

MONTÉRÉGIE CONNECTION PROJECT

What would the Montérégie region look like? Under the.... ENERGY INTENSIVE Scenario

In 2017 the cost of energy is continuing to rise. As a response, the moratorium on shale gas extraction in the area surrounding Montreal is lifted. Fruitful exploration of the bedrock North of La Vallée-du-Richelieu leads to the development of the first wells around Saint-Charles and Saint-Denis-sur-Richelieu, and by 2020 shale gas exploitation begins. Other energy sources are also progressively established: between 2025 and 2030 windmills are installed in the corridor between Mont Saint-Hilaire and Rougemont.



Population continues to grow steadily, reaching a rate of approximately 0.7% annually. Over 25 years the population augments by 18%. This growth leads the municipalities of the Regional County Municipality (RCM) to adopt more rigid rules that limit the impact of residential development on the region. Although municipalities manage to mitigate the impact of transportation by instating a heightened tax on 2nd household vehicles, their residential development rules have limited effects. The principally middle-class and well-off population continues to establish itself on large properties.

The prosperous economy associated with shale gas development leads to the creation of jobs and the increase of tax fees. As of 2025, this income from taxes allows municipalities to



implement public transportation policies leading to the creation of new bus routes and the use of electric trains. This income also allows the creation of a number of new and ambitious environmental regulations to protect wild spaces located in the south of the RCM. As such, forests and aquatic habitats that were of interest in 2010 finally obtain a true status of protection. Before 2020, in the North, many small forests are intensively exploited for timber and heating materials.

Between 2015 and 2020, agricultural production in the region diversifies and intensifies thanks to large surface greenhouse food crops. As such, even if shale gas wells reduced available agricultural lands, new greenhouse production compensates for the decrease in agricultural surface area.

