Planetair Canada-Trees Portfolio

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

Our Planetair Canada-Trees 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 reforestation initiatives in Canada. These projects are instrumental in sequestering atmospheric greenhouse gases and mitigating the effects of climate change. By investing in these reforestation initiatives, you are also contributing to the protection of local biodiversity.

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Thus, your contribution enables Planetair to support both Gold Standard-certified projects and local reforestation 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 – CANADIAN TREE PLANTING FUND

The second component of our portfolio is dedicated to financing reforestation projects in Canada, initiatives that actively contribute to combating climate change. We allocate 25% of your contribution to these projects. In January 2023, Planetair partnered with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) to create a fund for reforestation and revegetation of protected natural spaces. Managed by the NCC, this fund aims to finance tree planting activities and other vegetation efforts across Canada.

Two crises are currently shaking the world: the massive decline in biodiversity and climate change. In both cases, the conservation of natural sites is part of the solution. Part of the long-term conservation work involves planting trees and other vegetation, as it is one of the most suitable solutions to ensure better protection of biodiversity and combat climate change. Trees not only increase the area of green spaces but also provide numerous services to humans, wildlife, and flora. Trees purify air and water, capture and store carbon, control flooding, provide habitats for numerous species, and offer many other ecological services.

Planetair chose to partner with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) due to the rigor of its work and its unique expertise. Since 1962, the NCC has contributed to the protection of over 400,000 hectares (over 1 million acres) of forest habitats, an area larger than the combined areas of Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, and Calgary. NCC works in a wide variety of forests with specific characteristics and needs.

The funds raised enable plantings on NCC lands. These lands are under legal protection ensuring their perpetual conservation. Biologists and other specialists conduct surveys and analyses on the ground and develop reforestation/revegetation plans adapted to the intervention sites. Plantings take place in often degraded areas, which have difficulty regenerating on their own. For example, the NCC restores the banks of rivers that erode over time due to waves caused by boats, or fallow lands that struggle to naturally renew. This is rigorous work that requires the use of species adapted to each intervention environment.

Once a planting is completed, NCC ensures its follow-up over the years and makes the necessary corrections with the aim of maximizing the benefits for the host ecosystem.

Among other recent initiatives, NCC planted more than 1,000 trees in a former orchard integrated into the Carillon nature reserve in Saint-André-d'Argenteuil in Québec. The planting aimed to counter the expansion of buckthorn, an invasive exotic plant, which had colonized the site and prevented the growth of small trees and the creation of a forest. The NCC therefore intervened to accelerate the reforestation process and prevent buckthorn from reproducing and colonizing other natural environments.

In September 2022, the NCC reforested plots of land in the Elizabeth Walsh Nature Reserve on Prince Edward Island. Located in King County, southeast of Souris, the nature reserve protects 15 hectares of Wabanaki (Acadian) forest, including aspens aged 60 to 80 years. Although the Wabanaki forest covers most of the Maritimes, it is difficult to find concentrations of old trees. The protection and restoration of intact

forests, as in Howe Bay, provide important habitat for a wide range of plant and animal species. The addition of forest restoration projects, focused on creating diversified and high-value Acadian forests, will meet the long-term needs of humans and wildlife. The protected area of Howe Bay allows better long-term management of the area and reduces the risk of habitat fragmentation for the species found there.

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.