



PLANETAIR QUÉBEC-NATURE PORTFOLIO



Location: Quebec and various countries

Portfolio Type: Mixed Portfolio - Gold Standard projects and projects in Québec

Our Planetair Québec-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 Québec-based projects that are beneficial for the climate. These projects are implemented by our partner, the Nature Conservancy of Canada – Québec Region (NCC), which already protects over 48,000 hectares in Quebec. By supporting NCC's work, you contribute to the protection of the habitat of over 200 vulnerable fauna and flora species. Many of the protected natural environments 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 Québec.

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 CO₂e 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 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.

We donate 25% of your contribution to our partner the Nature Conservancy of Canada-Quebec Region (NCC), whose initiatives foster CO₂ 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):



St. Lawrence River



Chaudière-Appalaches



Eastern Township



Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine



Laurentians



Mauricie



Montreal's Greenbelt



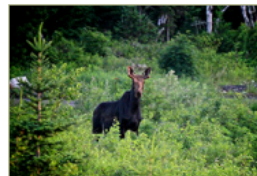
Montréal



Outaouais



Quebec



Southeastern Quebec



Ecological corridors

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 Argenteau 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 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.



ProtégezVous.



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!

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="478 420 585 449">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 680">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.</p> <p data-bbox="884 725 1885 907">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>

Project/technology/country	Climate solution
<p data-bbox="382 305 682 332">Cururos Wind Park Project</p> <p data-bbox="430 342 634 370">Chile/South America</p> 	<p data-bbox="884 305 1885 375">Problem: In Chile, some of the country's electricity is generated from fossil fuels, which produce significant amounts of greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p data-bbox="884 418 1885 639">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.</p>
<p data-bbox="262 833 802 860">Efficient Cookstoves and Drinking Water Project</p> <p data-bbox="359 870 705 898">Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda/Africa</p> 	<p data-bbox="884 833 1885 979">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.</p> <p data-bbox="884 1023 1885 1203">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.</p>

Project/technology/country	Climate solution
<p data-bbox="415 305 653 334">Solar Energy Projects</p> <p data-bbox="369 342 699 371">India and Turkey/Europe and Asia</p> 	<p data-bbox="884 305 1881 407">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.</p> <p data-bbox="884 456 1881 524">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.</p>
<p data-bbox="415 714 653 743">Wind Energy Projects</p> <p data-bbox="369 751 699 781">India and Turkey/Europe and Asia</p> 	<p data-bbox="884 714 1881 816">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.</p> <p data-bbox="884 865 1881 933">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.</p>

Project/technology/country	Climate solution
<p data-bbox="367 305 699 332">Landfill Gas to Energy Project</p> <p data-bbox="436 342 627 370">Turkey/Europe/Asia</p> 	<p data-bbox="884 305 1850 370">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.</p> <p data-bbox="884 418 1877 638">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.</p>
<p data-bbox="363 777 703 805">Wastewater Treatment Project</p> <p data-bbox="464 815 600 842">Thailand/Asia</p> 	<p data-bbox="884 777 1881 842">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.</p> <p data-bbox="884 891 1881 1029">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.</p>