

MONTÉRÉGIE CONNECTION PROJECT

What would the Montérégie region look like? Under the....

GOING GREEN

Scenario

In 2018 a new government is elected. They promise to move toward sustainable development policies. The new government encourages the development of renewable energy such as wind and solar, on both public and private properties. A wind farm is installed between the two mountains of the Saint-Jean-Baptiste corridor in 2023. New policies to help move toward more widespread use of electric cars are put into place. In addition to this, in 2025 biomethane production factories are installed and a new fleet of biogas public transportation buses is put on the road. These buses use energy produced by the byproducts of 600 local farmers that is processed in the local biomethane factories. Collection of green waste is also well implemented all over the region to supply biomethane production factories.



The region's population is growing at a steady rate of 0.7% a year, with contributions coming from both new births and immigration. The metropolitan land use and development plan (PMAD) imposes strict norms on new housing development that are in line with young buyers



who renounce the American dream and turn toward alternative housing arrangements. This housing encourages developers to prioritize communal and shared resources, as well as, development of other resource infrastructure close-by. This situation leads to the development of an important network of public and active transportation infrastructure. New bike lanes are built along-side all major roads. These roads are also remodeled to include a tramway line, which will progressively replace a lane that was previously

reserved for cars. These developments start in 2020 and continue through until the early 2030s, creating a number of new and sustained jobs in the region.

The prosperous situation leads local authorities to put into place conservation programs that will implement green and blue belts in the region. Thanks to these programs forests are connected between them. Government also values railways and electric lines, which often serve as connecting corridors for wildlife. By 2035, 17% of the RCM is protected. Big greening projects are implemented in commercial and industrial sectors. In addition to this, to reinforce

conservation of biodiversity, in 2025 the regions elected politicians vote a new law which imposes that for each unit of urban development built two units of forest must also be planted. Another initiative plans for the establishment of a 60 m band of forest around residential areas, acting as a tampon area between agricultural and residential sectors. This addition of a forested area is appreciated by both farmers and by people living in more residential areas.

The forested areas of the region, which are mainly part of the blue and green belts, each have different uses: some are strictly protected, some are destined for maple exploitation, some for mushroom picking or for recreation and others for agrotourism. Agroforestry becomes profitable for a number of young farmers due to financial assistance and technical accompaniment programs run by the government. Agricultural production adapts to changes in the region and the new demand for energetically renewable products. Wood product production heavily develops with the plantation of alternating rows that are mixed in with fast-growing hybrid poplars that have high yield. Lucrative riverine wood culture projects allow for the improvement of water quality and the establishment of stable banks, which are critical due to increased flooding caused by climatic changes.

