain of eastern North America. This narrow bridge is one of the most important forest corridors east of the Rocky Mountains.

NCC has been making targeted efforts in the Frontenac Arch for over a decade, securing key properties and assisting partners in their conservation efforts. NCC currently owns and manages over 2,760 hectares (6,835 acres) here. In addition, NCC has assisted with an additional 2,985 hectares (7,376 acres) of protected habitat in the area. NCC's long-term vision for the area is to help create a connected mosaic of protected lands across the Arch, with at least 17 per cent under some form of conservation protection.

QUÉBEC - 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.

ABOUT PLANETAIR

Planetair is a climate protection initiative initiated by the Unisfera International Centre, a non-profit organization founded in 2002. We are committed to promoting sustainable development and contributing to the fight against climate change. Our operations are funded by the grants and contributions we receive in support of our activities and, to a limited extent, by the advisory services we offer.

Each year, our commitments to you are verified by certified public accountants (CPA). The most recent audit report is always available for consultation on our website: planetair.ca.

We are proud to mention that Planetair is the only organization active in greenhouse gas offsetting recommended by Protégez-Vous *(Protect Yourself)*, the reference magazine for consumer protection. You can find the link to the analysis conducted by Protégez-Vous also on our homepage.

For any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us at: info@planetair.ca.

Your support is vital to our mission, and we sincerely thank you for your commitment to act with us!

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Some of the Gold Standard projects to which Planetair has contributed

Project/technology/country	Climate solution
Efficient Cooking Ovens Project Nepal/Asia 	**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. **Solution:** This home energy efficiency 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. 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.

Project/technology/country	Climate solution
Cururos Wind Park Project Chile/South America 	**Problem:** In Chile, some of the country's electricity is generated from fossil fuels, which produce significant amounts of greenhouse gas emissions. **Solution:** The Cururos project encompasses two wind farms located in the Coquimbo region of Chile with a total installed capacity of 109.6 MW and an average annual output of 290 GWh. The wind farms are connected to the Central Interconnected System (SIC). By displacing fossil fuel-based electricity in the grid, it has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 173,819 tonnes of CO2e per year, which equates to 1,390,550 tonnes of CO2e over the 7-year renewable accreditation period.
Efficient Cookstoves and Drinking Water Project Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda/Africa 	**Problem:** In rural areas of Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda, a large portion of the population lacks access to clean water and relies on wood and charcoal for cooking and water purification. This leads to environmental (deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions), health (indoor air quality), and economic (cost of wood and time required for wood collection) challenges. **Solution:** To address these issues, the projects subsidize the production and distribution of efficient stoves for low-income families. These efficient stoves help to reduce firewood consumption by approximately 50%. Some of the projects also support the rehabilitation of water boreholes to provide clean water to communities and the installation of water treatment systems at communal water sources, which saves families from having to boil water.

Project/technology/country	Climate solution
Solar Energy Projects India and Turkey/Europe and Asia 	**Problem:** In India and Turkey, a significant portion of electricity is generated from fossil fuels that emit large amounts of greenhouse gases. This method of producing electricity remains the cheapest in these countries. **Solution:** Solar park projects allow for the substitution of fossil fuels by solar energy, thereby reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity production in these populous countries.
Wind Energy Projects India and Turkey/Europe and Asia 	**Problem:** In India and Turkey, a significant portion of electricity is generated from fossil fuels that emit large amounts of greenhouse gases. This method of producing electricity remains the cheapest in these countries. **Solution:** Wind park projects allow for the substitution of fossil fuels by wind energy, thereby reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity production in these populous countries.

Project/technology/country	Climate solution
Landfill Gas to Energy Project Turkey/Europe/Asia 	**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.