

‘LOW CARBON’ IS KEY TO QUEBEC’S RESILIENCE AND PROSPERITY

The success of the current economic recovery will be influenced by Quebec’s ability to capture its share of the low-carbon economy estimated globally at US \$ 26 trillion by 2030¹.

Montreal, June 5, 2020 – Québec Net Positive publishes today a stakeholder map of the low-carbon economy ecosystem in Quebec. As we begin a gradual recovery following the shock of COVID-19, it is crucial to recognize the acceleration of the low-carbon economy on a global scale and integrate this perspective into the investments, infrastructures and economic development strategies of the province.

Therefore, Québec Net Positif is publishing today a mapping of the low-carbon economy ecosystem in Québec. This visual representation highlights the existing and emerging growth sectors and key levers on which Québec can rely to create wealth and jobs, while accelerating its transformation towards a more just, healthy, prosperous, and resilient future.

This new perspective provides a basis for developing a 'Green Growth Index' for Quebec which will provide key insights to understand the current value of the low-carbon economy in Quebec, establish the value of its wealth creation and jobs as well as its growth potential.

"In a world where decarbonization is accelerating, it is crucial for Quebec decision-makers to grasp the magnitude of the strategic assets at our disposal and the size of the vibrant 'low-carbon' ecosystem in the province to better inform investment, infrastructure and economic development decisions," said Anne-Josée Laquerre, President and co-founder, Québec Net Positif.

"This perspective also highlights the potential synergies that could help mobilize Quebec's resources, technologies and innovations in response to global challenges and attract new investments and talents here, as in the case of Artificial Intelligence," she adds.

The mapping provides an overview of key focus areas for wealth and job creation. For example, energy is one of the most significant challenge around the world while it is also one of the greatest strengths of Quebec. Unexpectedly, the province’s economy also ranks amongst the worst in the world when it comes to ‘energy productivity’². Integrating the concept of 'energy productivity' into the recovery plans would promote the productivity of a crucial resource, energy, and would accelerate the decarbonization of Quebec while stimulating the economy.

The mapping also facilitates the identification of key stakeholders from a sector that could work together, in a spirit of "coopetition" – a healthy cooperation between competitors – to maximize benefits for all Quebecers. For example, players in the energy sector could rethink the supply in order to provide each local business with the right energy, in the right place, at the right time with the common aim of optimizing the creation of wealth and jobs while fueling the manufacture of low-carbon products throughout the province. Our companies would then become suppliers of choice on local and especially, international markets.

¹ <https://www.actu-environnement.com/media/pdf/news-31941-rapport-nce2018.pdf>

² <https://energie.hec.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/PE2019.pdf>

QUÉBEC NET POSITIF

The low carbon perspective also allows us to anticipate the most strategic uses of our key assets such as hydroelectricity. For example, the surplus of renewable energy generated by energy efficiency could be offered to new entrants generating the most economic spinoffs for Quebec. The more economic benefits these strategies generate, the more we will be able to support a transition to greater energy efficiency through financial incentives to reinvest in new, more productive, efficient and low-carbon technologies and processes.

"The current economic recovery should be seized to initiate those low-carbon "virtuous circles". The more investments Québec will attract for innovative solutions, the more we will catalyze an ecosystem of companies that will together become a world-class showcase that will in turn facilitate their exports across the planet, in addition to attracting new investments and talents in this field," mentioned Michael Novak, founding administrator of Québec Net Positif.

"This mapping is a first step in highlighting the companies and sectors of the Quebec economy that benefit from a carbon advantage and that should be supported in the context of the current recovery to ensure their continuity, growth and exports", concludes Alexandru Iordan, vice-president and co-initiator of Québec Net Positif.

LINK TO THE DOCUMENT: https://87ec6caf-5287-434f-8184-c2354c1e99fc.usrfiles.com/uqd/87ec6c_e54e53d469324113ae073cf218c9b90a.pdf

LINK TO THE IMAGE: https://static.wixstatic.com/media/87ec6c_f298f03686c146028e01b3a8a5741118~mv2.png

ABOUT QUÉBEC NET POSITIF

Québec Net Positif is a think tank whose purpose is to raise awareness, equip and mobilize Québec businesses to help them take advantage of the low-carbon economy, go beyond mitigating their negative sustainability impacts and recognize their enormous potential to create positive impacts on society and the environment. Quebec being one of the very few jurisdictions in the world that produces nearly 100% renewable electricity, the NGO aims to help businesses take full advantage of this asset, as well as other strategic strengths of the province, to seize low-carbon business opportunities and create wealth and jobs, while maximizing their impact on emissions reduction on a global scale.

Inspired by the '[net positive](#)' project initiated in Europe, Québec Net Positif aims for businesses to activate their full potential to collectively generate net positive impacts for people and the planet by putting back more into the global system than they take out. This approach can also be a powerful way to generate and assess results linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement.

– 30 –

Pour plus d'information:

Anne-Josée Laquerre – Présidente et co-initiatrice

Québec Net Positif – www.quebecnetpositif.ca

514-476-6249

ajlaquerre@hotmail.com

www.quebecnetpositif.ca