
Backgrounder

FOUR PROJECTS FOR THE TREATMENT OF ORGANIC WASTE IN THE MONTREAL REGION

Four green projects have been identified as priorities and will benefit from a federal investment of up to \$150M under the Green Infrastructure Fund of Canada’s Economic Action Plan. In addition, the Government of Quebec has earmarked a financial contribution in the order of \$165M for these projects under its own Green Fund.

The four projects involve the treatment of a large part of the organic waste generated in the following municipalities and agglomerations: Montreal and its component cities, Laval, Longueuil and the southern rim of Montreal.

The goal of the projects is to establish anaerobic digestion (biomethanation) and composting facilities. Anaerobic digestion takes place when organic waste decomposes without oxygen, resulting in a biogas rich in methane and digestate. The process allows for the treatment of table scraps, septic sludge and organic waste from homes, factories and institutions. The composting process will treat table scraps, leaves and grass clippings produced in the municipalities and agglomerations.

The initiatives will limit the amount of waste sent to municipal landfill sites and allow, in the case of anaerobic digestion, for the production of bioenergy to replace fossil fuel and combustibles, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GGEs).

The Montreal project includes the construction of two organic waste treatment systems, two composting centres and a pilot centre for the pre-treatment of organic waste. The projects in Longueuil, Laval and the southern rim involve the construction of systems for the treatment of organic waste using either biomethanation or composting.

The maximum federal contribution to the four projects is broken down as follows:

Municipality	Federal Contribution
Montreal	\$67.1M
Longueuil	\$21.5M
Laval	\$30.6M
Southern rim	\$31.0M
Total	\$150.2M

The Government of Quebec’s contribution to the four projects is broken down as follows:

Municipality	Quebec Contribution (in the order of)
Montreal	\$68.5M
Longueuil	\$23.2M
Laval	\$35M
Southern rim	\$38.2M
Total	\$164.9M

To be eligible for federal funding, projects must meet all of the requirements of the Green Infrastructure Fund and be covered by contribution agreements with the Government of Quebec.

Green Infrastructure Fund

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will inject \$1 billion over five years into a Green Infrastructure Fund (GIF). This Fund is intended to support sustainable energy generation and transmission, along with municipal wastewater and solid waste management infrastructure. Targeted investment in green infrastructure can improve the quality of the environment and 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, building and upgrading wastewater treatment systems, and improving solid waste management. Sustainable energy infrastructure, such as modern energy transmission lines, will contribute to improved air quality and lower carbon emissions.

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

The new \$1 billion Green Infrastructure Fund will be allocated based on 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, leveraging financial investments and project benefits.

Government of Quebec Green Fund

The Program for processing organic matter using biomethanation and composting is funded by royalties on fuel and fossil fuel and those required for the elimination of waste, which go into the Green Fund. It should be kept in mind that the Green Fund was created following passage of the Sustainable Development Act, and is a powerful lever for the Quebec government in supporting a variety of initiatives to improve the quality of the environment, particularly in terms of combating climate change and managing waste.

The Government of Quebec's Program for processing organic matter using biomethanation and composting was made public on November 16, 2009, at the unveiling of the new Draft Quebec Policy on Residual Materials and the related five-year action plan. The policy is in line with the government's intention of developing a completely new green industry, creating jobs and prosperity. It has one main objective – for end waste to be the only waste sent for disposal in Quebec.

As stipulated in the policy, the program will provide for the establishment of the facilities required to gradually ban organic waste, especially paper and cardboard, from landfills by 2013.

The Government of Quebec will pay its financial contribution to the four projects announced today, a total contribution in the order of \$165M, under the Program for processing organic matter using biomethanation and composting, that

To receive funding from the Quebec government, the project must meet all the requirements of the Program and be covered by a financial contribution agreement.

In the coming years, investment from the new The Program for processing organic matter using biomethanation and composting will total \$650M. By 2020, these efforts should considerably reduce GGEs from the waste industry.