



The Planet Goes to City Hall: **Citizens' Proposals on** **Environmental Issues**

March 2021



**LA PLANÈTE
S'INVITE
AU PARLEMENT**

**THE PLANET
GOES TO
PARLIAMENT**

www.laplanetesinvite.org
[@laplaneteauparlement](https://twitter.com/laplaneteauparlement)

THE PLANET GOES TO PARLIAMENT

ABOUT US

We are an independent and non-partisan volunteer citizens' collective. Our goal is to compel our governments to respond immediately to the climate emergency and to give hope as well as a course of action to the population. We reject resignation and inertia.

Our movement formed spontaneously in the fall of 2018 to channel our indignation regarding the almost complete absence of debate on climate issues during the Quebec election campaign.

MISSION

The Collective intends to create a broad popular movement to force governments to act responsibly and justly in the face of the climate emergency and to fight against the collapse of biodiversity.

DEMANDS

We ask our governments to:

- 1- Ensure, through regular awareness campaigns, that the population is fully informed of the seriousness of climate change and the collapse of biodiversity.
2. Adopt a climate plan that forces governments to reach the IPCC recommended GHG targets to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees
3. Ban any new oil and gas exploration or development projects and end all direct and indirect fossil fuel subsidies.
4. Create regional structures that will enable citizens to contribute to a fair transition that supports social justice.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Planet Goes to City Hall: A Citizen's Initiative page 4

Proposals on Environmental Issues page 5

1. City Government Focused on Addressing the Environmental Crisis page 5
2. An Economy that Respects Nature's Limits page 7
3. Resilient Social Development page 8
4. Water Management to Safeguard This Resource page 9
5. Waste Management Towards Zero Waste page 10
6. Public Security page 11
7. Transportation for Active and Collective Mobility page 12
8. Urban Planning for Mixed-Use, Livable Neighbourhoods page 13
9. Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Towards Food Self-Sufficiencypage 15
10. Protection of Natural Environments for the Health of All page 16
11. Local Issues page 17

Reference Documents page 18

The Planet Goes to City Hall: A Citizen's Initiative

In the face of the global ecological and climate crisis, it is urgent that all governments on the planet deploy colossal efforts to reduce their GHG emissions, better protect their ecosystems and halt the loss of biodiversity on their territory. Through the development of a just transition plan, they will have to promote the adaptation of their populations by encouraging the creation of resilient communities.

Municipalities are governments of proximity. As municipal elections approach, citizens have the opportunity to take the lead in this collective effort.

Inspired by the work of the Front commun pour la transition énergétique, GroupMobilisation and the Pacte pour la transition, this document is intended as a tool for all citizens concerned about the current crisis, to help them make an informed choice among the different candidates running for election to their municipal or regional council (RCM).

In order to broaden the scope of its work, The Planet Goes to Parliament has joined the new iteration of *Vire au Vert* which aims to put the environment at the heart of the 2021 municipal election campaign.

**LA PLANÈTE
S'INVITE
AU PARLEMENT**

**THE PLANET
GOES TO
PARLIAMENT**

1. MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT FOCUSED ON ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

(1 of 2)

If elected, I commit to...

1. Adopt the universal citizens declaration of climate emergency (known as *La DUC*);
 2. Release the necessary budgets to implement the proposals of this program to fight against the climate and environmental crisis;
 3. Involve citizens in all decision making through a deliberative democratic process;
 4. Educate all municipal employees and managers on the climate and environmental emergency, as well as on the mitigation and adaptation measures needed to address it;
 5. Educate citizens about the climate and ecological emergency, as well as the mitigation and adaptation measures needed to address it;
 6. Adopt a policy to protect natural environments and agricultural lands and to promote their ecological use;
 7. Adopt a resolution opposing any new project involving the extraction, exploitation, transportation or storage of fossil fuels which would significantly increase GHG emissions, and demand that these projects not be financed in any way with public funds;
-



1. MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT FOCUSED ON ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

(2 of 2)

If elected, I commit to...

8. Mandate an independent third party on an annual basis to establish, in all transparency, a territorial assessment of GHG sources, an inventory of carbon sinks and the progression of the municipality's carbon footprint;
 9. Prepare, based on the territorial balance sheet, in accordance with the principles of participatory democracy, with citizens and other local actors, a plan to reduce GHG emissions by 7.6% per year as recommended by the UN;
 10. Recognize the right to a healthy environment, favourable to health and well-being regardless of origin, gender or social status;
 11. Promote the use of renewable energy (hydroelectricity, geothermal or other) for the heating of new buildings (residential, commercial, institutional) in order to limit the use of natural gas and the expansion of the distribution network.
-

2. AN ECONOMY THAT RESPECTS THE LIMITS OF NATURE

If elected, I commit to...

1. Promote the implementation of a collaborative economy based on exchange, resource sharing and eco-design by applying the 5Rs (reduce, repair, reuse, re-fabricate and recycle);
 2. Support the operation or implementation of local public markets;
 3. Implementing an eco-responsible procurement policy (for city spending);
 4. Refuse the establishment of industries that emit large amounts of GHGs and promote the establishment of industries with a small ecological footprint and carbon neutrality;
 5. Prioritize and promote local purchases and products, and short supply chains.
-

3. RESILIENT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

If elected, I commit to...

1. Ensure a diversified (vegetarian, vegan) and local food offering/short supply chains in municipal facilities and promote it at organized public gatherings;
 2. Fighting urban sprawl and encroachment on agricultural and natural areas through a densification strategy, including the construction of social and affordable housing and the establishment of housing cooperatives;
 3. Acknowledge our moral obligation to the most vulnerable populations in the face of the climate crisis, particularly indigenous peoples.
-

4. WATER MANAGEMENT FOCUSED ON SAFEGUARDING THE RESOURCE

If elected, I commit to...

1. Maintain public ownership, protection and accessibility of drinking water sources in sufficient quantity to meet the needs of the population even in times of crisis;
 2. Ensure that the laws and regulations regarding waterfronts and septic systems are respected;
 3. Promote measures to save drinking water, reuse and retain rainwater.
-

5. WASTE MANAGEMENT TOWARDS ZERO WASTE

If elected, I commit to...

1. Establish awareness-raising teams to improve the quality of domestic sorting of the various bins (waste, recycling, compost);
 2. Raise awareness of zero waste among the population and businesses;
 3. Implement a program to fight food waste;
 4. Legislate the reduction in the production and use of packaging and single-use items;
 5. Support (financially and/or otherwise) source reduction, repair, reuse, recycling, rental and lending initiatives;
 6. Ensure municipal collection as part of a recycling and recovery program for air conditioning and cooling systems that may contain high GHG potential refrigerants;
 7. Reducing the frequency of waste collection.
-

6. PUBLIC SECURITY

If elected, I commit to...

1. Produce a diagnosis of the territory's vulnerability to the various consequences of climate change;
 2. Work on regional and local risk management plans in order to anticipate, prevent, mitigate and manage the impacts of the climate emergency while paying special attention to vulnerable communities;
 3. Promote the training of public security officials to ensure that they acquire skills adapted to the reality of people vulnerable to extreme and unusual weather events resulting from the climate crisis;
 4. Support a concerted police effort that accompanies and acts with citizens and communities, respecting their individual and collective specificities, in order to find common solutions, within the framework of egalitarian relationships where power and responsibilities are shared among all participants
-

7. TRANSPORTATION FOR ACTIVE AND COLLECTIVE MOBILITY

If elected, I commit to...

1. Improve the quantity and quality of facilities for pedestrians and cyclists;
 2. Ensuring efficient public transit service throughout the city that is adapted to the reality of the area;
 3. Develop shared streets and car-free zones;
 4. Modify the regulations to abolish the minimum number of parking spaces required for the construction of new buildings and replace it with a maximum number;
 5. Increase the number of electric vehicle charging stations in accordance with the territory and anticipated traffic;
 6. Requiring the acquisition of zero-emission vehicles (electric vehicles, bicycles, etc.) for municipal services and public transit when renewing the fleet;
 7. Requiring the acquisition of zero-emission vehicles (electric vehicles, bicycles, etc.) for municipal services and public transit when renewing the fleet;
-

8. URBAN PLANNING FOR MIXED AND LIVABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS

(1 of 2)

If elected, I commit to...

1. Ensure the development of mixed, compact and friendly neighbourhoods and village cores in order to offer all essential products and services within walking distance, linked to green transportation networks;
 2. Conduct urban and land use planning in consultation with the population and respect the plans by observing a moratorium on agricultural rezoning, accepting developers' requests for exemptions and refusing to participate in any speculative transaction involving agricultural land;
 3. Use plant science in greening plans and in the design of any urban plan to maximize the benefits of the services nature can provide in a sustainable manner;
 4. Promote the deployment of phytotechnologies in private environments through financial and other incentives;
 5. Greening, demineralizing and adapting the territory of the municipality (especially parking lots) according to the diagnosis of the territory's vulnerability (floods, strong winds, heat waves, heavy rains, etc.);
 6. Raise awareness among private landowners about greening in order to reduce or avoid heat islands and preserve biodiversity.
-



8. URBAN PLANNING FOR MIXED AND LIVABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS

(2 of 2)

If elected, I commit to...

7. Promote energy sobriety and encourage citizens to do the same;
 8. Put in place incentives and support eco-renovation and eco-construction initiatives and, if necessary, mandate deconstruction rather than demolition;
 9. Impose a climate test on all major renovation or construction projects and regulate to provide the means to reduce the production of GHG in construction;
 10. Regulate to require higher energy efficiency and climate performance criteria in new renovation and construction projects (e.g. LEED construction);
 11. Convert municipal buildings to renewable energy for any retrofit program;
 12. Revise municipal bylaws to align with the latest low-carbon practices (e.g., remove the ban on solar panels on street-facing slopes, mandate certain types of siding, or lift the ban on clotheslines);
 13. Adopt a street lighting policy that respects biodiversity while ensuring the security of citizens.
-

9. URBAN AND PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE TOWARDS FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

If elected, I commit to...

1. Supporting local, home-based, collective and commercial ecological agriculture, including through regulatory changes (e.g., front gardens, chicken runs, community and collective gardens, food forests, permaculture blocks, public greenhouses, etc.)
 2. Commit to ensuring that the selection of plants planted in the city favours native species that provide at least one function of food, nectar, textiles, etc.;
 3. Actively work to adopt a policy to ensure, develop and support food self-sufficiency;
 4. Support the creation of seed libraries;
 5. Provide training in vegetable gardening, composting, identification of native plants and beneficial insects as pollinators.
-

10. PROTECTION OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS FOR THE HEALTH OF POPULATIONS

If elected, I commit to...

1. Provide affordable access to nature for all citizens;
 2. Commit to supporting the adoption of a bold new Land Use Policy that includes a protection target of at least 25% by 2025 and at least 30% by 2030 at the agglomeration or regional council level;
 3. Protect all natural environments within the municipality;
 4. Prevent the destruction of any wetlands or the habitat of threatened or vulnerable species;
 5. Encourage the establishment of ecological corridors to link protected natural environments, in particular by collaborating with neighbouring municipalities and other levels of government (CMM, RCM, etc.);
 6. Develop natural corridors, urban forests, support citizen initiatives to restore degraded natural environments and promote greening in general on the territory of the municipality;
 7. Commit my city/municipality to the objectives of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), by respecting, at a minimum, the new targets that will be established in 2021;
 8. Commit my city/municipality to the objectives of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), by respecting, at a minimum, the new targets that will be established in 2021;
 9. Include natural environments in municipal assets;
 10. Raise awareness and provide information on ecosystem services and the benefits of natural environments on the health of populations.
-

Each local partner can, of course, add commitments to the program according to the specific issues of its territory.

11. LOCAL ISSUES

If elected, I commit to...

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
-

DOCUMENTS DE RÉFÉRENCE

FEUILLE DE ROUTE POUR LA TRANSITION DU QUÉBEC VERS LA CARBONEUTRALITÉ

Projet Québec ZéN, Front commun pour la transition énergétique,
Version 2.0, November 7, 2020

[\[Go to document\]](#)

www.pourlatransitionenergetique.org

LES CHANTIERS DE LA DÉCLARATION CITOYENNE UNIVERSELLE D'URGENCE CLIMATIQUE

GroupMobilisation, Version 5.0, March 2021

[\[Go to document\]](#)

www.groupmobilisation.com

101 IDÉES POUR LA RELANCE, LES BASES D'UN PLAN D'ACTION POUR UNE TRANSITION VERTE ET JUSTE

Le pacte pour la transition, June 3, 2020

[\[Go to document\]](#)

www.lepacte.ca

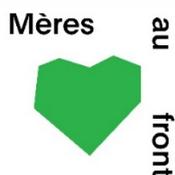
The Planet Goes to City Hall: Citizens' proposals on environmental issues is a tool to help citizens make an informed choice among the different candidates running for municipal office.

An initiative of:

LA PLANÈTE S'INVITE AU PARLEMENT

THE PLANET GOES TO PARLIAMENT

Endorsed by:



This document is part of the tools proposed as part of *Vire au Vert*, which aims to put the environment at the heart of the 2021 municipal election campaign.

To access all the tools:
www.vireauvert.org