
Background

CONSTRUCTION OF ORGANIC WASTE TREATMENT SYSTEM FOR QUEBEC CITY

The organic waste treatment system project slated for Quebec City is also known as an anaerobic organic waste digestion system.

Anaerobic digestion takes place when organic waste decomposes without oxygen. The chief products of this process are carbon dioxide and methane gas.

This project will allow food waste from Quebec City residential and business sectors to be treated using anaerobic digestion. The technology allows for the transformation of organic waste into biogas, a product that can be used as a source of energy, like to fuel vehicles or to supply the gas network.

The project also involves the development of an open composting centre just outside the city, where the residue from anaerobic digestion and green waste from seasonal collections will be transformed.

Nearly 85 000 tonnes of waste will be treated annually under this project.

Green Infrastructure Fund

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will provide \$1 billion over five years to the Green Infrastructure Fund (GIF). This Fund supports sustainable energy generation and transmission, along with municipal wastewater and solid waste management infrastructure. Investments targeted by the GIF can improve the quality of the environment and will lead to a more sustainable economy over the longer term.

This fund will focus on green priorities such as green energy generation and transmission infrastructure, the construction and improvement of wastewater treatment systems, and improving solid waste management. Sustainable energy infrastructure, such as modern energy transmission lines, will contribute to improved air quality and the reduction of carbon emissions.

Eligible projects are those that promote cleaner air, cleaner water, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and fall within any of the following categories: wastewater infrastructure; green energy generation infrastructure; green energy transmission infrastructure and municipal solid waste infrastructure, and carbon transmission and storage infrastructure.

The new \$1-billion GIF will be allocated according to merit, to support green infrastructure projects on a cost-shared basis. The Fund will focus on a few, large scale, strategic infrastructure projects. The merit of the projects will be based on assessment criteria such as eligibility, financial requirements and project benefits.

The Government of Canada will contribute up to one third of the eligible project costs, as much as \$16,577,504, to the Quebec City project.

Federal funding is conditional upon the project meeting all Green Infrastructure Fund requirements and the signing of a contribution agreement with the Government of Quebec.

Green Fund of the Government of Quebec

The program for the treatment of organic matter through biomethanization and composting, *le Programme de traitement des matières organiques par biomgthanisation et compostage*, is funded by the levy on oil and by the regulation on fees for residual waste that feed the Green Fund. The Green Fund was created immediately following the adoption of an Act on sustainable development, and is a powerful tool that enables the government to better execute its responsibilities, especially with regard to climate change and the management of residual material.

The Government of Quebec program for the treatment of organic matter through biomethanization and composting, *le Programme de traitement des matières organiques par biomgthanisation et compostage*, was made public last November 16, at the unveiling of the new Quebec policy and accompanying five-year action plan on assorted residual materials management. This policy project reflects the intention of the government to develop a new green industry that will create jobs and wealth. Its goal is that ultimate residue be the only material eliminated in Quebec.

As stated in the policy project, this program will enable the establishment of what is required to progressively ban the landfilling of organic matter over the next ten years, particularly paper and cardboard by 2013.

It is through this program for the treatment of organic matter through biomethanization and composting, therefore, that the Government of Quebec will fund its contribution – about \$17.7 million – for the Quebec City project. This investment represents nearly a third of eligible program costs.

In order to receive funding support from the Government of Quebec, the project must meet all program requirements and must be the subject of a contribution agreement with Quebec City.

In the coming years, total investments of up to \$650-million will flow from the new program for the treatment of organic matter through biomethanization and composting. By 2020, these efforts should substantially reduce GHG emissions from the residual waste sector.