



**GOVERNMENT OF QUÉBEC'S SUBMISSION
COP 30 PRESIDENCY ROADMAP ON THE TRANSITION AWAY FROM FOSSIL
FUELS IN A JUST, ORDERLY AND EQUITABLE MANNER**

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SUBJECT:

COP30 Presidency Invitation to Submit Contributions to the COP 30 Presidency Roadmap on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner

For additional information:
Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie
525, boulevard René-Levesque Est
Québec (Québec) G1R 5R9
Phone: 418-649-2400

The Government of Québec welcomes the initiative of the COP30 Presidency to draw up a roadmap for the transition away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly, and equitable manner. Subnational governments play a crucial role in the implementation of climate policies and in accelerating the energy transition, and Québec is pleased to share its experience as part of this consultation.

Québec's contribution aims to support the creation of a pragmatic, action-based roadmap that is founded on the best available scientific evidence and that draws on existing policies and practices, while helping implement the findings of the first Global Stocktake. Concretely, Québec proposes that the roadmap focus on integrated approaches that combine economic instruments, regulatory frameworks, and long-term planning, while bolstering international cooperation and the role subnational governments play in its implementation.

Background

The Government of Québec is legally bound the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change since 1992, and to the Paris Agreement since 2016. In doing so, it reaffirmed its commitment to actively contribute to international efforts to limit global warming and speed up the transition to carbon neutrality.

The Government of Québec has adopted ambitious climate policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, while supporting economic development and social equity. Québec has set a target to reduce its GHG emissions by 37.5% below 1990 levels by 2035 and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

It is worth mentioning that over 99% of the electricity produced in Québec comes from renewable sources—primarily hydroelectricity—which is a significant lever for the energy transition and the electrification of the economy. The lion's share of this energy is produced by Hydro-Québec, a public corporation central to the energy transition and to transportation electrification. In 2023, renewable energy sources accounted for 49% of Québec's energy consumption.

The Government of Québec's current climate strategy includes its 2030 Plan for a Green Economy—the main framework for reducing its GHG emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change. The plan will be rolled out through implementation plans that are updated on a yearly basis in order to ensure that actions are rigorously monitored and adapted to economic, technological, and climate realities.

To achieve its climate goals, the Government of Québec relies in part on a GHG emissions cap-and-trade system (C&T), which sets a price on carbon and covers nearly 75% of GHG emissions in Québec. By setting a gradually lower annual cap limiting the amount of

allowable GHG emissions, this system guarantees GHG reductions in the sectors covered by the carbon market Québec shares with California. The Government of Québec reinvests all of the proceeds from the carbon market into its actions to fight climate change.

To plan its energy system over the long term, the Government of Québec is currently developing an integrated energy resource management plan that will determine the government's strategic priorities for the development and optimization of its energy system with a view to the energy transition and energy security.

The Government of Québec has also adopted the *Act ending exploration for petroleum and underground reservoirs and production of petroleum and brine*, which came into effect in 2022, making Québec the first Canadian province to enact such a regulation. At the same time, Québec has tabled a bill intended to regulate—in a comprehensive and consistent manner—the use of its geology to develop sectors such as carbon and compressed air storage, geothermal energy, and the extraction of geological hydrogen.

In addition, the Government of Québec prioritizes technological innovation and development to bolster the energy transition through support programs and tangible projects. For example, Vallée de la transition énergétique, an innovation zone specializing in this field, aspires to become a national and international reference in R&D, industrialization, and innovation promotion, specifically in the areas of critical and strategic materials (CSM) processing, the battery industry, electrification, the hydrogen sector, and the decarbonization of industrial activities and heavy transport.

Québec collaborates with numerous international partners and subnational governments, including as part of the Under2 Coalition and Regions4 network, and is a key player, together with California, in North America's biggest carbon market.

Québec also co-chairs the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA), an international initiative representing governments committed to accelerating, in a responsible and planned manner, the transition away from the production of oil and gas.

(a) Main barriers to the transition away from fossil fuels

Despite the progress achieved to date, there are still several barriers faced by jurisdictions engaged in the energy transition:

- Capacity to meet the growing demand for energy: The demand for energy in Québec is projected to increase by 60 TWh by 2035,¹ nearly double today's energy consumption

¹ Source: [Generating more for the energy transition | Hydro-Québec](#)

- Technological and infrastructure challenges, especially for the decarbonization of heavy transport, aviation, and certain industrial processes
- Large-scale electrification, especially in remote areas like Northern Québec, which requires significant investment in electrical networks and energy storage
- Need to ensure a just transition for workers and communities whose livelihoods could be affected
- Climate change disinformation, which can impede the social acceptability of transition policies
- Financial impact of certain energy transition measures on households at a time when the cost of living is on the rise
- Institutional and coordination challenges: The energy transition requires greater coordination among the government departments concerned
- Uncertainty related to energy transition trajectories: It is challenging to translate global climate change scenarios into pragmatic national and subnational trajectories, particularly at a time when energy markets and long-term investment decisions are changing rapidly

Given these challenges, the roadmap must place special emphasis on reinforcing institutional capacities, carrying out long-term energy planning, and aligning investments with trajectories that are compatible with carbon neutrality.

(b) Main levers for accelerating the transition

The key to speeding up the energy transition is an integrated government approach that combines regulatory frameworks, economic instruments, public investment, and international cooperation. Québec's experience highlights several important levers in the areas of governance, legislative and regulatory tools, and financial support, all of which revolve around a central objective—the progressive and orderly reduction in our dependence on fossil fuels.

In consideration of this, the roadmap could foster the adoption of public policy sets that incorporate carbon pricing, electrification, energy efficiency, and supply management, to ensure an ambitious, realistic, and coordinated transition.

Carbon Pricing

Québec operates a [cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gas emission allowances](#) that is linked to California's system and that sends a carbon pricing signal to the economy as a whole. All proceeds are fully reinvested in the Electrification Climate Change Fund (FECC), which is dedicated to the climate and energy transition and provides funding for the [2030 Plan for a Green Economy](#) and its annual implementation plans.

Transportation Electrification

Transportation accounts for most of Québec’s GHG emissions. A number of measures set out in the [2030 Plan for a Green Economy](#) target the electrification of this sector, including [Québec’s Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy 2023-2030](#) and a number of financial support measures for the purchase of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, e.g., the [Roulez vert Program](#) for light vehicles and charging stations, and the [Écocamionnage Program](#) (link in French only) for trucks. This approach contributes directly to the phasing out of fossil fuels in favour of electricity that is primarily from renewable sources.

Energy Conservation and Efficiency

Energy conservation and efficiency are also front and centre in Québec’s actions to reduce the consumption of fossil energies in the industrial and buildings sector. For example, the [Écopformance](#) Program (link in French only) seeks to reduce fossil fuel-generated greenhouse gas emissions by providing funding for the analysis or implementation of energy efficiency and conversion projects. The Government of Québec has introduced several funding regulations and programs, with a view to improving energy performance, promoting conversion to cleaner energy sources, and supporting technological innovation. Energy conservation is a crucial complementary lever for limiting global demand. The roadmap would benefit from recognizing the central role energy conservation and efficiency play as complementary drivers of electrification and essential tools in reducing the demand for fossil fuels in a lasting manner.

Energy Production and the Legislative Framework

Québec has also adopted strong legislative measures to limit the development of new sources of fossil energies within its borders, including an *Act ending exploration for petroleum and underground reservoirs and production of petroleum and brine*.

The government’s [Plan de gestion intégrée des ressources énergétiques](#) [integrated energy resource management plan; link in French only] will set out its policy directions, objectives, and targets in the area of energy conservation and efficiency. The planning horizon will be 25 years, with an update every 6 years, to coincide with energy distributor supply plans.

International and Subnational Cooperation

Québec is an active member of several international forums devoted to reducing the production and consumption of fossil fuels, with a view to reducing GHG emissions and speeding up the production of renewable energy and the electrification of economies. Among them are Under2 Coalition, Global EV Alliance, Multi-State ZEV Taskforce, BOGA, International Carbon Action Partnership, and Carbon Pricing in the Americas.

The Government of Québec also co-chairs BOGA, where it contributes actively to advancing the international discourse on the planned transition beyond the production of

oil and gas. BOGA is a key platform for sharing best practices, developing transition trajectories, and integrating supply-based measures into climate strategies.

This experience highlights several insights that are transferrable to other jurisdictions, including the importance of a clear political engagement, long-term planning aligned with climate goals, and strong international cooperation to support a just, orderly, and credible transition away from fossil fuels.

(c) Best practices and lessons learned

Québec's experience has underscored a number of lessons:

- Carbon pricing mechanisms can be an effective and flexible instrument for reducing GHG emissions and generating revenues to speed up the climate and energy transition
- Integrating climate policies and economic considerations can promote competitiveness and the energy transition at the same time. The energy transition is an opportunity for sustainable prosperity that will help spur the development of new industrial sectors and generate major economic benefits
- Subnational governments play a key role in the climate and energy transition
- International alliances like BOGA play an important role in disseminating best practices, as well as in sharing analyses and innovations in public policy, helping bridge the gap between climate ambitions and their implementation

In light of these observations, the roadmap could seek to systemize the sharing of these best practices and to support their adaptation in various contexts, with a view to accelerating the shift from ambition to implementation.

(d) Ensuring a just, orderly, and equitable transition

The energy transition must take into account a broad range of economic and social situations and, in doing so, achieve the following:

- Support the workers and communities affected by economic transformations
- Ensure the affordability of and access to clean energy
- Bolster partnerships with Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and promote traditional knowledge in climate solutions
- Forge lasting partnerships with the First Nations, Inuit, and local communities where energy projects are located
- Hinge on a rigorous analysis of economic and distributional impacts, including potential loss of revenue, labour market upheavals, and the risk of stranded assets, while maximizing opportunities that stem from the development of clean energy and a green economy

In other words, the roadmap must incorporate the principles of a just transition in an interdisciplinary fashion, while ensuring that climate policies help reduce inequalities and reinforce the social acceptability of the changes that are required.