Planetair Greater Montreal Portfolio

Location: Greater Montreal and various countries
Portfolio Type: Mixed Portfolio - Gold Standard projects and Greater Montreal projects

Our Planetair QuébecOiseaux Portfolio stands out due to its two distinct components, designed to support your climate commitment in a rigorous and credible manner.

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

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The second component of the portfolio allows you to also contribute to the implementation of climate-beneficial projects in the Greater Montreal area through our partner, the Nature Conservancy of Canada - Quebec Region (NCC). NCC projects promote the protection of the habitat of numerous animal and plant species in precarious situations. Many of these natural environments are accessible to the public, encouraging the discovery and understanding of nature. Over 1,700 hectares in the Greater Montreal territory are protected this way.

Thus, your contribution enables Planetair to support both Gold Standard-certified projects and local projects in the Greater Montreal area.

In recognition of your commitment to combatting climate change, Planetair will send a carbon offset certificate to you. The certificate will specify the number of tonnes of CO_2e that your contribution has helped to reduce.[1]

Below, you will find a detailed description of the two components of the portfolio.

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 serve as highly effective mechanisms for carbon offsetting by preventing GHG emissions at their source. For example, using solar or wind energy to generate electricity decreases our reliance on fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, which are significant sources of GHG emissions. Additionally, advanced waste management techniques, like the recovery and reuse of organic waste to generate energy, significantly reduce methane emissions, a notably potent greenhouse gas.

Unlike tree planting projects that take time to sequester carbon and only do so for a limited period, the Gold Standard projects we select have an immediate positive impact on the climate, making them particularly suitable in response to the urgency of the climate crisis.

[1] The certificate is solely intended to recognize your contribution: it has no monetary value and cannot be traded or sold.

Furthermore, Gold Standard projects must contribute to at least three UN Sustainable Development Goals, including not only enhancing climate action (Goal 13) but also promoting other goals such as sustainable energy (Goal 7) and responsible consumption (Goal 12), thereby amplifying their positive impacts.

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 THE GREATER MONTREAL AREA

The second component of the portfolio is dedicated to nature protection projects in the Greater Montreal area. Your contribution supports projects for the conservation and restoration of sensitive natural habitats in the region. Our partner, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), has been working to protect our most precious natural environments and the species they shelter since 1962. We donate 25% of your contribution to NCC, whose activities promote CO_2 capture and mitigate the impact of climate change on fauna and flora.

NCC protects more than 1,700 hectares in the Greater Montreal area, spread over islands, at the foot of the Montérégiennes, in the peat bogs of the Haut-Saint-Laurent and on agricultural lands. To respond to the loss of biodiversity in the region, NCC intends to increase its efforts over the next few years and contribute to the achievement of international protection targets.

Here are some of NCC projects in Greater Montreal:

Montreal's green belt - Remarkable biodiversity

By conserving land in Montreal and Laval, in the south of Lanaudière and the Laurentians, as well as in the north of the Montérégie, NCC plays, together with its partners, a key role in the implementation of a Green Belt in Greater Montreal, an essential response to climate change. This Green Belt concept encapsulates protected natural environments linked together by ecological corridors that allow the fauna to move and the flora to disperse, while slowing down urban sprawl.

Greater Montreal's green belt is made up of an urban zone – the most populous in Quebec –, as well as peri-urban and agricultural zones. Despite its predominantly urban character, the metropolitan area harbors a multitude of natural environments: forests, lakes, islands, riparian areas, and wetlands. The territory, of which 17% is covered by forests, is home to exceptional ecosystems. It has many sites of high ecological value in the St. Lawrence Lowlands – proof of the richness of its flora and fauna. Due to the geographical location and the favorable climate, it is on this territory that more than half of the animal and plant species in precarious situation of the province live.

By creating and protecting a large green belt in the Montreal agglomeration, NCC seeks to preserve precious natural environments for future generations. This is precisely what the Montreal Metropolitan Community is proposing through its Metropolitan Land Use and Development Plan: create a green and blue network to better combine natural and urbanized sectors. NCC now wishes to increase the surface area of protected land in Montreal's Green Belt and continues to support the conservation actions of its

partners in the territory. Combining awareness-raising work with lasting partnerships will benefit the conservation of the natural area.

In the Green Belt, inhabited areas and natural environments coexist harmoniously. Not only does this symbiosis preserve biodiversity, but it also allows citizens to enjoy nature, in addition to improving air and water quality, and preventing floods and droughts. It also allows municipalities to better plan their territory. Knowing that habitats need to be connected to each other to preserve the diversity of species living there, a green network is essential.

The islands

Since 1978, the Nature Conservancy of Canada has protected several islands along the Ottawa River and the St. Lawrence River. To date, of the fifty islands preserved on the river, NCC owns 17 of them, along a 90 km stretch between Lac des Deux Montagnes and Lake Saint-Pierre, near Trois-Rivières. NCC protects more than 245 hectares of essential habitats on its islands, four of which are now accessible to the public to respond to the growing recreational tourism interest surrounding the St. Lawrence, while protecting the archipelago through its conservation activities.

Bonfoin Island

Île Bonfoin, located in the borough of Rivière-des-Prairies-Pointe-aux-Trembles on the island of Montreal, is jointly managed by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the City of Montreal. It is dedicated to preservation in perpetuity. This acquisition made it possible to consolidate and increase Montreal's green and blue heritage and contributes to the City of Montreal's policy for the protection and enhancement of natural environments.

Round Island

The recent acquisition of Île Ronde, located between Montreal and Laval on the Rivière des Prairies, increases the protected territories of the sector, which will improve the habitats of the many plant and animal species found there. The habitat of the shag hickory, a tree species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable in Quebec, will be protected by this acquisition. There is also a wetland conducive to the reproduction of fish and amphibians. The map turtle, a species of federal concern and designated vulnerable in Quebec, frequently uses the shores of this island, which offers it a resting place sheltered from disturbances. These sites are becoming increasingly rare for this species, which frequents the most densely populated region of Quebec.

Several species of waterfowl such as Canada geese, wood ducks, gadwall, American black ducks, American wigeon ducks and common mergansers are also frequently seen in this sector. Several fish use the waters of the Rivière des Prairies, including burbot, northern pike, yellow perch, bowfish, largemouth bass and black crappie. The preservation of intact banks, in general, benefits the quality of the water they need.

The woodlands

NCC is also working to protect wooded areas of great ecological value in urban areas.

Boisé-Papineau Nature Reserve

This is particularly the case of Boisé Papineau, located in Laval, which includes a bicentennial beech forest with sugar maple trees designated as an exceptional forest ecosystem by the Quebec Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks. The property contains mixed forests that provide refuge for ruffed grouse and other forest birds, as well as a prairie formerly used for agriculture. There is also a forest made up of different species, including butternut, an endangered tree in Canada, and there are also wetlands, including a cattail swamp, two phragmites swamps and a silver maple swamp.

These habitats play a vital role in the productivity and ecological diversity of the entire region. They also represent a feeding site for several predators, such as snakes and raccoons, from neighboring ecosystems, and nesting habitats for dragonflies, frogs, and salamanders.

Carillon Wooded Area

This unique and ecologically rich territory is home to the exceptional forest ecosystem of Carillon, where we find the most intact occurrences of black maple and cork elm in the province. More than 202 hectares in the municipality of Saint-André-d'Argenteuil, located west of Montreal's green belt, are protected by NCC. This site protects 40% of a 500-hectare forest considered to be a priority according to the Atlas of territories of interest for conservation in the St. Lawrence Lowlands.

In addition to an expanse of forest, there are approximately 55 hectares of wetlands, streams, and riparian areas, including 1.6 kilometers of shoreline on the Rivière du Nord, which empties into the Ottawa River. The crucial next step of this project will be to develop a management plan to reduce the impact of human activities on these essential natural habitats. Project funding will support the stewardship of 15 species considered to be at risk, provincially or federally, including the Northern Map Turtle, Eastern Wood-pewee, and Snapping Turtle.

Turtles

Nine species of turtles live in Quebec, and they are all in a precarious situation. The loss of nesting and basking sites, habitats critical to the survival of turtles, is the main threat they face. They are also victims of injuries, sometimes fatal, caused by boat propellers or collisions with cars. Artificially bred populations of turtle nest predators in urban and peri-urban settings are also suspected to limit their reproduction and threaten the maintenance of long-term populations.

The Montreal region includes around a hundred islands and islets, as well as several waterways. In this aquatic environment, in the heart of the greater metropolitan area, live many species, including the map turtle, an important link in the life of our waterways and designated vulnerable under the Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species of Quebec. The protection of its habitat also contributes directly to the conservation of natural riparian environments, to the maintenance of water quality and even to limit the risk of flooding. To come to its aid, CNC has set up numerous actions to raise awareness and restore the environment.

Several measures for the protection of turtles have been put in place at strategic locations identified through the carapace.ca website. Anyone who sees a turtle on their property or in the street is invited to report their presence on the Carapace project site. These reports allow conservation organizations, such as NCC, to take the right actions in the right places. Since the launch of Carapace.ca in 2017, the number of turtle reports has been steadily increasing each year. By summer 2021, nearly 2,000 turtles had been reported there, bringing the total number of reports to 8,000 since the start of the project.

ABOUT PLANETAIR

Planetair is a climate change initiative launched in 2005 by the UNISFÉRA International Centre, a non-profit organization (unisfera.org). Today, the initiative is managed by the Planetair Centre (planetair.ca), also a non-profit organization. Our mission is to promote sustainable development and play a significant role in combating climate change, both from mitigation and adaptation perspectives. We are funded through grants and the contributions we receive, as well as from advisory services we offer.

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

ProtégezVous.

We are honored to share that Planetair is the only organization recommended by Protégez-Vous, the leading consumer protection magazine, in the field of greenhouse gas offsetting. You can find the link to the analysis conducted by Protégez-Vous on our homepage.

Questions and Comments

For any questions or comments, we invite you to contact us at the following address: info@planetair.ca.

Your support is essential to the achievement of our mission, and we express our sincere gratitude for your commitment to our cause!

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ABOUT 1% FOR THE PLANET

Planetair is proud to be a beneficiary member of the 1% for the Planet network.

A MOVEMENT LAUNCHED BY PIONEERS

1% for the Planet is a philanthropic initiative, founded in 2002 in the United States by Yvon Chouinard, founder and owner of Patagonia, and Craig Mathews, former owner of Blue Ribbon Flies.

These two visionaries, already committed to philanthropy by dedicating more than 1% of their respective sales to environmental causes, aimed to create a network that could bring together philanthropic businesses under an easily identifiable brand and a simple message.

Their main argument to encourage other businesses to join the movement is to demonstrate that it is possible to be both commercially prosperous and engaged in philanthropic actions.

This philanthropic effort has gained considerable momentum, now uniting over 6,000 members in nearly 91 countries. Since its inception, more than 350 million dollars have been allocated to environmental initiatives, demonstrating the positive impact and global reach of this initiative.

SOME OF THE GOLD STANDARD PROJECTS TO WHICH PLANETAIR HAS CONTRIBUTED

Project/technology/country	Climate solution
Efficient Cooking Ovens Project Nepal/Asia 	**Issue:** Nepal, a country characterized by its mountains and challenging topographical conditions, faces significant socio-economic challenges. Nearly a quarter of its population lives below the poverty line. Besides economic poverty, many residents lack access to modern energy services for cooking, forcing them to use inefficient and health-harming open fire stoves. **Climate Solution:** This domestic energy efficiency project aims to provide modern and improved stoves to socially marginalized groups in Southeast Nepal, in the districts of Rautahat, Sarlahi, and Mahottari. These new stoves offer a clean cooking alternative for households in these communities, thus improving the health of residents, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preserving local forests, and promoting gender equality. In addition to reducing emissions, these stoves allow for the complete combustion of fuel, thereby minimizing air pollution and ensuring healthier cooking for residents. Their increased efficiency also leads to up to a 50% reduction in wood consumption, which helps alleviate pressure on nearby forest ecosystems and reduces the time needed for wood collection. Furthermore, the project, made possible through carbon financing, generates employment opportunities for men and women in the region, who are trained by project promoters in the installation and construction of these stoves.

Project/technology/country	Climate solution
Cururos Wind Park Project Chile/South America 	**Issue**: In Chile, a significant portion of electricity is produced from fossil fuels, leading to substantial greenhouse gas emissions. **Climate Solution:** The Cururos project involves the establishment of two wind farms in the Coquimbo region of Chile, with a total installed capacity of 109.6 MW and an average annual production of 290 GWh. These wind farms are integrated into the Central Interconnected System (SIC). By substituting fossil electricity in the grid, the project, made possible through carbon financing, 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 accreditation period (renewable).
Efficient Cookstoves and Drinking Water Project Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda/Africa 	**Issue:** In rural areas of Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda, a large portion of the population faces a lack of access to clean water. To cope with this reality, residents resort to using wood and charcoal for cooking and water purification. This practice leads to various environmental challenges such as deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as health issues related to indoor air quality, not to mention economic impacts such as the cost of wood and the time needed for its collection. **Climate Solution:** To address these challenges, the projects support the production and distribution of efficient stoves for low-income families. These stoves help reduce firewood consumption by up to 50%. Some of these projects go further by funding the rehabilitation of water boreholes to provide clean water to communities, as well as the installation of water treatment systems at communal water sources. These measures, made possible through carbon financing, save families from having to boil water to make it potable.

Project/technology/country	Climate solution
Solar Energy Projects India and Turkey/Europe and Asia 	**Issue** In India and Turkey, a significant portion of electricity is produced from fossil fuels, thereby generating substantial amounts of greenhouse gases. Despite this, this method of electricity production remains the least expensive in these countries. **Climate Solution:** Solar park projects offer an alternative by substituting solar energy for fossil fuels. This transition, made possible through carbon financing, helps reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity production in these densely populated countries.
Wind Energy Projects India and Turkey/Europe and Asia 	**Issue:** In India and Turkey, a significant portion of electricity is produced from fossil fuels, leading to substantial greenhouse gas emissions. Despite its environmental impact, this method of electricity production remains the least expensive in these countries. **Climate Solution:** Wind park projects offer an alternative by substituting wind energy for fossil fuels. This transition, made possible through carbon financing, helps reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity production in these densely populated countries.

Project/technology/country	Climate solution
Landfill Gas to Energy Project Turkey/Europe/Asia 	**Issue:** In Turkey, the decomposition of organic matter (food, paper, etc.) in landfills releases methane, a very potent greenhouse gas, thereby contributing to climate change. **Climate Solution:** This project aims to prevent greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from an existing landfill site by capturing biogas to generate electricity. In addition to the direct reduction of GHG emissions, other indirect reductions are achieved through the substitution of fossil fuels used for electricity production. Activities include the installation of a landfill gas extraction system, a closed flare, and a biogas-powered generator for electricity production. This biogas power plant project, made possible through carbon financing, is located near the village of Molu de Koca, in the province of Kayseri.
Wastewater Treatment Project Thailand/Asia 	**Issue:** Until recently, residents of the surrounding villages were troubled by the odors emanating from the wastewater treatment ponds of the starch factory, which uses fossil fuels. **Climate Solution:** Thanks to this project, the methane generated by starch processing is now captured, thus preventing its contribution to climate change. Additionally, this capture allows for the production of energy, thereby reducing the need to purchase fossil fuels. Furthermore, the project, made possible through carbon financing, has created jobs for the local population and supports social and educational initiatives within the community.